

A look back at the division

Former chairs remember the gains and the battles

Ana Garner

What was your role in the division?

I've been a member of CCS since 1987. In addition to serving as a Reviewer for the Competitive Paper Competition (1992-present), I have also served as Teaching Standards Chair (one year, 1994-1995), Research Committee Chair and Paper Competition Chair (two years, 1995-1997), Vice-Head (one year, 1997-1998) and Head (two years, 1998-2000). I've also done the normal stuff of panel and paper presentations.

What has the division meant to you/your career?

I first joined the division as a graduate student and it provided me with a wonderful place to meet fellow graduate students and to also meet the faculty who would eventually be my peers. The paper sessions and drinks at the bar were opportunities for me to learn and grow intellectually and professionally. Serving the division was beneficial because I was able to work with wonderful people inside CCS as well as out. Planning the yearly conference in December was always hard work but it also gave me the challenge of thinking about how CCS could work with other divisions. The positions I held also helped in my pursuit of tenure and I have no doubt that the leadership in CCS also aided in my obtaining the administrative position I now hold.

What role did the division have within AEJMC? Has this role changed over the years?

CCS was formed in 1976 under the name Qualitative Studies. Its formation was due in part as response to the Association as a whole
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Beginning with this issue, we have invited selected division members to reflect on their experiences in the former Qualitative and now Cultural and Critical Studies Division. We think this division has an interesting and even controversial history that should be shared with newer members. Participants received a set of questions that allowed them to evaluate the past of the division and to speculate on the future. Ana Garner, Robert McChesney and Jack Lule submitted the first contributions to this continuing series. Other members who wish to contribute should send their submissions to the editors. (See pg. 3.)

Robert McChesney

What was your role in the division?

I was the chair of research for (then) QS from 1991 to 1993. I was in charge of coordinating the review of the submitted papers for the convention, and I did that for two years. It was an enormous amount of work.

What has the division meant to you/your career?

Absolutely nothing. I did it purely out of guilt, as service to my fellow scholars. I had been submitting papers for years and I figured I owed it to everyone else to do some of the shit work. At Madison, where I went up for tenure in 1994, it had zero positive bearing on my case, as far as I can remember. But tenure is a funny thing. If a university wants to promote you, they can take something like I did at QS and make a big deal out of it; if a university does not want to promote you, it is hardly mentioned. Although I was tenured, and my department supported me strongly, it was granted with very little enthusiasm by the university pooh-bahs.

Most people who had been chair of research went on to become the head of the QS division altogether, but I was not interested in doing that. As I said, I did what I did out of guilt.

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Jack Lule

My first AEJMC convention was in August 1986, in the stunning heat of Norman, Oklahoma. I was a nervous, novice Ph.D. student, under the sway of work by Kenneth Burke and Paul Ricoeur. And one look at that 1986 program, dominated by arcane ANOVAs and chi squared studies, left me doubtful that AEJMC would ever have a place for me or my interests.

A kindly professor had previously directed me to submit a class paper to the Qualitative Studies division, however. I found my way to the session – and my eventual academic home. Indeed, the generosity, wisdom, scholarship and spirit I found through QS have provided me with the sense of community that I think is essential to academic life.

The community is intellectual. As we can all attest, QS – now C&CS – is really the only site in AEJMC for critical, cultural studies of journalism and media.

But the community is also social. The division – the people – are supportive, welcoming, accepting, and fun.

I threw myself into division activities, producing the newsletter in the early '90s and rising through the officer ranks, eventually serving as QS head in 1992-93.

And I have been a loyal member ever since.

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An interesting time for CCS

RALPH BELIVEAU, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-OSHKOSH

It's customary to say "our division was very successful at the conference..." in these newsletter pieces, so I won't bother. Partly, I am moved because although it was a good year for the CCS division, it was something of a bad year for Cultural and Critical Studies. I'm not sure where the state of affairs will be by the time you are reading this, but my guess is that our international situation will not attend to the issues I find central to CCS—the careful understanding of history, the resistance to desires driven by dominant ideology, careful scrutiny of the schemes of corporations; the struggle for justice and respect in representation and identity, and the protection of a diverse media system that allows for a range of perspectives, working toward a sense of things on which a citizen can act.

