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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mass Communication Division Survey

From the Division Chair:

We will be wrestling with a few important issues at the Division’s upcoming business meeting in Fukuoka. I desire as much input as possible from as many division members as possible and recognize full well that not everyone can make it to the 2016 Fukuoka meeting. As a result, I have created an online survey in an attempt to maximize membership input leading up to Fukuoka.

The survey focuses on two issues: (1) the range and scope of varied types of division submissions and (2) division finances and revenue generation.

Here is the link to the survey:

http://templestrc.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_a8BZcbfWDz34kUB

The survey should take more than 10 minutes of your time and the division’s leadership would value your input.

If you have any questions or concerns related to this survey, please contact R. Lance Holbert at r.lance.holbert@gmail.com.

Thank you

Lance Holbert, ICA MCD Chair
BUSINESS MEETING
Mass Communication Division
Friday, June 10, 17:00 – 18:15
Fukuoka Hilton, Vega

PROMOTION

Dr. Heather LaMarre, School of Media & Communication, Temple University was promoted with tenure to the rank of Associate Professor. Dr. LaMarre is also Internationalization Liaison for the Mass Communication Division of ICA.

NEW POSITIONS

Dr. Jan Van den Bulck will be joining the faculty in the Department of Communication Studies at the University of Michigan.

VISITING SCHOLARS

Dr. Rob Potter, Associate Professor of Communication Science at The Media School at Indiana University, was invited by Zhejiang University in Hangzhou, China to teach a 4-week course entitled “Media Psychology: Investigating Cognitive and Emotional Responses to Media” in May.
EVENTS

Remembering Wolfgang Donsbach
Sunday, June, 12, 18:30 – 19:45
Fukuoka Hilton, Olive

This special session is dedicated to the memory of Wolfgang Donsbach, former professor at the University of Mainz, and founding professor of the Institute of Communication Science at the Technical U of Dresden. Donsbach served as president of the World Association for Public Opinion Research, ICA president, editor of the International Journal of Public Opinion Research, and editor of ICA’s International Encyclopedia of Communication. Above all, Wolf was a giant scholar, whose work has had a tremendous impact on the fields of public opinion, media effects and journalism studies. Friends, colleagues and students are invited to share memories of Prof. Donsbach and thoughts about his contributions to the discipline.
WORKSHOPS

Blue Sky: Continuity and Change in the Theoretical Underpinnings of Media Psychology

Date: Sunday, June 12, 09:30
Location: Fukuoka Hilton, Akane Room

The workshop will examine points of continuity across, and points of discontinuity between, the media effects tradition of research and the emerging field of media psychology. In a media psychology workshop in 2015, Elihu Katz wondered whether it was time to retire as irrelevant some of the classic concepts of mass communication research (see: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ffld0HCd9SM). The present workshop is intended to carry on this conversation and extend it to other concepts and to a general discussion about where media psychology is intellectually located within our discipline’s history. This is an important “big picture” question to anyone working within media psychology and interested in promoting this area within our discipline more generally.

Dr. Jonathan Cohen will be chairing the workshop and hopes to facilitate a free-flowing discussion. The plan is to first go around and ask participants to choose a specific concept/theory/study from classic mass communication research which they have studied or are interested in, and discuss in 2-3 minutes whether they feel it has been adapted, transformed or retired within media psychology. Please take the time to think about and prepare a concept you wish to talk about. Following this, Dr. Cohen will ask you all to reflect on how you see media psychology in relation to mass communication effects research and where media psychology is located within communication as field. We will conclude by looking forward and thinking about some of the limitations and challenges facing media psychology and where it should be headed.

Please come, bring your students and friends, and join the conversation.
NEW BOOKS

Shelton Å. Gunaratne, 76, Professor Emeritus of Mass Communication, Minnesota State University Moorhead, "Mindful Journalism and news ethics in the digital era: A Buddhist approach, co-edited with Mark Pearson and Sugath Senarath.

This book aims to be the first comprehensive exposition of "mindful journalism"—drawn from core Buddhist ethical principles—as a fresh approach to journalism ethics. It suggests that Buddhist mindfulness strategies can be applied purposively in journalism to add clarity, fairness and equity to news decision-making and to offer a moral compass to journalists facing ethical dilemmas in their work. It comes at a time when ethical values in the news media are in crisis from a range of technological, commercial and social factors, and when both Buddhism and mindfulness have gained considerable acceptance in Western societies. Further, it aims to set out foundational principles to assist journalists dealing with vulnerable sources and recovering from traumatic assignments.
CALL FOR PAPERS
41st Annual Conference of the Midwest Association for Public Opinion Research
November 18-19, 2016
Embassy Suites Chicago Downtown, 600 N. State Street

This year, the Midwest Association for Public Opinion Research’s (MAPOR) 41st annual conference welcomes paper, poster, and panel proposals exploring public opinion research broadly understood. Abstracts on any topic related to public opinion research, theory, or methodology are welcome. We are particularly interested in papers that relate to our conference theme:

“Small and Big Data in a Time of Change”

As society advances, changes, and progresses so does public opinion. So tracking public opinion about elections, personal preference, or consumer choice as well as understanding how opinions, ideas, preferences, and theories are formed and communicated in a public forum becomes important, especially during times of political transition. Technological and methodological advances facilitate better public opinion tracking. For example, smartphones and other mobile devices afford constant internet access; social media affords users the ability to express and follow opinions by audiences worldwide. While much of the data generated from mobile devices, social media, and other new technological modalities is big, new technologies also afford researchers new digital means of going “small”. Methodologies such as focus groups, message testing, questionnaire evaluation and development, and ethnographies are now beginning to take advantage of some of these new digital pathways. Papers exploring substantive or methodological approaches that take advantage of big or small data sources or the technological or methodological innovations that generate such data for measuring, quantifying, testing, and exploring public opinion about a wide array of topics—including, but not limited to, politics, elections, mass media, consumer interests/behavior, cross-cultural, and special populations—are sought. In addition to presenting at the conference, authors will have the option to post accepted papers or slides online at mapor.org after the conference.

Submissions: Abstracts of 300 words or less can be submitted at mapor.org/AbstractSubmission. In addition to a title and abstract, you will be asked to provide the name, institutional affiliation, and email address for all authors. References are not required, and exemplar abstracts are featured in the abstract submission site. The same author’s name may appear as first author on a maximum of two submissions. To allow for blind review, please remove all personally identifying information from the abstract’s text before submission.

Note to student authors: If all authors are students who will be enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program at the time of the conference, you may submit your paper to the MAPOR Fellows Student Paper Competition (click here for additional information). When submitting a student paper to the competition, a student will be asked to provide the name and e-mail address of a faculty mentor. The faculty mentor will be asked to send an email of 25 words or less endorsing the paper when the full paper is submitted.

Panel Proposals: Panels focus on a common theme and include 4 or 5 participants. A panel proposal requires a description of 300 words or less discussing the issues to be addressed and their importance. Also, submissions should list the potential panelists, their institutional affiliations, email addresses, and tentative titles of presentations. Panels related to the conference theme are especially encouraged.

Submission Information: All abstracts must be posted no later than Midnight CDT on Thursday, June 30, 2016. Accepted papers sharing a theme will be scheduled during a paper session. Papers with more individualized topics will be scheduled during a poster session. MAPOR considers both types of presentation equally valuable. All submitters will be notified via e-mail by August 15 of their abstract’s acceptance status. For questions or problems with the submission process, please contact the conference chair at: abstracts@mapor.org.