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The 2021 Mass Communication Innovation Award: Innovation in Method

DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS: FEBRUARY 20, 2021

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Scrutiny on how news outlets and other media function in relationship to governance and political representation is warranted in a period of democratic backsliding, conspiratorial thinking, and populist backlash. This special issue sets out to advance theory on how mass communication contributes to backsliding or the safeguarding of democracy.

Political scientists define backsliding as erosion of support for norms that foster responsive governance and consent of the governed. While this literature highlights attacks on a free press as a sign of accelerated decline, it has not explored possible complicity of news media or the role of social media in cultivating illiberal sentiment. Trumpism in the United States has drawn a great deal of attention, yet a period of global democratic recession underscores the importance of comparative perspectives on media in established, developing, and declining democratic systems.

Normative theory raises expectations for a digital mediascape in redeeming participatory democracy. The impression left by much of this literature is that news media and social media should squeeze as much civic virtue out of the public as possible. How should normative theory reconcile its aspirations for inclusiveness with audiences reveling in the angry carnival of political spectacle?

The special issue invites theoretical and empirical contributions that address research questions in these areas:

**Democratic decline and news media.** Mediatization and other theory might reveal the ultimate costs of media logic in the undermining of responsive governance. Mass communication scholarship also has much to offer in theory of representation. For example, if reified grievance is directed at retribution rather than policy, news outlets contribute to backsliding in the further pathologizing of (non)-responsive government.

**Democratic decline and social media.** Perspectives such as reinforcing spirals and recursive communication would help to explain the demand side of backsliding—why social media engagement can engender resentment toward institutions, impatience with democratic procedures, and circulation of disinformation. For the semi-erudite, confirmation of belief in echoing enclaves constitutes a meaningful form of citizenship. The role of social media in giving license to anti-intellectualism should be probed with the future of democracy in mind.

The interplay of social media and news media also deserves scrutiny. Inter-media framing and agenda setting during election cycles, for instance, might document the types of messaging that explain why so few voters are willing to punish co-partisan candidates who violate democratic norms.
**Reflexivity and reform.** A tactical reflexivity would mask complicity in backsliding to the extent that journalists fail to acknowledged the ways in which the news interacts with underlying social forces. The Fourth Estate presents itself as an ally of the people, yet in a zeitgeist of punitive populism, the profession must forge a healthier relationship with the public. Contributors are encouraged to consider how professionalism, norms, and news values shape reflexivity and ideas about reform.

**Media history.** Theory-based analyses of historical periods could reveal conditions in mass communication that give rise to authoritarian politics. Scholarship might account for how the press has developed in relation to political representation and governance. Media politics became the successor to party politics in many systems, bringing forth new forms of participation but also setting loose irrational forces in contempt of the liberal order.

**Comparative perspectives.** Global democratic recession creates opportunities to identify role conceptions that vary across journalism cultures and that are implicated in backsliding or reform. Interventional aspects of journalism, for example, are most apparent in developing democracies and least supported in established democracies. Empirical study should be sensitive to where democratic sustainability as an articulation of interventionism emerges in response to backsliding.

**Deadline for submissions:** Manuscripts are to be submitted by **Oct. 1, 2021** via the Mass Communication and Society online system at [http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/mcas](http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/mcas) following the standard journal submission procedures. Authors should note in their cover letters that the submission is for the special issue devoted to “Media and the Future of Democracy.” Final publication will be in 2022. Any questions concerning this call for papers may be directed to Professor Michael McDevitt, mike.mcdevitt@colorado.edu.

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**JOB ANNOUNCEMENT:**

**ACADEMIC POSITION IN CORPORATE COMMUNICATION**

The Institute for Media Studies (KU Leuven) is looking for a strong candidate with expertise in the broader field of (digital) media and corporate communication. The candidate should have a relevant PhD for this field and be well-versed researcher in this domain. We expect the candidate to further develop a strong research profile, both empirically and theoretically. The position implies teaching responsibilities at both bachelor and master level, for students in communication science, strategic communication, and corporate communication. Importantly, this is an open rank position. For junior profiles this entails a tenure track position in the rank of assistant professor. More senior profiles will start in higher ranks. You can find more information [here](http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/mcas). The deadline for application is **February 22nd**.
CFP: Sex, Gender, Sexuality, & Communication

A Special Issue of Profesional de la Información

Guest editor: Jimmie Manning, Ph.D.
Chair and Professor, Communication Studies,
University of Nevada, Reno

Profesional de la Información seeks cutting-edge research studies, theoretical essays, and state-of-the-art critical review articles for a special issue dedicated to sex, gender, sexuality, and communication to be published in Volume 30, Issue 5 (September-October 2021) to be published in the journal. Articles with a pedagogical focus, especially those that elucidate specific concepts, technologies, or processes, will also be considered. This special issue will celebrate methodological and theoretical plurality, with the primary goal being to publish an excellent collection of research and theory that advances thinking about sex, genders, sexualities, and communication. The editor especially welcomes essays that advance theoretical and philosophical perspectives. To that end, the editor will accept manuscripts featuring research using quantitative and/or qualitative social scientific methods; critique-oriented methods such as rhetorical, cultural, or media criticism; and scholarship that is highly creative, especially as it advances theory.

