

## Message from the Chair

Dear Colleagues,



The 2006 ICA convention is drawing close, and I am quite confident that the baroque town of Dresden will be a perfect cultural environment for our academic pursuit. Journalism Studies will be present in 22 sessions, some of which are jointly sponsored with other ICA divisions. As with the previous year, the quality of papers and panels is exceptional and promises "brain food" par excellence. Altogether 125 papers and sessions have been submitted to Journalism Studies, 84 of which were accepted and will be presented in Dresden.

These numbers indicate the progress the Interest Group has made during the past 12 months. With more than 300 members currently, Journalism Studies has, after only two years of existence, already become one of the International Communication Association's largest units. The membership base gives corpus to the "I" in ICA, with about 50 percent of its members coming from outside the United States. Overall, Journalism Studies has grown into a mature unit of ICA with a solid membership base and international network. Therefore, I am quite optimistic that the ICA Board of Directors will grant division status to the Interest Group during the 2006 conference in Dresden, which would entitle the group to more privileges in ICA.

JSIG has taken an active role in the development of journalism as field of studies. It successfully maintained and developed its association with three significant journals that focus on journalism research and education: *Journalism Studies*, *Journalism: Theory, Practice & Criticism* and *Ecquid Novi: South African Journal for Journalism Research*. We offer these journals to our members at a special discount rate.

Furthermore, the Interest Group has established links with the Journalism Studies Section of the European Communication Research and Education Association (ECREA), the Professional Education Section of the International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR), the Journalism Division of the German Communication Association (DGPK) and the Brazilian Society of Journalism Researchers (SBPJor). In close cooperation with SBPJor, the ICA Journalism Studies Interest Group will hold its first "spin-off" conference "Thinking Journalism across National Boundaries" on November 3-5, 2006 in Porto Alegre, Brazil.

I would like to take this opportunity to express a personal note: First, I want to convey my deep gratitude to all members who keep alive the initial spirit of this young ICA section during the last two years. It was a particular honor and pleasure to serve this Interest Group and to see this "baby" grow into a mature and self-sustaining academic substructure. In a few weeks I will hand over the baton to John Newhagen who will chair this Interest Group for the next two years. I would like to thank John as well as Mark Deuze, Graham McKinley and Soek-Fang Sim for their incredible service and encouraging advice. Betsi Grabe will take up the office of the Vice chair in Dresden and will become Chair in 2008.

Last but not least I should mention that all of you are cordially invited to the 2006 Journalism Studies Reception that will be held on June 20 at 6:00 PM in the Dresden International Conference Centre, Hall 5. Like last year, the reception is supported by Sage and Routledge as well as several academic institutions from across the globe. I look forward to meeting you in Dresden.

Thomas Hanitzsch

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# The Boundaries of Journalism

Since its inauguration, the Journalism Studies Interest Group has seen itself as a vehicle to initiate and encourage discussion of conceptual issues that lie at the very heart of journalism studies. With this newsletter issue we would like to start a series of polemic essays to stimulate a debate across the two traditions in theorizing journalism, the “traditional school” of mass communication research and the culturalist per-

spective that has grown out of the humanities. In the first short essay, Mark Deuze makes a case for a “liquid journalism”, and thus: a “liquefied journalism studies”, that acknowledges the evolutionary changes expressed in tomorrow’s new media ecology. Thomas Hanitzsch argues in favor of professional journalism, as it is still an indispensable institution in modern society, and calls for clear conceptual boundaries.

## Liquid and Zombie Journalism Studies

Mark Deuze, Indiana University

If the object of journalism studies is journalism, it becomes inevitable that we, like reporters and editors all over the world, question the legitimacy and credibility of our field. Because why would society today still need a journalism? It is an industry without a public support structure (other than advertising), it delivers a product without consumers, and serves a (model of) society that, for all intents and purposes, is dead.

Journalism is, paraphrasing Ulrich Beck, a zombie institution. In its traditional ways of doing things as a modernist interpretative community and sense making practice, it has been dead for a while now, yet it is unable to fully come to terms with its own demise. In our contemporary post-national constellation, an autopoietic social system pretending to offer a public service by “*hineininterpretierung*” of global and local events into the framework of the nation-state is largely redundant.