I think we take these issues seriously in CCS. Perhaps we might consider an additional concern: the notion of the "public" in our lives. The continuing move toward all sorts of "privatization" is continuing, despite the attention being paid to public sector life fire departments, police departments, and the military. We are not extending this attention to public

education, though many of us are working or have worked in that institution. Some of us are also invested through our own young friends and family members.

Consider also the state of public communication. As our great friend Jay Hamilton has reminded us, the Federal Communications Commission—which, I believe, is still somewhat connected to serving the public interest, convenience, and necessity (have a look at <http://www.museum.tv/archives/etv/P/htmlP/publicintere/publicintere.htm>)—is continuing its efforts to eliminate restrictions on ownership, still suggesting there is sufficient competition in the private sector to protect the public interest.

We certainly have our work cut out for us in the division. And while this kind of job security ought to be a blessing, I wish it were otherwise. But it certainly offers us a wealth of possibilities for discussions, opportunities in our teaching, and topics for our conference sessions.

MiaKudos

I would like to thank Mia Consalvo for her leadership over the past year. She moved to create a separate session for our business

meeting as a trial run. (The business meeting was traditionally squeezed into the last section of a "Best Paper" session.) Based on attendance and participation, I call last year's experiment a success. I think we will repeat the idea, and have a separate "Best Paper" session and a separate business meeting.

Talking to Your Peers, Convention Feedback, Syllabi Sharing

I think our listserv (see address, below left) is a good place to find other people who share your concerns, and who might be willing to participate in a panel discussion or presentation at next year's AEJMC conference in Kansas City. I would like our division to try out some new and creative approaches to the traditional panel formats, and find ways to engage in each others' teaching and scholarship. We should also make serious efforts to involve the community of Kansas City, and other communities relevant to our work as partners, working together to salvage and reconstruct a just notion of what we are as a public.

The coordinator for panels and the vice-head of the Cultural and Critical Studies Division is Alison Plessinger. Please contact either of us if you are interested in suggesting some alternative format to make the conference experience successful. You can also contribute to the planning by filling out one of the evaluations of the Miami Beach 2002 conference. You can find it at:

<http://www.grady.uga.edu/CCS/ConfEval.htm>

Even if you were not at the CCS conference sessions, this form has questions that ask you to offer ideas for the 2003 conference. We would be delighted to have your feedback.

While you are at

<http://gradycollege.grady.uga.edu/CCS/>, have a

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Correction

Due to an editing error in the Summer 2002 *Newsletter*, citations were erroneously attributed in the article, "Writing for promotion, writing for social change," by Warren Bareiss of Austin College. They are: Bareiss, W. (2001). Telemedicine in South Dakota: A cultural studies approach. *New Media and Society*, 3, 327-56.

Warren, J.T. (2001). Absence for whom? An autoethnography of white subjectivity. *Cultural Studies/Critical Methodologies*, 1(1): 36-49.

We apologize for the mistake.

Cultural & Critical Studies Division 2002-2003

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Comments from the Chair

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look at the division web site. One of the things we are looking for is contributions to the pool of Sample Syllabi, which our membership can use as a resource. If you would like to contribute course syllabi (undergraduate or graduate) to this exchange, use any of these methods:

Send it in Microsoft Word format (either Windows or Macintosh is fine) on a diskette to Jay Hamilton, College of Journalism and Mass Communication, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-3018.

Send it in Microsoft Word format as an e-mail attachment to hamilton@uga.edu

Send it on a diskette either through the mails or as an e-mail attachment, but in HTML format (you'll have more control over how it will be displayed on the web than if you send it as a Word file)

Send the address of a link to a syllabus already posted elsewhere on the World Wide Web to Jay Hamilton at hamilton@uga.edu, or call (706) 542-3556.