Manuscripts submitted for consideration must clearly advance communicative aspects of one of the following special issue areas:

**Sex:** Research or theorizing that examines sexual communication, ranging from sexual activity to talk about sex to sexual technologies to sex-oriented media studies.

**Genders:** Research or theorizing that examines social and/or cultural notions of identities as they relate to social expectations, performances, transgressions, and/or articulations of masculine and feminine identity. Work that moves beyond masculine/feminine identity is especially welcome, including work that examines transgender and/or gender non-conforming identities.

**Sexualities:** Research or theorizing related to sexual performance, capacities, and feelings.

For this special issue, work focused on identity is especially welcomed – including work that adopts intersectional theorizing about sexualities (e.g., Eguchi & Calafell, 2020) or that makes ample use of queer theory (e.g., Manning et al., 2020). Those submitting to the special issue should follow the directions for submission found on the journal website (http://www.elprofesionaldelainformacion.com/authors.html).

For this special issue, works will be accepted in both English and Spanish. Those who are interested in submitting are welcome to contact the guest editor at jimmiem@unr.edu. Manuscripts for this special issue should be submitted by July 15, 2021.
A unique team of peer reviewers will be assembled to evaluate submissions to the special issue. If you are interested in serving on this team, please contact the guest editor at jimmiem@unr.edu. About the journal: Profesional de la Información is an internationally recognized journal that publishes essays in Spanish, English, Portuguese, and French.

Possible topics for the special issue can include the following:

- Sexual talk and interaction in relationships
- Family interaction about sex, including sex education in the home
- Sexual harassment or harassment based on sexual and/or gender identities
- New forms of sexual relating, including sexual identity formations
- Computer-mediated sexualities or behaviors (e.g., sexting, cybersex)
- Analysis of media texts related to sex, gender, and/or sexualities
- Gender and sexuality as it relates to health, ranging from interactions with healthcare providers to larger cultural discourses related to public health
- Sex education, both formal (e.g., the classroom, religious institutions) and informal (e.g., peer talk, partner interaction)
- Applications of queer theory, including novel applications of queer theory to social science research
- Political movements related to sex, genders, and/or sexualities
- News discourses and/or journalistic approaches to articulating sex, genders, and/or sexualities

References:


Call for Papers: Health & New Media Research

Health & New Media Research (HNMR) invites the submission of original research manuscripts for publication in Volume 5, Issue 1. HNMR focuses on the role of communication and new media in public and environmental health to advance scholarly discoveries and real-world solutions. HNMR is an open-access, international, biannual peer-reviewed academic journal published in June and December by the Health & New Media Research Institute at Hallym University (South Korea).

The deadline for manuscript submissions is March 1, 2021. As an incentive for authors to contribute to this journal, there will be an award of US$1,000 for accepted papers. The submission should not have been published previously nor may any included material be drawn from previously published work. Submissions to HNMR must not be under consideration for publication in any form elsewhere.

For more information about the journal and submission, please visit our website: www.jhnmr.org. Inquiries should be sent to hnmr@hallym.ac.kr.
News media strongly influence how we picture public affairs across the world, playing a significant and sometimes controversial role in determining which topics are at the centre of public attention and action. Setting the Agenda, first published in 2004, has become the go-to textbook on this crucial topic. In this timely third edition, Maxwell McCombs – a pioneer of agenda-setting research – and Sebastián Valenzuela – a senior scholar of agenda setting in Latin America – have expanded and updated the book for a new generation of students. In describing the media's influence on what we think about and how we think about it, Setting the Agenda also examines the sources of media agendas, the psychological explanation for their impact on the public agenda, and their consequences for attitudes, opinions and behaviours. New to this edition is a discussion of agenda setting in the widened media landscape, including a full chapter on network agenda setting and a lengthened presentation on agenda melding. The book also contains expanded material on social media and the role of agenda setting beyond the realm of public affairs, as well as a foreword from Donald L. Shaw and David H. Weaver, the co-founders of agenda-setting theory. This exciting new edition is an invaluable source for students of media, communications and politics, as well as those interested in the role of news in shaping and directing public opinion.
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International Communication Association: Mass Communication