In a digital age, the vast majority of people in overdeveloped nations actively engage in practices of disintermediation, bypassing cultural intermediaries like advertisers and journalists to produce and consume their own public information – a public sphere where, as Zygmunt Bauman argues, “*the way individual people define individually their individual problems and try to tackle them deploying individual skills and resources is the sole remaining ‘public issue’ and the sole object of ‘public interest’.*” We cannot, not even implicitly, assume that mainstream, corporate, and national or even global journalism can or should somehow be held responsible for bringing everyone back into the fold.

Today’s societal context of journalism is one of a networked hyperindividualism, slowly but surely replacing

what is commonly understood as ‘community’: an oppressive notion of living in a place where there are no strangers – where social cohesion is determined by an absence of difference. Examples are sprawling middle class exurban neighborhoods in the United States and Australia, or (guard-) gated communities in countries like South Africa, Brazil (“*condomínio fechados*”), Mexico and China. Do we really want to reify a journalism that provides the social cement for these kinds of ethnic enclaves, for such horrendous examples of publicness?

Liquid modern togetherness gets particularly expressed in the single-issue, voluntarist and monitorial social networks emerging in the ‘in-between’ space of online and offline interactions, as well as in the practices of what Henry Jenkins calls a globally emerging convergence culture – a liquefaction of the cultures of production and consumption in the way people ‘mesh’ their media. In journalism, this trend takes root in so-called ‘citizen journalism’, as in the case of blogspace offered to readers by *Le Monde* in France, the *Rheinische Post* in Germany, or the *Mail & Guardian* in South Africa, or at the user-generated news pages of *Jan-Jan* in Japan, *Backfence* in the United States, and *Nieuwslokaal* in The Netherlands. However, among the professionals in the newsrooms of these organizations such initiatives or experiments are generally met with fear or disdain. Why? Because an outright embrace of the complex presumption process of convergence culture forces the zombie institution of journalism to admit its culture, its consensual ways of doing things, its *formula*, is dead.

As scholars of media and society in our studies of journalism, I strongly believe it is our responsibility to dis-

member the pervasive rhetoric of solid modernity in our assessments of newswork, thus letting journalism die in peace. In its place, we must reconstruct a professional identity for media practitioners that is liquid: a *liquid journalism*. This journalism truly works in the service of the network society, deeply respects the rights and privileges of each and every consumer-citizen to be a maker and user of their own news, and enthusiastically embraces its role as – paraphrasing James Carey – amplifier of the multiple and concurrent conversations post-national society has with itself. A journalism studies that fails to acknowledge the evolutionary changes expressed in tomorrow’s new media ecology will become a zombie journalism studies – alive, but dead at the same time. Let me make it clear that I am not arguing that this ‘new’ social context for a liquid journalism is in any way preferable or ‘better’ than anything that came before – it just connects more profoundly with most people’s everyday lived realities.

On a final note, I would like to offer into anecdotal evidence some remarks regarding the often-voiced argument that it still makes sense to exclusively study the ‘hard’ news coverage of national newspapers and television newscasts, because those are the media preferred by the powerful, the intelligent, the decision-makers, the ‘elite’. Perhaps we should remember that the most powerful person on the planet, U.S. president George W. Bush, in 2003 proudly announced not to read newspapers, in fact not relying on news reports at all to make any informed decisions. Maybe we should take into consideration what Roh Moo Hyun, president of South Korea, did after winning his country’s 2002 election: he gave his

first exclusive interview to the citizen journalism website *Ohmynews*. If these are our society's examples, we are not helping by trying to rhetorically whiplash journalism back within its definitional, institutional, and ideologi-

cal boundaries. No, we have to set the undead free. We have to liquefy journalism studies, and – respectfully taking my cue from social theorists like Bauman, Beck and Bourdieu – open it up to people's lived experience of permanent

revolution, constant change, precarity, risk and uncertainty in what has become a liquid life. Ultimately, I would like to argue that a liquid life needs nothing but a liquid journalism, and thus: a liquefied journalism studies.

