AEJMC 2021 Conference Paper Call
Media Ethics Division

Open Call: The Media Ethics Division seeks a diverse range of original faculty and graduate student paper submissions related to ethics. The division encourages submissions that address a broad spectrum of ethics-related topics and concerns, which may include, but are not limited to, ethical decision-making, moral development, truth-telling and deception, privacy, credibility, the relationship between journalism and democracy, the impact of technology and economics on ethics, organizational norms and routines, accountability systems, corporate social responsibility and advocacy, global ethics, audience considerations, applied ethics in journalism, advertising and public relations, and the relationship between law and ethics.

In addition to our regular call, the Division is sponsoring a special call focusing on ethics and inclusion in media practice (see below).

The Division seeks the broadest possible range of theoretical, methodological and pedagogical scholarship, looking at ethics across a range of media contexts including journalism, advertising, public relations, entertainment, new media, social media, etc.; from a range of theoretical/paradigmatic approaches such as philosophical, critical, sociological, psychological, etc.; and using a range of methods including qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods. Essays grounded in ethics theory are welcome, as well.

All papers should adhere to APA style (7th ed.); must be no more than 25 pages (excluding title page, references, figures, illustrations, and/or appendices); should be double-spaced, use 1-inch margins and 12-point Times New Roman or equivalent font; should be saved as Word or PDF; and must otherwise conform to the rules outlined in the AEJMC Uniform Call for Papers. Papers that do not conform to these rules or contain information identifying the author(s) will be disqualified. The Division strongly advises authors to submit papers with sufficient time to review them in the All Academic system and ensure identifying information is removed.

Submitting a paper to the Media Ethics Division implies that the author (or one of the co-authors) intends to present the paper in person at the conference.

Special Call for Ethics and Inclusion in Media Practice: In addition to our regular call, the Media Ethics Division is sponsoring a special call for papers focused on topics at the intersection of ethics and inclusion in media practice. Special call papers should present scholarship that addresses a topic related to communication, ethics and inclusion in media practice. The Division encourages papers from a range of scholarly approaches – critical, philosophical, theoretical, empirical, legal, historical – and a range of methods – qualitative, quantitative and mixed.

Submissions should adhere to length and style guidelines for the Division’s open call. Special call papers must be marked “Special Call: Inclusion” on the title page.

Carol Burnett Award for Graduate Student Papers: The Media Ethics Division is committed to supporting and promoting promising graduate students with an interest in research related to any of the many aspects of media ethics. All graduate students who submit full papers to the Media Ethics Division (including the Special Call for Ethics and Inclusion in Media Practice) are automatically entered into the Carol Burnett Award competition. The Media Ethics Division teams with the University of Hawaii, the
Carol Burnett Fund for Responsible Journalism and Kappa Tau Alpha to sponsor this honor for graduate students. Students are invited to submit papers on any topic related to media ethics, from any theoretical approach, using any method or combination of methods.

The winning paper and runner-up will receive the Carol Burnett/University of Hawaii/AEJMC Prize, which includes a monetary award. Authors for the top two submissions also receive a small travel assistance stipend to attend AEJMC. The winner will be invited to accept his or her prize at the Kappa Tau Alpha Awards Luncheon at the AEJMC conference.

Graduate student papers must include graduate student status on the title page. Graduate students with work in the nascent stages of development may submit works in progress. However, the Carol Burnett Award is reserved for graduate students who submit full papers. Works in progress and papers co-authored with faculty are ineligible.

Division Awards

*Professional Relevance Award*: The Division gives special recognition to a paper that is judged to be the most relevant to working professionals in a media industry (e.g., journalists, public relations practitioners, etc.).

*Top Faculty Paper*: The Division gives special recognition to the faculty paper judged to be the best paper submitted among faculty authors.

*The Penn State Davis Ethics Award*: Scholars who have successfully defended ethics-related dissertations in the 2020 calendar year are encouraged to apply for the new Penn State Davis Ethics Award. The award provides a $1,000 honorarium, travel support to present their scholarship in a session of the Media Ethics Division at the 2021 AEJMC annual conference, and a fully supported guest-lecture visit to Penn State’s Bellisario College of Communications.

The Don W. Davis Professor in Ethics at Penn State, Patrick Lee Plaisance, will administer all aspects of the award competition and selection process. Applications should include a cover letter stating applicant’s ethics-related focus and contact information, statement of defense date, full dissertation (either in pdf format or a web link), and dissertation adviser contact information.

All applications are due April 1, 2021, and should be sent to plp22@psu.edu. The award will be presented at the Media Ethics Division’s Business Meeting during the 2021 AEJMC conference.

This award is intended to recognize new scholarship in the fields of media and communication ethics and is sponsored by the Davis Program in Ethical Leadership at Penn State.

*Arrangements for a guest-lecture visit to Penn State will be made for Fall 2021 based on recipient availability.*

All questions should be directed to Media Ethics Division Research Chair Diana Sisson, Auburn University, dcs0016@auburn.edu.