CCS and JCI – Scholarly Care You Can Count On

The division is now officially affiliated with the *Journal of Communication Inquiry*. I hope you have had a chance to see the unique and important contribution that this journal makes. The current editor will be contacting you shortly with an appeal to contribute your scholarship. I would suggest that if you saw anything at the convention that you would recommend for publication, contact that author and suggest that they submit the work to JCI.

The current JCI editor, Dina Gavrilos, is absolutely wonderful to work with, and I expect to see great work in the issues under her hand. You can reach her at jci-editor@uiowa.edu, or on the web at www.uiowa.edu/~jciweb. The recently added reviews section is a significant addi-

tion to the journal.

Graduate Connections

One of the things we discussed at the business meeting was the desire to connect better with graduate students who will be the division's future. We decided to try to put in place a program that connects a faculty division member with an interested graduate student. The goal is for the faculty member to orient students new to AEJMC to the organization and its relationship to the division...which is more complex than we would like to admit. We will be sending out information on the listserv to coordinate this effort. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will see the contact information for the people connected to this effort. If you have any suggestions that might improve this effort please get in touch with them.

The greatest challenge for the previous effort to do this...I heard from a little bird...was getting in touch with the graduate students. The initial attempt found many willing faculty but few interested graduate students. We can perhaps all help to get the word out to these folks so when the time comes they are able to take advantage of this new program.

K.C. and Jazz in 2003

I'm looking forward to being at a conference in the "Paris of the Plains," home of Charlie Parker, Count Basie, Jay McShann, and Lester Willis "Prez" Young (have a look at <http://www.umkc.edu/orgs/kcjazz/main-page.htm>). I'm hoping to put together a panel on Jazz and American culture, perhaps including a live performance. While I might miss the \$5 bagel of Miami Beach, I look forward to the city and its musical heritage.

We had a first division social in 2002, and it seemed like a good idea. We will try to find a place in the schedule where it won't conflict with other AEJMC events to plan a CCS Social for the 2003 conference. Any suggestions are welcome.

News bits from our members

—*Eleanor Novek*, Monmouth University, and *Rebecca Sanford*, Temple University, have received a \$7,000 Community Action Grant from the American Association of University Women. The grant is intended to support the organization of a regularly publishing newspaper entirely

written and produced by the inmates of a women's prison. The two women have been teaching journalism classes at the prison since 2001.

—*Paulette Kilner* has received tenure and promotion to associate professor at the University of Toledo Communication Department.

In search of...bylaws

The bylaws for CCS are missing—or perhaps they never existed at all. That's what CCS division members discovered this summer at the AEJMC Convention.

The solution? Some members expressed concern about the strictures of bylaws, but most agreed that guidelines are needed to show the chain of (gentle) command and to help answer questions during nominations and elections.

Several members volunteered to help write new bylaws for the division, including the authors of this short article, and they need your help.

One theme during the bylaw discussion was clear: elaborate, confining guidelines aren't desired or necessary. Required instead is something elegant and simple that will give us a comfortable structure for conducting necessary business.

Since much of the scholarship presented by the CCS membership challenges issues of power and authority, the task of creating a governing document presents a unique and ironic mission. The most obvious solution to this dilemma is to solicit ideas from the membership before drafting a proposal and putting it to a vote at the 2003 AEJMC Convention in Kansas City.

If you have ideas for simple bylaws or an example of a governing document that you feel captures the spirit of what we would like to achieve, please forward these to us at lambiase@unt.edu or rtrumpb@siue.edu.

Jacqueline Lambiase, University of North Texas, and Bob Trumbour, Southern Illinois-Edwardsville.