## What is journalism, and what is not ...

Thomas Hanitzsch, *Ilmenau University of Technology*

Without a doubt: journalism is undergoing permanent transition. New genres like popular or service journalism have evolved, and the progressive disintegration of society requires a journalism that helps people navigate the increasingly complexity of everyday life. At the same time, we find many alternative and interactive modes of information production, and their importance is likely to grow. Given the ephemeral boundaries as well as the dynamic and ever changing nature of journalism, many central definitions of our field have come under fire, most importantly the conceptual definition of "journalism" as object of inquiry.

I see a tendency in journalism studies to blur important distinctions, most notably the one between "journalism" and "public communication". This invites misunderstanding and conceptual ambiguity. As we find it increasingly puzzling to make these distinctions in the fast-changing realm of mediated communication, many of us extend the conceptual boundaries of journalism to also capture new communication modes, such as web logs and other forms of non-professional communication. Our definitions become overstretched to an extent that renders them virtually impracticable for research, empirical and critical. After all, such conceptualizations capture everything but define nothing.

The first thing we do when we engage in research, be it empirical and/or critical, is to construct the object of inquiry. This means defining concepts, hence, making distinctions. But if "everyone is a journalist, and journalism is everywhere" (John Hartley), if – to take the argument even further – everything

is journalism, how could we possibly continue to do research on "journalism"? Even more importantly, how could we scrutinize and criticize journalism if we ignore the ways in which journalists themselves construct the boundaries of their own interpretative community? Concepts like "journalism" or "journalist" – and even "journalism studies" and "journalism scholar" – become vague, if not meaningless, in such a conceptual morass.

Although I run the risk of sounding like the "old school" of mass communication research (to which I clearly not belong), I strongly argue for keeping journalism within the conventional realm of professional enterprise, which does not mean that we should freeze our definitions virtually forever. I share the dissatisfaction of many of us with commercial mainstream journalism, and it isn't my intention to "fortress" modern corporate news-making. Personally, I think journalism can serve society much better than it currently does. But intellectual extremism is not helpful.

Some say journalism, in its conventional way of doing things, is a "dead" institution. I take a look at my newspaper and find it alive and kicking (although it could do better). Some say there is a crisis in journalism – I see a crisis in journalism studies. The institution of professional journalism, with all its limitations and failures, must persist, for all normative and practical reasons. Journalism is too essential to the functioning of a complex and contingent society, a society that vitally depends on mediated communication.

It is essential that those who inform us about what's going on "out there" are skilful and professional people who

know what they do (although too often they do not). Consequently, we have to do everything in our power to keep professional journalism alive and help the journalists to serve the public better than they presently do.

We don't really want to be informed by amateurs, do we? We want to base the important decisions in our lives on information that is verified (or is likely to be so). Professional journalism is still the primary source for "reliable" information and shared meaning, particularly in times of uncertainty and crisis. Amateur media can, in most instances, only eclipse the daily information stream once there are journalists to pick these messages from the endless noise of the web. Even in a world with people increasingly going online, no institution can supply an informed citizenry better than professional journalism.

As professional journalism is still an indispensable institution in modern society (and will continue to be so in the foreseeable future), I think we should come to a conceptualization of journalism that allows us to say what's journalism and what is not, instead of always trying to extend our definitions to make the concept of journalism all the more inclusive. My point is simple: Not all information production is journalism. We must give journalism a clear and precise place in society because otherwise any attempt to hold journalism accountable for its failures and malpractices will remain ineffective. If we go too far with extending the limits of our definitions, the concepts we use may turn into nicely formulated but empty phrases. Consequently, theorizing und scrutinizing journalism may become a merely esoteric enterprise.



## JOURNALISM STUDIES

The first issue of *Journalism Studies* in 2006 marked the seventh year of the journal's successful publication, but also launched a new format for the journal with new editorial features, a revised editorial structure and a move to six issues a year.

The journal retains its initial ambition to provide "a global, critical forum for journalists, academics, journalism trainers and students of journalism, to debate the central issues confronting journalism understood both as a subject focus for scholarly and intellectual inquiry as well as a field of professional practice." There are some indicators that the journal has achieved these editorial ambitions. Across the last 6 years *Journalism Studies* has published more than 180 scholarly essays by senior academics within the field, as well as younger researchers and doctoral students. The journal has also pioneered innovative editorial formats such as Research Reviews, Debates, Online Reviews and Classic Texts Revisited, as well as more conventional book reviews and Feature Reviews.

