

Submit Proposals Now for AEJMC Theory Colloquia

Proposals for the 2024 AEJMC theory colloquia are due February 1, 2024.

The AEJMC Theory Colloquium made its debut in 2020 as a new form of conference programming – with an eventual path to publication – that focuses on interrogation of an established or emerging journalism and communication theory. Colloquia are most similar to panels but have a different focus, format, process and outcome. **Proposals for the 2024 AEJMC theory colloquia are due February 1, 2024.**

Focus: The goal of a colloquium is to critically examine a current journalism and communication theory or concept and to chart a research agenda moving forward. Priority is given to theories and concepts that are important to the field, but that also require critical reexamination given digitization, globalization, and other contextual changes, given theoretic or scientific advances in related disciplines, or simply given inadequate theoretical development. The goal of revisiting the theory or concept is to motivate scholars to do subsequent empirical work that advances our fields' theoretical and conceptual development.

Format: A colloquium requires a session chair, three or four presenters, and a discussant. At least two, but not all, of the presenters should be recognized as a leading authority on the theory or concept. The remaining presenter/s can represent new scholars or scholars from other fields who can bring a clear alternative perspective. The discussant will critically engage all the presenters, while the session chair will moderate the event. The colloquium will be programmed in a normal 90-minute conference session, with at least 20 minutes reserved for audience questions and discussion. Panels should include a diverse pool of experts, including women and persons from underrepresented groups.

Process: Any AEJMC member can propose a theory colloquium to a division or interest group, but it can only be submitted to **one division or interest group**. The division or interest group can advance **only one proposal to the Standing Committee on Research (SCR)**, which can choose a maximum of three colloquia in any given year (one for each full day of the conference). The SCR will seek to select up to three colloquia for the 2024 AEJMC conference that promise rigorous, agenda moving work and represent the variety of research traditions that find a home in AEJMC.

Proposals will be submitted through the AEJMC office. The proposal consists of the following, all collated into a single document:

- (1) the name of the division or interest group to which the proposal is being sent;
- (2) a 75-word description of the colloquium for the conference program;

- (3) a 400-word rationale for the colloquium;
- (4) a title, confirmed presenter and 150-word abstract from each presenter;
- (5) name and 50-word rationale for the confirmed discussant; and
- (6) an ordered list of at least two and up to five AEJMC journals, including divisional journals, which would be potential publishers of the completed colloquium papers. Journal editors should not be contacted in advance.

Submissions should be sent to D/IG heads, who then submit the proposals to AEJMC. Put "AEJMC Theory Colloquium Proposal" in the subject line. For questions, contact Katie Foss, Theory Colloquia chair, AEJMC Standing Committee on Research, at Katie.Foss@mtsu.edu.

Colloquium Paper Requirements: For an accepted colloquium, presenters must complete final papers and submit them to the colloquium organizer, chair/moderator, and discussant at least two full weeks before the conference begins. In keeping with the purpose of the theory colloquium, the papers should be theoretical/conceptual in nature with the intent of exploring, synthesizing, or building theory, rather than new empirical research or "one-shot" studies (e.g., see Bennett, W. L., & Pfetsch, B., Rethinking Political Communication in a Time of Disrupted Public Spheres. *Journal of Communication*; Parks, P., Researching with Our Hair on Fire: Three Frameworks for Rethinking News in a Post normative World. *Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly*; Ferguson, M., "Building Theory in Public Relations: Interorganizational Relationships as a Public Relations Paradigm," in *Journal of Public Relations Research*; or Romero, M., & Pérez, N., Conceptualizing the Foundation of Inequalities in Care Work. *American Behavioral Scientist*).

Final papers must be between 20-25 pages in length (double-spaced, excluding tables and references), use 12-point Times New Roman font and have 1-inch margins. Authors should use the citation style appropriate for the discipline, including APA, Chicago, MLA and Harvard.

Outcome: The Standing Committee on Research will oversee programming symposia at the 2024 conference in Philadelphia, PA. Editors from the journals named in the proposal will have the right of first refusal and if the proposal is accepted the editor will marshal the papers through to publication using their existing processes for invited papers. Colloquia participants are committing to this publication process by virtue of submitting their colloquium proposal. However, if no editors accept the set of papers, authors are free to pursue publication elsewhere.