C&CS News seeks your contributions

We would like to invite you to contribute to this newsletter. We especially welcome longer contributions and commentary that aren't usually a part of traditional publishing outlets. Graduate-student contributions are encouraged. Editors will get in touch with authors before publishing any materials. Keep your eyes open for the next deadline, which we'll post at <http://gradycollege.grady.uga.edu/CCS/>

To talk over ideas or suggestions, please contact:

Elfriede Fursich,

fursich@bc.edu

(617) 928-1105, or

Melinda Robins,

melinda_robins@emerson.edu,

Garner

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and the difficulty members had in getting cultural, critical and qualitative work accepted in the already existing divisions. It started out fairly small and was considered by many in AEJMC as that “rough division of radical methodologists.” The division name was, from the start, a contested area. Several panels, including one I put together, addressed the question of whether we wanted to be determined by a methodology or an interdisciplinary entity with a broad range of scholarly interests. The name change was voted in during my first year as president.

What are the strengths/weaknesses of the division?

The biggest strength of the division is its wonderful members and the diversity and complexity of ideas that they bring to our table. The old text “Ferment in the Field” is reflected in our conference papers and sessions. This is our strength and we should continue to build on it. Our weakness also tends to be our lack of diversity in terms of membership. It has improved over the years but we could do much more. This is, of course, a problem with most divisions and with AEJMC as a whole. This is an on-going issue that can start to be solved

with better outreach.

Where do you see the division in the future?

That’s a bit hard to say. We have already become more accepted by the larger membership of AEJMC—in principle, at least. The problem could lie in becoming complacent. We can’t always be the voice of the “other” but I think it is important that we do not lose our focus of why it was necessary to be established in the first place. That is part of whom we are and giving voice to contrary positions should not be forgotten. This includes methodological positions, which many of us hold and which are still contested by the culture at large.

Which changes would improve the division?

The leadership since I was head has done a great deal to broaden the participation of the membership in conference planning, newsletter and the like. These are excellent efforts and they should be continued. They tap into the wealth we possess and help us all see the division we have become. I would say... continue onward!

Ana C. Garner is Associate Professor and Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Research in the College of Communication at Marquette University.

McChesney

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What role did the division have within AEJMC? Has this role changed over the years?

I have had little contact with the division since my two terms as research chair ended. So I cannot answer the question. What contact I have had has been very positive.

What are the strengths/weaknesses of the division?

It has been just about the only division at AEJMC where critical research could get a decent hearing. Unfortunately, it probably covers too much ground, including both political economy and cultural studies along with so much else. The QS division alone covered what would be around two-thirds of the research at a Canadian or British or just about any non-U.S. media studies program. It shows what a parochial intellectual backwater AEJMC tends to be. Without QS, AEJMC would have been pathetic.

Where do you see the division in the future?

No idea.

Which changes would improve the division?

I am out of the loop, so I don’t know.

Robert W. McChesney is Research Professor in the Institute of Communication Research and the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Lule

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I think C&CS plays a crucial role in AEJMC. It provides distinctive social and critical perspectives to the larger organization. It provides a site for scholarship, methods and approaches, which might be unwelcome by other divisions. And it provides an intellectual home for many students and professors, like myself, who treasure its community.

Jack Lule is Professor in the Department of Journalism and Communication at Lehigh University, PA.

‘Best Poster’ award goes to doctoral student

Sonora Jha-Nambiar, a doctoral student and instructor at the Manship School of Mass Communication at Louisiana State University, received the award for Best Poster in the CCS Division at the 2002 conference this past August. Her poster, “Reframing frame analysis: Gaps and opportunities in framing research,” used engaging visuals and innovative design to illustrate her research, which investigated framing theory and uncritical uses of it as a methodological tool in mass communication research. All posters presented in the Scholar-to-Scholar and separate co-sponsored CCS Poster Session were eligible for the award, which comes with a cash prize of \$150.



SONORA JHA-NAMBIAR

This is the first year that CCS has given a Best Poster award. The award is intended to reward poster presenters that utilize innovative and creative means to convey their research visually. The judging criteria used for Best Poster will be published in CCS News before the Kansas City 2003 annual conference.