*Journalism Studies* will continue to publish up to eight scholarly articles in each issue of the journal, but readers may note changes in other aspects of the journal. The bright red jacket with its distinctive *Journalism Studies* logo remains but inside the cover there is a new design for the journal with a new layout and a new font. There are also new editorial features including *Theory Review* designed to assess the contribution of writers such as Luhmann and Freire to journalism theory: in this spirit, the February 2006 issue carried an interview with Ulrich Beck.

*Journalism Studies* is co hosting a social event for JSIG at ICA and the Editor Bob Franklin invites and welcomes comments and feedback from readers about this new phase in the journal's development.

Bob Franklin



## JOURNALISM: Theory, practice and criticism

The continued success and expansion of *Journalism* continues. Submissions have been received from Austria, Australia, Beirut, Belgium, Brazil, Cameroon, Ca-

nada, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Holland, Hong Kong, Israel, Italy, Ljubljana, Mexico, New Zealand, Netherlands Portugal, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Slovenia, Turkey, UAE, UK, USA. To reflect this increasing and wide diversity of submissions from around the world, from 2007 (Vol 8) *Journalism* will be expanding from four issues per year to six issues per year. There have also been some editorial changes to the journal. Due to other commitments, Michael Bromley, one of the founders, has stepped down as co-editor of the journal. All submissions for North, Central and South America should now be sent to Barbie Zelizer at the Annenberg School for Communication, University

of Pennsylvania and submissions for Europe/Middle East/Africa/Asia and Australasia should be sent to Howard Tumber at City University, London. Further details are available on the website [www.sagepub.co.uk/journalsProdDesc.nav?prodId=Journal200905](http://www.sagepub.co.uk/journalsProdDesc.nav?prodId=Journal200905).

Issue 7.3 August 2006 will be a special issue of the Journal entitled "Ethnic Media and Audiences in America: Growing Beyond the Margins" edited by guest editor Felix Gutierrez, Professor of journalism at University of Southern California. Issue 8.3 will be a special issue on Investigative Journalism edited by James Ettema, Professor of communication at Northwestern University and Ted Glasser, Professor of journalism at Stanford University.

Howard Tumber



## ECQUID NOVI: The South African journal for journalism research

*Ecquid Novi* is the premier journal for research in journalism studies in sub-Saharan Africa. The purpose of the semi-annual journal is to foster a better

understanding of journalism, media studies and mass communication as research disciplines, and to build links between these academic fields and media professions. *Ecquid Novi* deals with media issues such as journalism education, international and national news flow, the impact of new/digital media, content analysis and agenda setting as it relates to gender, race, minorities, globalisation and development. The journal's focus is on Southern Africa and Africa, but its academic interest and scope is international.

Recent special editions include topics such as journalism education (Mark Deuze, J. Oliver Boyd-Barrett, P. Eric Louw, Doug Newsom, Stephen Quinn, Robert L. Stevenson); the media in Af-

rica (Audrey Gadzekpo, Matt Mogekwu, Cecil Blake, Emmanuel Alozie, Wendy Williams, Ritchard Tamba M'Bayo); and journalism theory, education and research (Clifford G. Christians, Keyan G. Tomaselli, John C. Merrill, Martin Loeffelholz, Thorsten Quandt, Les Switzer, Karin Wahl-Jorgensen).

Articles from all theoretical and methodological perspectives are invited, though there is a trend towards more critical and analytical articles within the context of qualitative research. Interdisciplinary approaches to journalism studies, especially when these are informed by qualitative and/or critical perspectives on cultural, political, or socio-economic issues related to journalism, are especially welcomed.

Arnold de Beer

## Journalism Conference in Porto Alegre: "Thinking Journalism Across National Boundaries"

Journalism Studies is gearing up for the international conference "Thinking Journalism Across National Boundaries: New Challenges and Emergent Perspectives". The event, which will be held in Porto Alegre, Brazil on November 3-5, 2006, is jointly organized by the Brazilian Society of Journalism Researchers (SPBJor) and Journalism Studies Interest Group of the International Communication Association (ICA), in conjunction with the Professional Education Section of the International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR) and Journalism Studies Section of the European Communication Research and Education Association (ECREA). On site organization is coordinated by our colleagues from the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul.



