

Minutes for Central States Communication Association: Media Studies Interest Group

April 5, 2025

9:30am-10:45am

Officers Present:

Chair: Byron B Craig, Illinois State University

Vice Chair: Tasha Riggins, Baker University

Secretary: Holly Holladay, Missouri State University

Meeting was called to order by Byron Craig.

AGENDA

I. Discussion of Old minutes and approval:

Minutes were approved by acclimation.

II. Reports

- A. There were 13 submissions this year.
- B. (15) papers were accepted (one was a panel), none were rejected, and (5) panels were included (including our Business Meeting). One paper was given to Health Communication Interest Group. There were no original media papers or panels. The division has 13 slots.
- C. 2025 Award Announcements:

Top Paper Discussion:

Certificate – Top Paper: Tyler Donavon Curran (Missouri State University) – Certificate Top Paper

Certificate – Top Panel: Media, Activism, and Social Movement: Widening the Scope of Identity (Stephen E. Rahko Respondent and Chair, Hadassah Ward, U of Colorado Boulder; Marisa Bruno, California State University; Tyler Donavon Curran, Missouri State University; Matt Foy, Kirkwood Community College

2025 Samuel L. Becker Award: Hadassah Ward (University of Colorado Boulder)

Discussion Point One:

Leaders listened and scheduled our business meeting at a different time...very grateful that they listened – praised working with Tiffany and Jeff for their patience and leadership.

Discussion Point Two:

What do you all think we should do to get more interest? I looked at the rhetoric group and the popular culture group and some of what they received could have easily been submitted to our

Interest Group. We should think about how we could get more panels/papers submitted by looking at their calls, their interests, etc.

- Listening to younger voices
- Discussion of changing the name of the group – how might we rebrand? Does “media” feel too old? Where are internet things going?
- Division between PCIG and Media Studies
- How do we more actively recruit?
- Reminders closer to the deadline
- Extended abstracts – check the bylaws (Holly will share PCIG’s extended abstract call)

Officer Election:

- Stephen Rahko – self-nomination for secretary – unanimous vote

Passing of the Gavel: Tasha Riggins

III: New Business

2025 Submission Call Discussion:

- Discussion about 2026 theme, updates on Theme/New Call – *Translate* in Minneapolis, MN – April 14-19
- Discussion about call for Original Media for next conference – discussed obstacles including technology and conflict with BEA.
- Anything we want to highlight for our call
 - Translating our research outside the academy
 - What can media do in our current environment – media ecology
 - The performance of media
 - Translating academic knowledge to the public space
 - Getting people to put their research in “lay” terms and making it accessible
 - Encouraging community members to get involved – journalists/PR professionals – what should we be researching?
 - Being explicit about what “media studies” means – emphasizing social media
 - How media can challenge and influence public policy
 - “Picking up beyond new media where we left off”
 - Remember that Minneapolis is the home of Prince!

Adjourned by Tasha Riggins at 10:20 a.m.