

MIDWINTER 2021 ISSUE

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (AEJMC)

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It was during the Spring semester last year that we were crippled by COVID-19. At the time we didn't know much about the virus and though we know more now, we still don't know nearly enough.

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The first book talk of the year featured author Sekile Nzinga, who discussed her book, "Lean Semesters: How Higher Education Reproduces Inequity." Read more and mark your calendars for upcoming book talks in the series



CHAIR'S MESSAGE

It was during the Spring semester last year that we were crippled by COVID-19. At the time we didn't know much about the virus and though we know more now, we still don't know nearly enough. Hopefully that's not the same for your remote teaching and learning. Our pivot to the Zoom world was rapid and "emergency remote teaching" became an immediate part of our lexicon. Though it's been a multi-layered struggle to transition with work and family lifestyles bleeding into one another, we should be a bit more savvy with online environments by now. If not savvy, then somewhat comfortable. And, if you're not either of those, then that's okay too. This is not a time to play "keep up with the higher education Jones." The optimism is that in the end, you've probably made more incremental (steady) progress with your online pedagogy than you would have had it not been for the coronavirus pandemic.

With that in mind, let's hope that more empathy is also a part of your teaching cache. Our students and colleagues need this approach more than some are willing to admit. In your courses, that could come in the form of incorporating some [engaging exercises like the ones from Equity Unbound](#). These open education resources help to build your online community and it's a way to demonstrate some empathy by not solely focusing on coursework. In fact, it may be beneficial in ways you hadn't imagined.

U.S politics has magnified the dissension among us and we know that discord exists in academia too. The challenge is how to bridge the gap including holding people accountable for promises made last summer and fall related to diversity and inclusivity initiatives. Though there's a different dynamic at every university and in each department, one approach could be making it clear that you're an ally. We know that change can be slow in higher education, but let's keep pushing forward because the empathy olive branch could go a long way; this is not the time to stay silent on issues that impact our students and colleagues' well-being.

Finally, speaking of well-being, perhaps you can carve out some time for yourself for some professional development. This too has been reinvented with many opportunities like this [virtual retreat](#). However, if that's too overwhelming, there are other approaches. Of course good old-fashioned, and free, self-care goes a long way for the psyche like taking a walk, doing some arts and crafts or meal prep using your crock pot, which some AEJ-ers have been doing. This is the kind of slowness that we should appreciate. Here's to a fabulous, slow, yet steady Spring term.

- Kim Fox



It's fast approaching! 2021 AEJMC Midwinter Conference Registration Information

All sessions for the conference will be offered virtually on *March 5 and 6, 2021*.

If you plan to "attend" the conference, whether as a paper presenter, a moderator, discussant or panelist, you must register. Only those who have registered will receive the platform information to access and participate in the sessions. You will notice that the registration fee for this year's conference is lower than in the past, given all activities will be held virtually. Participants will receive something in the mail during the time of the conference, which will make the experience a little more "real" and tangible. This is why the registration form asks for a mailing address. [Click here](#) to register for the conference.

2021 AEJMC Paper Call

Commission on the Status of Women

AEJMC 2021 has gone virtual! The Commission on the Status of Women (CSWN) invites students and faculty to submit original research for competitive paper sessions that discuss issues related to gender in the context of journalism, media and communication. The Commission welcomes papers in which gender is a main analytic focus and invite projects that use a variety of methodological approaches, including but not limited to critical, empirical, ethnographic, historical, legal and semiotic analyses. It is expected that the research will explore theoretical understanding of feminist communication construct. Examples of relevant topics include: representations of women in the news; the role of gender in newsrooms or classrooms; effects of mass media on women and girls; feminist approaches to teaching and communication; women's use of/production of media; gender equality in the profession or the academy; how gender influences or matters in health, risk, and crisis public relations campaigns, etc.

Suggested paper length is 25-pages (double-spaced, 12-point type), excluding tables, references, figures or illustrations. We especially encourage submissions by graduate students. The winner of the top student paper will be awarded \$100, and the winner of the second-place student paper will receive \$50. Authors of the top papers will be recognized in the conference program and at the CSWM business meeting at the conference.

