



Intelligencer

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Move media history into mainstream *Continuing the discussion started in Birmingham*

By Jean Palmegiano
Saint Peter's College

[At the AJHA 2009 Conference, I talked about how to move journalism history from the margin to the mainstream of history. What follows is a summary of my remarks that I hope will continue the lively debate begun in Birmingham.]

Innumerable ways exist to weave press research tighter into the tapestry of history. Here I suggest two – expanding categories of time and place and importing methodologies of genre discourse and historical epistemology – because they signify the simple and the complex.

All historians accept time and place as fundamental dimensions

Paper submissions to go electronic starting with Tuscon convention in October

The American Journalism Historians Association invites paper entries, panel proposals and abstracts of research in progress on any facet of media history for its 30th annual convention to be held October 6-9, 2010 in Tucson, Arizona.

The deadline for submissions is May 15.

The AJHA views journalism history broadly, embracing print, broadcasting, advertising, public

of their study, but they regularly redraw the lines. Unfortunately, much journalism history has overlooked these reconfigurations.

“Time” typically connotes dates consequential for a particular group, but historians also organize it, e.g., Age of Jackson or Progressive Era. Journalism historians frequently and uncritically borrow often outdated labels coined for subjects not as multi-faceted as the press. This framing constricts its history, so we should question the relevance of time-oriented tags before utilizing them and introduce our own, as do other specialties, when they are not apt.

Similarly, we should examine

relations and other forms of mass communication which have been inextricably intertwined with the human past. Because the AJHA requires presentation of original material, research papers and panels submitted to the convention should not have been submitted to or accepted by another convention or publication.

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“place.” History has increasingly crossed actual or cultural boundaries, as in race, class, and gender investigations. However, press history, which traverses both borders, has only lately reflected these trends. Although we understand that journalists, equipment, and perceptions of journalism have traveled in both the physical and intellectual senses, we prefer linear to lateral outlines. Given the randomness of evidence and a subject congenial to comparison, privileging a linear model is illogical. A relational one, for example a transnational look at frontier journalism

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Future AJHA
Convention Sites

2010: Tucson
2011: Kansas City
2012: North Carolina

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Electronic submissions to begin for Tuscon

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Research Papers

Authors may submit only one research paper. Research entries must be no longer than 25 pages of text, double-spaced, in 12-point type, not including notes. The Chicago Manual of Style is recommended but not required.

Beginning in 2010, the AJHA paper competition will be administered electronically. Papers must be submitted in PDF, saved with author identification only in the file names and not in the papers. Each paper must be submitted as an attachment, with abstract and contact information included in the text of the e-mail to: ajhapapers@gmail.com.

Authors of accepted papers

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Epistemology becomes key concern

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along the Rockies and the Russian steppes, would yield information heretofore compartmentalized. Moreover, international and cross-cultural inquiries would highlight the global evolution of the press foregrounding it in history.

The readiness of press scholars to appropriate unhesitatingly others' designations of time and place contravenes the resistance to accommodate fresh methodologies. While not advocating wholesale adoption, I propose adaption of outside techniques suitable for journalism history. For instance, the genre discourse of literature has merits. Its incorporation of theory into a chronicle may appeal to those trained in the social sciences. Its emphasis on close reading of text, fluidity of language, and popularity of tropes in humanities writing may suit those focusing on literary and magazine journalism. Its interest in how researchers' acculturation in the structure of language affects their work can force us all to confront the matter of historical authenticity, itself part of the larger, more significant, ongoing discussion among historians about the nature of history.

One aspect of that discussion, on historical epistemology (how do we know what we say we know), directly impacts journalism history. Recognizing the effects of preconceptions and learned memory, historians today disavow objectivity, relinquishing claims to truth and remapping the historical universe to accord with the reality that they can represent, but not "re-present"

the past. That we should do thorough research, offer findings honestly, and write them clearly and coherently are prerequisites. Press historians honor these mandates but do not exhibit a willingness to acknowledge the possibility of "rethinking" history creatively, much less to engage in the process. Admitting that history is imaginative may strike many as heresy, yet we selectively take from sources perennially in flux, arrange them arbitrarily, and spin them into a series of contradictory narratives. We do not create the "before now," but we do create a history or rather a historiography of it. If that were not the case, how account for disparity in interpretation, for assigning value within a construct that the next generation must identify before it produces its own version of the past? Ignoring researchers' subjectivity and presuming that research yields indisputable meaning echo the Newtonian universe long abandoned by physicists. To cling to this mindset will, I believe, perpetuate a journalism history on the fringe.

