Second #AejmcChats Focuses on Tips for Conference Research Paper Competition and Participation

AEJMC members enjoyed their second #AejmcChats Feb. 9 when the topic turned to a subject on many members’ minds: the upcoming annual conference’s research paper competition.

Those offering an open question-and-answer chat included Katie Foss, Council of Divisions chair, @DrKatieFoss; Jan Lauren Boyles, Council of Divisions vice chair, @JanLaurenB; and Felicia Brown, AEJMC assistant director and Council of Divisions liaison, @aejmcprogram. Administrator was Sam Higgins, AEJMC social media manager, @AEJMC, and other AEJMC members joined in.

Following is a transcript of their chat – and stay tuned for the next #AejmcChats coming up soon! (To read through the original Feb. 9 chat, just search #AejmcChats on Twitter.)

**Q 1: How do I decide which group is best for my manuscript submission?**

A 1 – @JanLaurenB: First of all, carefully read the @aejmc call for papers. Each division/interest group (DIG) describes the types of research they typically accept.

A 1 – @aejmcprogram: You should take advantage of speaking with the research chairs of the various DIG groups; they can give advice to any submitter for the competition.

A 1 – @JanLaurenB: Also, look at previous conf paper abstracts on @aejmc site to see what each DIG has accepted in the past. https://www.aejmc.org/home/scholarship/abstracts-archive/

A 1 – @DrMcCollough: A special competition coordinator w/@AEJMC_PRD and coordinated the Teaching paper comp in ‘20. Review the paper calls for each division. We have 3 competitions open in PRD that are open to scholars in ethics, diversity, & history where their work falls in PR.

**Q 2: What is the difference between an extended abstract and a full paper? (Remember – extended abstracts are being accepted again this year.)**

A 2 – @ JanLaurenB: While extended abstracts are shorter, submissions still outline the lit review, methods, RQs/hypotheses + projected findings. Also, submitting an extended abstract means that you are committed to producing a full paper before the AEJMC conference in August.

A 2 – @DrKatieFoss: The scoring criteria is also different so that extended abstracts aren’t judged in the same way as full papers. For more info, see https://www.aejmc.org/home/2021/01/call-for-papers/
Note that extended abstracts aren’t eligible for division, interest group, or commission paper awards.

**A 2 – @aejmcprogram:** Should you push to complete a full paper? Or submit an abstract? Only the authors truly know the answer to that question, but if I were counseling a friend, colleague, or student, I would say choose the option that lets you write your best paper.

Take advantage of this opportunity to get your work reviewed and get in the @AEJMC Paper competition.

**Q 3 – What are some ways I can participate in the conference as a graduate student?**

**A 3 – @JanLaurenB:** Join @GSIG_AEJMC, which is the division/interest group (DIG) exclusively for grad students!

Several DIGs have pre-conferences and/or mentorship programs exclusively for grad students, which are intended to help grow your professional skills + talents.

Attend DIG business meetings! They are where you learn more about the organization and make great connections for future mentorship.

**A 3 – @BrianCDelaney:** Highly recommend. This is a welcoming group of emerging scholars. @GSIG_AEJMC

**A 3 – @aejmcprogram:** @AEJMC DIG leaders are the Front Line Workers for the @aejmc conference. They are a wealth of knowledge.

**A 3 – @DrKatieFoss:** Submitting a paper, applying for the Collaborative Scholar Grant, participating in the job hunt, and attending sessions, for starters.

And informally chatting with people virtually or in real life about research.

Don’t be shy about approaching the scholar you’ve cited. :)

There are also awards for students in many of the divisions, interest groups, and commissions. Bonus!

**A 3 – @JanLaurenB:** YES! Apply for the Collaborative Scholar Grant!! aejmc.org/home/2020/12/2021-collaborative-scholar-grants/

**A 3 – @aejmcprogram:** Join the @AEJMC Job Hub to learn more about the application process. Great networking too!
A 3 – @JeremyLittau: Lurker here but this is great advice. I found my dream job there, and I met Felicia, who is awesome!

A 3 – @DrCollough: You also have some great work going on in many divisions coordinating with grad students to hold panels or Q&A panels w/veteran faculty to help them ahead of interviews, apps, etc.

A 3 – @DrKatieFoss: In the Graduate Student Interest Group (soon to be a Commission!), graduate students hold all of the officer positions. A great way to get experience, help your peers, and network while still in grad school!

Q 4 – How many papers may be submitted to the competition total?

A 4 – @aejmcprogra: Normally no more than two per group, no limit to the overall competition. Always check each DIG group criteria prior to uploading your papers.

A 4 – @DrKatieFoss: There isn’t a limit across groups. That said, it would be better to have fewer, higher quality papers than a plethora of mediocre ones.