In response to requests of many colleagues, the Organizing Committee of the Porto Alegre conference has decided to extend the submission deadline to July 1, 2006. At present, the conference chairs Elias Machado and Thomas Hanitzsch received submissions from South and North America, Africa, Asia, Europe and Oceania. Given the enthusiastic international response, the Organizing Committee

expects a large number of paper submissions for the conference, said Elias Machado.

The Porto Alegre conference will also feature internationally recognized journalism scholars, including Arnold de Beer, Raul Delarbre, Mark Deuze, Frank Esser, Dan Hallin, Ven Hwei-Lo, Kaarle Nordenstreng, Steve Reese and Dennis Ruellan. In her keynote speech "Journalism and the International Academy" Barbie Zelizer will address the transformation of journalism into a truly international field of studies and professional activity as well as the theoretical, methodological and practical implications that go along with this process. More information about the congress can be obtained from the official conference web site at [www.sbpjor.ufsc.br/brazilconference](http://www.sbpjor.ufsc.br/brazilconference).

## Journalism Ethics for the Global Citizen: Canada's first comprehensive website on journalism ethics



The University of British Columbia has become home to Canada's first comprehensive website devoted to the study and promotion of journalism ethics, called *Journalism Ethics for the Global Citizen* at [www.journalismethics.ca](http://www.journalismethics.ca). *Journalism Ethics for the Global Citizen* offers resources for working journalists, newsrooms, media educators, ethicists, researchers and the global public. The website was conceived and developed by Dr. Stephen J.A. Ward, Associate Professor of Journalism Ethics, at the UBC School of Journalism, in Vancouver.

The from around the world. The website provides links to analysis and news items on ethical issues. Ethicists,

journalists and others are invited to write for the web site. Each month, there is a review of the best in journalism commentary in academic and trade journals, and on media web sites. Sections of the web site provide an introduction to various areas of journalism ethics, such as the nature and history of journalism ethics, resources for the study of journalism ethics, on-line journalism, global journalism ethics and media law.

Dr. Ward was struck by the lack of a comprehensive database for journalism ethics research and discussion. "Given the increasing awareness and growing importance of journalism ethics, this initiative comes at an opportune time," said Ward. "The website will become the "go to" site for the latest news, discussion and analysis of ethical issues, locally and globally." Graduate journalism students at the school contribute to

the site, participate in projects and helping to research and edit content. Also, the site showcases work by journalism students on leading ethical issues.

Dr. Ward is the author of *The Invention of Journalism Ethics: The Path to Objectivity and Beyond*, published in the History of Ideas series of the McGill-Queen's University Press of Montreal in February 2005, at [www.mqup.mcgill.ca](http://www.mqup.mcgill.ca). He is the editor of two international web fora for journalism ethics. He is chair of the ethics committee of the Canadian Association of Journalists, and ethics columnist for *Media* magazine. His current research is in the fields of global media ethics and science ethics. He has published widely in academic journals, is a frequent media commentator and is a guest speaker at media conferences in North America and Europe. For more information, contact Dr. Stephen J.A. Ward at (604) 822-8747 or E-mail: [info@journalismethics.ca](mailto:info@journalismethics.ca).

Stephen J.A. Ward

## Calls for Papers

### Communication Research in Comparative Perspective

The next issue of the book series "Relation: Communication Research in Comparative Perspective" is devoted to Jewish images as portrayed in the media – using both historical and contemporary contexts (and with special attention to European and Western media). Papers analyzing media coverage and public opinion as well as exploring connections between messages and media organizations, social, cultural, and legal conditions are welcomed. We are especially looking for papers that take a comparative perspective across time or space. Please submit abstracts of no more than 1,000 words (excluding tables, figures and references) no later than 15 June 2006 electronically to [cmc@oeaw.ac.at](mailto:cmc@oeaw.ac.at). All abstracts undergo blind review, so the name(s) of the author(s) should appear on a separate title page only. Authors will be notified of the status of their paper by 30 June 2006. For accepted articles the deadline of the submission is 17 September 2006. The book series "Relation" is published by the Austrian Academy of Sciences Press. For more information, see [www.oeaw.ac.at/cmc/en/relation.html](http://www.oeaw.ac.at/cmc/en/relation.html). Contact: Josef Seethaler ([josef.seethaler@oeaw.ac.at](mailto:josef.seethaler@oeaw.ac.at)).