Got News?

The newsletter is published in November, February, May and August. Submission deadlines are Nov. 1, Jan. 15, April 15 and July 15. Email is preferred, but you may also fax or mail to:

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From the president . . .

Let's diversify media history study

By Earnest Perry
University of Missouri

In this issue of the *Intelligencer*, past president Eugenia "Jean" Palmegiano has an article that addresses moving journalism history "from the margin to the main-stream of history." It was part of a panel presentation held the Saturday afternoon of this past year's convention in Birmingham. The lively discussion between more than 20 scholars was one of the best I have ever been a part of at any conference. It also reinforced my desire to focus on research as an initiative during my presidency and beyond.

Jean discusses several unique ways to move journalism history from being a "buttress" for other historical topics to a major player in understanding culture and society. AJHA members Meg Lamme and Karen Miller Russell's recently published article, "Removing the Spin: Toward a New Theory of Public Relations History," in *Journalism and Communication Monographs*, is an example of what Jean and the panel presented in October. I would like to see more of it.

It is time for journalism history and AJHA as a leading organization in the field to diversify our scholarship. It is not enough that we document historical events, bring journalists large and small to life, or profile our institutions. We must place them in the proper

cultural and theoretical context. Our research must not just address the who and what, but also the why and how.

We should actively engage with other disciplines in scholarly research because we can fill in the historical gaps missing in their work. It can enhance our research by opening up theoretical perspectives and alternative explanations we may have not considered. As teachers we tell our students that history can help inform their journalism. As scholars we should allow different historical approaches to inform journalism history.

There are several ways we can begin to initiate a broader examination of journalism history. We can invite articles for publication in *American Journalism* that address various theoretical approaches to studying journalism history. We should encourage historical scholars from other disciplines to enter our paper competition and participate on panels. We must also be more inclusive of those within our own organization who approach journalism history in ways that are different from the traditional institutional, biographical and, some would say, theoretical perspective.

In October, AJHA will be celebrating 29 years as an organization. We have come a

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AJHA Committee Chairs

Awards:

Convention Sites/Convention

Planning: Patrick Cox, Texas, pcox@mail.utexas.edu, 512.495.4159

Dissertation Awards: David Abrahamson, Northwestern, d-abrahamson@northwestern.edu, 847.467.4159

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History in the Curriculum: David Vergobbi, Utah, david.vergobbi@utah.edu, 801.485.4626

Web Site: Brian Carroll, Berry College, bc@berry.edu, 706.368.6944

Panels and research-in-progress proposal details explained

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must register for the convention and attend in order to present their research. Authors should bring 25 copies of their paper to distribute at the convention. Research awards include: the Robert Lance Award for outstanding student research paper, the J. William Snorgrass Award for outstanding minority-journalism research paper, the Maurine Beasley Award for outstanding women's-history research paper, a new award for outstanding research in media and war, and the David Sloan award for the outstanding faculty research paper.

For information queries only, contact Research Chair Janice Hume at jhume@uga.edu.

Panels

To propose a panel, submit to the address below:

A brief description of the topic.

The names of the moderator and participants (no more than two of whom may be from the same institution).

A brief summary of each participant's presentation.

— Entries must be no longer than 3 pages of text, double-spaced, in 12-point type, with 1-inch margins.

No individual may participate in more than one panel. Panel organizers should make sure panelists have not agreed to serve on multiple panels. Failure to adhere to the guidelines will lead to rejection of the proposal.

Preference will be given to those proposals that involve the audience

and panelists in meaningful discussion or debate.

Panel participants must register for and attend the convention.

Send panel proposals to: Linda Lumsden, Department of Journalism, Marshall 338, PO Box 210158B, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721-0158

Research in Progress

For research in progress submissions, send to the address listed below:

Three copies of a blind abstract of your study. Include the proposal title, but omit your name. The abstract should include a clear purpose statement as well as a brief description of your primary sources.

Abstracts must be no longer than 2 pages of text, double-spaced, in 12-point type, with 1-inch margins, not including notes. Primary sources should be described in an additional 1-page, double-spaced, page.

