



Newsletter of the History Division of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication

A Word from the Chair: February 2026

Last summer, the History Division launched a membership survey, its first effort in quite some time to learn about what the members think about division activities and the value it delivers. We're working on the best way to share the results from the survey, but I wanted to use this issue of Clio to share some of the highlights and to discuss how these responses might impact our programming this year. This column is a bit longer than the ideal 400 to 500 words I was taught in undergrad, but our survey covered a lot of territory (and elicited some thoughtful comments and feedback).



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Call for Reviewers: AEJMC 2026 Paper Competition

The History Division invites reviewers for the upcoming AEJMC 2026 conference.

Reviewers are truly the engine that makes the AEJMC conference possible. We anticipate needing 30–40 reviewers this year, so if you are willing and able, please consider signing up. Your participation makes a real difference, not only in sustaining the conference, but in supporting and mentoring fellow scholars through constructive, engaged feedback!

Reviews will be assigned during the first week of April and will be due by **May 5th**.

If you're willing and able to serve as a reviewer, please fill out this [interest form](#) by **March 31st**.

Whether you're a returning reviewer or joining us for the first time, your contribution is deeply appreciated.

Please contact Carolina Velloso, History Division Research Chair, with any questions at cvelloso@umn.edu.

Thank you in advance for your support!

Call for Nominations: Donald L. Shaw Senior Scholar Award

Nominations are open for the AEJMC History Division's 2026 Donald L. Shaw Senior Scholar Award. This division honor will recognize an individual for excellence in research on the history of journalism and mass communication. Nominees must have a minimum 15-year academic career and a record of division membership. To submit a nomination, please compile a single PDF file with the following items:

- Cover letter that explains the nominee's research contributions
- Minimum of two letters of support
- Nominee's current C.V.

Self-nominations, with the accompanying supporting materials, are welcome. Nomination packets should be sent to committee chair Matthew Pressman at matthew.pressman@shu.edu. **The deadline for submissions is March 31, 2026.** This year's winner will be announced by May 1, 2026.

[Read the full call >>](#)

Rothermere Fellow Wins *Journalism History's* 2025-26 Essay Competition

Oxford University's Rothermere American Institute Fellow Dr. Thomas Cryer has won the 2025-26 essay contest sponsored by *Journalism History*.

A panel of judges from across the globe assessed this year's submitted essay proposals and selected Cryer's as the best response to this year's theme, which recognizes the 250th anniversary of the US Declaration of Independence.

His essay, "Independence, Incarcerated: Prison Newspapers, Abolitionist Critique, and Commemorating the 'Bicentennial Behind Bars,'" will examine how 1970s US prison newspapers leveraged the Declaration of Independence to radically contest America's promises of liberty and equality.

Cryer will receive a \$100 prize and have his essay published in the journal.

[Read more here >>](#)

Award Call for Papers: 2026 Covert Award

AEJMC's History Division announces the 42nd annual competition for the Covert Award in Mass Communication History for entries published in 2025.

The Covert Award recognizes the author of the best mass communication history article or essay published in the previous year. Book chapters in edited collections published in the previous year are also eligible. The AEJMC History Division has [presented the award annually](#) since 1985.

The \$400 award memorializes the esteemed Dr. Catherine L. Covert, professor of journalism at Syracuse University (d.1983). Cathy Covert was the first woman professor in Syracuse's Newhouse School of Journalism and the first woman to head the History Division, in 1975. Prof. Covert received the AEJMC Outstanding Contribution to Journalism Education Award in 1983.

Submit an electronic copy in PDF form of the published article/essay/chapter via email to Covert Award Chair Elisabeth Fondren, fondrene@stjohns.edu, by March 31, 2026.

[Read the full call >>](#)

Call for Papers: 2026 Conrad M. Hall Symposium for Virginia History

This year, the Virginia Museum of History & Culture explores how generations of newcomers have contributed to Virginia's culture, economy, and identity. In 2026, the VMHC will host the return of the Conrad M. Hall Symposium for Virginia History, a one-day event in which historians, practitioners, and the public gather to explore our shared past. Featuring panels and presentations that highlight groundbreaking work on migration in Virginia history, tailored gallery tours that illuminate the journeys of those who shaped the Commonwealth, and a special keynote lecture, the symposium bridges past and present to inspire future generations.

The deadline for presentation submissions is Friday, March 6, 2026. Decisions will be communicated in April 2026. Please direct any questions to symposium@virginiahistory.org.

More information about the symposium and call can be found [here](#).

Call for Papers: Revisiting Audience Engagement and the Relevance of Local Radio

The Journal of Radio and Audio Media (JRAM), the world's premier radio research journal, is published semi-annually by the Broadcast Education Association. JRAM is dedicated to radio research and the new technology redefining radio's traditional use.

Traditional broadcast radio competes for audience attention and share with various digital media, including podcasting and a variety of digital music options. At the same time, local radio today can be very automated and voice-tracked and 'generic' in terms of how it is presented locally. In the context of these important technology impacts on broadcast radio, articles submitted should demonstrate ways traditional local radio is or still can be vibrant and successful.

Scholars interested in submitting an article for the special issue should send an extended abstract of 1500 words for initial review to Dr. Tony DeMars at DrTonyDeMars@gmail.com by **April 3, 2026**. Feedback and an invitation to submit will be provided by **May 1, 2026**. All final papers will undergo a peer-reviewed process for final publication and must be submitted to JRAM by **August 1, 2026**.

If you have any questions about the CFP, please send an email to DrTonyDeMars@gmail.com, Subject line: JRAM Local Radio. Read more about the call [here](#).

Call for Papers: Christian movements, media, and society

Christina Littlefield, of Pepperdine University, and Jason Guthrie, of Clayton State University, are guest editing a special edition of the MDPI journal *Religions* examining Christian movements, media, and society in the United States. We welcome all methodologies and seek historical studies of how Christians, media, and society have intersected; ethnographical accounts of how Christian movements are engaging media and society; and media studies analyses of current movements and impact. For more information, check out [the full call](#) or email Christina at Christina.Littlefield@pepperdine.edu or Jason at JasonGuthrie@clayton.edu. **We are seeking abstracts by March 15, full papers by Aug. 1.**

Finneman leading Truman museum event

Teri Finneman is co-hosting an event with the Truman presidential museum in March. America250: Exploring the Past, Present & Future Influence of First Ladies is scheduled for March 21 in Independence, Missouri. Finneman and Lisa Burns are among the symposium's speakers. More information on the free in-person event [can be found here](#).

Finneman also organized a talk, Forgotten First Ladies Who Influenced America, for Humanities North Dakota on Jan. 13.

New articles published on The Image of the Black Journalist in Popular Culture

There is virtually no research when it comes to the image of the Black journalist in popular culture. In a special *Image of the Journalist in Popular Culture (IJPC) Journal* section – The Image of the Black Journalist in Popular Culture – we offer the first attempt to analyze what that image is in film, television and novels through academic and professional perspectives.

The first five articles in Volumes 11 and 12 (Fall 2024 to Spring 2025) of the *IJPC Journal* edited by Laura Castañeda, Richard R. Ness and Joe Saltzman deal with the image of the Black journalist in film and television.

More information can be found [here](#).

Do you have news for the next issue?

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