### Identity in South African Media

Submissions are awaited for a conference and book project on the construction of identities by the post-apartheid media in South Africa. A number of submissions have already been received, but contributions are still needed on especially the following topics: Media, gender and identity; Media and religious identities; Alternative/underground media and

identity construction; New media technologies and identities; Identity, ethnicity and nationalism; Identity construction in political communication; Economic power and the impact on identity formation in the media; The political economy of identities in mass media; Market segmentation, niche marketing and mediated identities; Urban media culture and the formation of new black identities; Class, lifestyle and media idealization of identity; and Identity on the margins of the media: Xenophobia/Rural Poor/Immigrants.

Chapters/papers should critically address the intersection of different formations of power (political, economic, ethnic) and the media, and the impact thereof on the construction of identity. Papers will be presented at a conference in Stellenbosch, South Africa on 6 and 7 July 2006. A selection of these papers will then be revised and finalised for submission to the editors. Deadlines and dates are as follows: 6 May 2006: Submission of abstracts for conference; 6 June 2006: Full chapter/paper for conference to be submitted; 6 and 7 July 2006: Conference; 6 August 2006: Submit revised chapter for peer-review; 6 November 2006: Notification of final acceptance for book; March 2007: Envisaged publication date. Further information about the book and submission can be obtained from Herman Wasserman ([hwasser@sun.ac.za](mailto:hwasser@sun.ac.za)).

The book "Identity in South African Media: At the end of the rainbow: power, politics and identity in post-apartheid South African media" is edited by Herman Wasserman (University of Stellenbosch), Adrian Hadland (Human Sciences Research Council), Eric P. Louw (University of Queensland) and Simphiwe Sesanti (Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University).

**Anthony R. Fellow**, professor of communications and journalism concentration coordinator at California State University, Fullerton, has been elected chairman of the Department of Communications, one of the largest in the United States. Fellow, a former daily newspaper reporter and editor, teaches courses in media history, communi-

cations law and graduate courses in media and politics and international communications. Fellow also has been named a Fulbright scholar for 2007. He will assume the Vercelli chair of twentieth century media history at the University of Eastern Piedmont Amadeo Avogadro in Milan, Italy, from March to May.

## New publications

**Xigen Li (ed.), *Internet Newspapers: The Making of a Mainstream Medium*, Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Mahwah, NJ, 2006.**

The book addresses the emergence of online newspapers and the delivery of news through this outlet. Utilizing empirical research, the chapters explore the theoretical and practical issues associated with Internet newspapers, and examine the process through which online newspapers have grown into a mainstream medium. Contributions to this work emphasize three key areas: the structure and presentation of newspapers on the Internet; the medium as an interactive process; and the ways in which the public interacts with Internet newspapers.

This collection makes a substantial contribution to the understanding of newspapers on the Internet, covering their development and changes as well as the impact that news delivery through this medium has had on other media, audiences, and society. It also sheds light on improving operation and performance of Internet newspapers to better serve the public and to gain the competitive edge in the industry.

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**Eytan Gilboa** from Bar-Ilan University has published "The CNN Effect: The Search for a Communication Theory of International Relations." *Political Communication*, 22 (1, 2005), 27-44; "Global Communication and Foreign Policy: Debating the CNN Effect." *International Studies Perspectives*, 6 (3, 2005), 325-341; "Media-Broker Diplomacy: When Journalists Become Mediators." *Critical Studies in Media Communication*, 22 (2, 2005), 99-120; "Effects of Global Television News on U.S. Policy in International Conflict." In P. Seib (Ed.), *Media and Conflict in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. New York: Palgrave, 2005, 1-31; and "Media and International Conflict." In J. Oetzel, & S. Ting-Toomey (Eds.), *The SAGE Handbook of Conflict Communication: Integrating Theory, Research, and Practice*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 2006, 595-626. He currently serves as a Visiting Professor at the Annenberg School for Communication, University of Southern California, and is the Editor of the *USC Public Diplomacy Annual*.