A cover letter that includes your name, contact information, and proposal title.

If your proposal is accepted, you'll be asked to bring to the conference 20 copies of a four-to five-page summary of your research.

Authors of accepted research in progress must register for and attend the convention.

Send research in progress to: Mark Dolan, Department of Journalism, 334 Farley Hall, University of Mississippi, University, MS 38677



Old West newspapers

David A. Hendrick created an interesting Web page in 2001 while at the University of Virginia on the role of newspapers in the Old West. You can find it at <http://xroads.virginia.edu/~ug02/hendrick/west/paperhome.html>. This is the Daily Chronicle, not sure where or when.

Palmegiano promoted to research position

Jean Palmegiano has been named the first Senior Research Professor at Saint Peter's College. This award recognizes and funds the ongoing research of established scholars on the faculty. She is cur-

rently working on two projects, one on the perceptions of nineteenth-century British magazine writers about the press, and the other on expanding the scope of investigation in journalism history.

New book: Wright brothers in Birmingham

2010 marks the 100th anniversary of the establishment by the Wright brothers of the nation's first civilian flight school, located in Montgomery, Ala. This significant event in the histories of aviation and of Montgomery is marked by the publication of *Wings of Opportunity: The Wright Brothers in Montgomery, Alabama* by AJHA member and former president Julie Williams, Samford University.

Peering through the lens of contemporary news accounts, Williams traces the history of the

flight school and its reception by a Southern community of the early twentieth century looking to move beyond the scars of the Civil War and warily intrigued at the opportunity offered by the Wrights and their modern technology.

The press' reporting and sometimes misreporting "reflected the misconceptions, hopes, dreams, and fears about aviation in 1910, painting a picture of a time when flight was untested, unsteady, and unavailable to most people," Williams writes.

Papers must be submitted in PDF format

AJHA is going green this year with its research paper competition. For the first time authors will submit papers electronically to ajhapers@gmail.com. The deadline for sending papers for the 2010 competition is May 15. The conference will be held Oct. 6-9 in Tucson.

Papers must be submitted in PDF, saved with author identification only in the file names and not in the papers. Each paper must be submitted as an attachment, with abstract and contact information included in the text of the e-mail.

Saving a word document to PDF is quick and easy.

If you have a PC and an older version of Microsoft Word, follow these steps if you do not have the Acrobat program:

1. Under File, scroll down to Print.
2. Under Name, choose Adobe PDF.
3. Hit OK. Make sure you give the file a suitable name and hit "save."

Those with newer versions of Word can simply choose the PDF version in the "save as" menu.

Mac users should choose PDF in the "format" menu when you save your document.

The AJHA board approved this change in submission policy at the 2009 Birmingham conference. Electronic submissions will not

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Barbara Cloud remembered by AJHA as teacher, researcher, friend, leader

Barbara Cloud, former UNLV Associate Provost for Academic Affairs and Emerita Professor of Journalism and Media Studies, died Thursday. She was 71.

Cloud, a distinguished educator, researcher, and writer, specialized in the history of journalism in the American West and media law, but also contributed many book reviews and general interest articles for a variety of publications. Her most recent book is *The Coming of the Frontier Press*, published by the Northwestern University Press. She served as president of the American Journalism History Association in the mid 1980s, and edited and published *Journalism History* from 1992 to 2001.

She received many awards for her work, including the Nevada Humanities Committee's and University of Nevada Press's Wilbur S. Shepperson Award for Scholarship in the Humanities.

"Barbara always tried to draw students to their full potential and loved recognizing their achievements," said her colleague Mary Hausch. Cloud had been president of the UNLV Phi Kappa Phi honorary society and key to the establishment of the UNLV chapter of Kappa Tau Alpha, the honor society for journalism and mass communications.

She was teaching a class on women and the media and researching a biography of "Pop" Squires, a Las Vegas newspaper pioneer, when she died.

Cloud served as department chairperson in the late 1980s and

was instrumental in the transformation of the UNLV Department of Communication Studies into the Hank Greenspun School of Communication, which she directed for a year before becoming Associate Provost in 1998, a post she held for five years during the building and reorganization administration of President Carol Harter.



