



2024 CALL: News Audience Research Paper Award

Cash Prize of \$1,000. The News Audience Research Paper Award encourages research about the news audience and recognizes the best AEJMC conference paper on the audience for news. Accepted 2024 AEJMC conference papers about some aspect of the news audience are automatically eligible to be reviewed by a specially appointed committee for this important award. In addition to receiving a certificate, the author(s) of the winning paper will receive a \$1,000 cash prize.

There is no separate submission process for this award. Papers on the news audience should be submitted to the division, commission or interest group that is the best fit for the paper. After the review process has been completed by each group, accepted papers will go through a separate review process for the News Audience Research Paper Award.

Eligibility. Research papers eligible for this award should use audience-focused methodologies to provide insight about news audience engagement, attitudes, uses and gratifications, avoidances, socialization, political participation, etc. The papers may focus on news audiences in general, news audiences by platform, content or mobile devices, news audiences defined by age, race, ethnicity, gender, education, generation, political party, ideology, or other social characteristic. Research papers that provide insight into the impact of news literacy initiatives as well as the effects of disinformation campaigns on informed voting and democracies are encouraged.

Background. Created and funded by AEJMC Past President Paula Poindexter as a complement to her 2013-2014 presidential initiative News Engagement Day, which is held annually on the first Tuesday in October, the award's goal is to encourage more research and discussion about the news audience. The papers will be judged on their contributions to understanding the news audience as well as their research design, execution, theoretical grounding, quality of writing, and implications for the news industry, society as a whole, and our democracy.

2023 Winning Papers. After two very different research papers received exceptional reviews and almost perfect scores, the 2023 AEJMC News Audience Research Paper Award was given to two research papers: (1) "Comparing Effects of News Subscription Motivation and News Lifestyle and Their Impact on Subscription Retention" by Weiyue Chen, Butler University, and Esther Thorson, Michigan State University; (2) "News for the Ages: An Examination of Trust Factors by Generational Cohort" by Amy Jo Coffey and Chris DeFelice, University of Florida. The \$1,000 cash prize for each paper was split between the paper's coauthors and each coauthor received a certificate.

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