A 4 – @JanLaurenB: A paper can only be submitted to one division or interest group (DIG). In other words, you can’t send your paper to multiple DIGs at the same time.

Q 5 – What is considered “identifying information” and can the central office help me remove author identification PRIOR to the competition closing?

A 5 – @JanLaurenB: The call for papers has a good explanation – including info on self citations. If you have questions about your submission, please ask us in advance. We’re happy to help!

A 5 – @aejmcprogra: If you are unsure if your paper is free of identifying information, contact the AEJMC office or the DIG research chair.

A 5 – @DrKatieFoss: All identifying information must be removed from your paper (your name, as well as info in the properties). The central office will not remove your identifying information. Plan ahead and ask questions! Sharing this. Oldie but goodie. aejmc.org/home/2013/03/10-ways-disqualified/

A 5 – @AEJMC: Yes, we won’t remove it but reach out at least 24 hours prior to the deadline and we will absolutely assist you in removing it.

A 5 – @aejmcprogra: You should go and create your account now at convention2.allacademic.com/one/aejmc/aejmc21/

Q 6 – Do I need to be an AEJMC member to submit a paper?
A 6 – @aejmcprogram: You don’t need to be a member to submit, but will need to join to present. We look forward to your membership!

A 6 – @JanLaurenB: We welcome everyone to submit without membership. But once that stellar paper gets accepted, you’ll need to join to present. Plus there are MILLIONS of other amazing reasons to join.

For instance, @aejmc members can apply for several awards, mentorship programs + other cool opportunities. Here are a few aejmc.org/home/scholarship/calls/

A 6 – @DrKatieFoss: Definitely not! If your paper is accepted, then you will need to join. You also can join AEJMC without presenting a paper. Welcome all! And when you join AEJMC, you should absolutely pick at least one division or interest group. Everyone needs a home base.

A 6 – @aejmcprogram: AEJMC has 30 groups to choose from. We know you will find your forever home here!

A 6 – @DrKatieFoss: Absolutely! It’s okay to switch around, check out new groups, and meet new people! It’s always been the Cultural and Critical Studies Division for me. I’ve also belonged to CSW, History, COMSHER, and ESIG over the years. So many awesome people across the groups!

A 6 – @MJHaught: Agreed. NOND, VisCom, MCSD, ICIG, and History. I’ve also done stuff with PRD and Ad. All my tenure reviewers came from VisCom. And I got my job from a meeting at a VisCom business meeting. Make those connections early!

A 6 – @DrKatieFoss: You don’t need to be a member of a group to attend its members’ (or business) meeting.

A 6 – @JeremyLittau: I joined PJIG my first year as a student. You make dear friends, and some you meet become external evaluators for your tenure case years later (latter is a lifehack I wish someone had told me as a PhD student).

A 6 – @aejmcprogram: Last year we had the 2nd highest submission of research in conference history, with 1,124 full papers submitted (60.4% accepted) and 497 abstracts submitted (23.9% accepted). Of submissions, fewer than 1% were disqualified.

A 6 – @JanLaurenB: LET’S BREAK THE RECORD THIS YEAR.

A 6 – @DrKatieFoss: Since everyone can present in sweatpants, I think the record-breaking is attainable!
@AEJMC: Wow! Awesome chat so far. Coming to our last question next and then we’d love for anyone to chime in with additional question, info or just funny GIFs.

Q 7 (last) – What is AEJMC’s policy on submitting my conference paper to a journal?

A 7 – @JanLaurenB: If your paper is accepted, it can’t be published in a journal before the conference.

A 7 – @DrKatieFoss: You may submit your conference paper to a journal before you present it. HOWEVER, it’s recommended that you wait to get feedback at the conference before submitting.

@MediaLawProf (Chip Stewart): I’ve been in @AEJMC_LAWP since my first conference as a doc student. Most of my closest, most supportive relationships as a prof are from there. So many great friends and collaborators over the years.

@PR_Johnson (Patrick R. Johnson): @JanLaurenB’s advice was a great primer for my first-time submitting. I loved @DrKatieFoss’s thoughts on finding a home base; mine is @AEJMCethics and I’m so happy to say that (thanks @kbculver for welcoming me!).

@JanLaurenB: We’re here to support you every step of the way. So let us know how we can help. And thanks for dedicating your time + talents to all things @aejmc.

@DrKatieFoss: Always feel free to contact @JanLaurenB or me (@DrKatieFoss) with questions or just to introduce yourselves. We love to help and meet new people!

@aejmcprogram: Shout out to our moderator tonight Samantha Higgins the social media conscience of @AEJMC. You killed it!

@AEJMC: Thank you!