Barbara Cloud

Prior to coming to UNLV in 1979, she worked as a reporter for the Idaho Falls *Post-Register* and Bend, Oregon, *Bulletin* during summer vacations, as News Editor of the Springfield, Oregon, *News*, as Executive Secretary of the Florey Memorial Fundraising Campaign in the Australian National University, and as a Public Relations Consultant in Perth, Australia. In the early 1960s she interviewed movie stars and other celebrities for a Los Angeles free-lance writer.

Cloud was born in Tulare, CA, but grew up in Idaho Falls. She was a graduate of Stanford University, where she met her husband, the University of Oregon, and the University of Washington.

"Barbara's greatest pleasures were travel, history, and writing," said Stan Cloud, her husband of 49 years. But she also enjoyed winter desert hiking, exploring tide pools on the Oregon coast, photography, weaving, quilting, and making glass beads. She had a special knack for growing African violets, and she made the world's best chocolate chip cookies, Stan Cloud said.

"Perhaps her fondest memories

were of spring evenings on the veranda of our rundown Perth bungalow watching sunset over the Indian Ocean, feeding her pet kookaburras, and waiting for the resident possums to emerge from their nest in the attic," her husband said.

She is survived by her husband and her sister Laura McMurray of Yakima, Wash.

A memorial gathering on the UNLV campus is planned, and donations in her memory to Three-Square, run by one of her former students, or to the Nevada Humanities Committee on which she served, or to the UNLV Women's Studies Program in which she sometimes taught are welcome.

-- Submitted by Stan Cloud, Barbara's husband.

Let's lead the field in media history research

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long way, experienced tremendous growth and nurtured great scholars and teachers. We have taken the lead in highlighting the importance of history in journalism curriculum. Now is the time to make that same commitment as it relates to historical research.

I plan to begin this initiative in Tucson with my President's panel. I will be working on the details and soliciting ideas from various sources. If you have suggestions or comments feel free to contact me. However, we don't have to wait until October. May 15 is the deadline for papers, panels, and research in progress. Let's begin now.

AJHA to be eco-friendly

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only be more eco-friendly, but will save the organization much time and postage during the review process.

The AJHA views journalism history broadly, embracing print, broadcasting, advertising, public relations and other forms of mass communication which have been inextricably intertwined with the

human past. Because the AJHA requires presentation of original material, research papers and panels submitted to the convention should not have been submitted to or accepted by another convention or publication.

For information about submitting a research paper, contact research chair Janice Hume at the University of Georgia, 706-542-5980, jhume@uga.edu.

Articles welcome

The AJHA Intelligencer welcomes submissions from members. Articles on researching or teaching are especially welcome. Please keep submissions to less than 600 words. But longer can be accommodated. Send queries to the editor at jasourthal@yahoo.com.

Proposed amendment would create position of convention registrar

Section 4.01 BOARD OF DIRECTORS. The Board is composed of the President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, and nine members elected by the membership for staggered three-year terms with three positions elected annually. Members may not be elected to the Board for more than four consecutive years, and no more than one faculty member from an individual institution may serve on the Board at any one time. The AJHA President chairs the Board. Ex-officio members of the Board include the Administrative Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, Editor of AMERICAN JOURNALISM, Editor of THE INTELLIGENCER, the AJHA Web Editor, the Convention Registrar, and the Presidents of the two previous years.

Proposed Amendment to AJHA Constitution:

Section 4.03 (k) Convention Registrar. The AJHA Convention

Registrar is appointed by the AJHA Board of Directors to a five-year term subject to annual review and reconfirmation by the Board. Consecutive Terms may be held.

BYLAWS Changes:

11. Duties of the Convention Registrar. The Convention Registrar:

(a) Shall work with the Convention Administrator to ensure that all items for which there is a charge or a need for a count are included on the registration form for the annual convention.

(b) Shall accept registration forms, keep a database of registered attendees, maintain meal counts for planners, and coordinate distribution of convention materials to registered attendees;

(c) Shall accept registration fees for deposit in the convention account;

(d) Shall manage on-site registration, accepting new guests and their fees, ensuring they have convention materials, and tracking whether additional meals and events have space for additional guests;

(e) Shall generate and track tickets for additional meals and events at the convention;

(f) Shall police the convention to ensure all attendees have registered and paid required fees for their attendance;

(g) Shall maintain the database of registered attendees, report to the Board on attendance and income generated, and work with the treasurer and convention planning committee to ensure that bills are paid.