This paper call is part of the overall AEJMC call for research papers; all submissions must adhere to the general guidelines put forth by AEJMC. Please consult the AEJMC 2021 Paper Competition Uniform Call for information about paper formatting, submission deadline, creating a "clean" paper, and other guidelines. The CSWM wishes to stress that papers containing any identifying author information will be disqualified. Please take every precaution to ensure that your self-citations DO NOT in any way reveal your identity. Instructions for blind review can be found at aejmc.org/home/papers. Please forward any questions or queries to the CSWN Research Chairs: Kelli Bolling (ksboling@gmail.com) or Deepa R. Fadnis (d.fadnis@gmail.com).

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Q&A with Dr. George Daniels, Midwinter Conference Abstract Winner

*Dr. George L. Daniels is associate professor of journalism and creative media at The University of Alabama. A former local television news producer, Daniels received his master's degree and Ph.D. in mass communication from the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Georgia. He's a native of Richmond, Va. He researches issues of diversity in the media workshop. Along with more than a dozen peer-reviewed journal articles, Daniels is co-editor of *Struggles, Strategies and Scholarship of Teaching Race*, which will be published by Rowman & Littlefield in 2021.*

How did you become interested in this particular study on gender and intersectionality?

For the last couple of years, I have been focused on media portrayals of Black men in multiple settings—entertainment media, local television news and weekly newspapers. Frequently, I'm asked what about Black women and those from other historically under-represented racial groups. So, this academic year, I've been expanding my scope of

analysis. In the fall, there seemed to be so many examples of African American women who were making history. And, some were making history across more than social identity groups. I'm sure much as we know about Vice President Kamala Harris, who happens to be a fellow alum of Howard University. But, her story is not the only one of woman of color who has made major progress opening the doors for other women. Her story is a starting point for a closer examination of intersectionality. Even as I respond to your questions, I'm recalling at least three stories about the January 20, 2021 inauguration of Harris and what the reporters chose to emphasize in their reports. Intersectionality was introduced by a black woman talking about the experiences that were unique to those in her group. But, we know now that it can be expanded to other groups. Eventually, I want to look at other examples of intersectionality that cross race, gender, class, ability/disability and generational lines.

Can you tell us about the methodology?

This study employs textual analysis at two points in the message creation process. In phase 1, I am looking at the women's own statements. These official statements can tell us a lot about what perceive as their self-characterization of being a barrier breaker. With textual analysis, we look at not only what's

included, but what's not said. Examples of these statements are the victory speeches on the night of their election or the "announcement" news conference when the two women whose appointments made history in sports. Phase 2 of the analysis will involve textually analyzing news stories – 10 on each woman—to see what the writers of those stories focused on when reporting on the historic electoral wins of Cori Bush

and Kamala Harris and hires of Kim Ng and Candice Lee.

In general, what inspires your research agenda?

My research agenda is heavily influenced by my own lived experience as an African American male broadcast journalist. Having grown up reading *The Richmond Afro-American*, a now-defunct black-owned weekly newspaper, I also worked as a freelance writer as a recent college graduate of *The Richmond Free Press*. Today I conduct research on *The Black Press*. Now as I look at intersectionality, I am going deeper into the messages that I see presented in both broadcast news media and the *Black Press*. Gender as a variable is inextricably linked to the research that I do. Hence, this study on intersectionality looks at multiple types of diversity as they play out (or don't play out, depending on the news outlet). §

Dr. Daniel's abstract is titled "When women make race and gender history: Intersectionality in news coverage of four women shattering glass ceilings"



Photo Caption: U.S. Rep. Cori Bush (top left), the first African American female to serve in Congress from Missouri. Kamala Harris (top right), the first African American and Indian American vice president of the U.S. Vanderbilt University's Candice Lee (lower left), is the first African American female athletic director in the Southeastern Conference and Miami Marlins General Manager Kim Ng, first female and first person of East Asian descent to serve as a general manager in Major League Baseball.

Tips for Navigating Virtual Conferences

The pandemic has changed the way we teach, research, socialize and network. As we prepare for the upcoming virtual AEJMC Midwinter Conference in March and Virtual 2021 AEJMC conference in August, our CSW Midwinter paper competition chair and research committee chair have some words of advice.

Plan your day as if you are actually, physically attending the conference. It helps to get you in the conference mindset, and to keep you focused on the event rather than your normal day-to-day activities. For example, I still set an out-of-office message on my email and let my adviser, co-authors and students know that I'll be unavailable because I am attending the conference. Bonus: Set up virtual coffee dates with other conference goers if you can, to simulate the networking and other fun you'd be having if you were there in person!

—Kelsey Mesmer, midwinter paper competition co-chair

One of the things I loved most about the virtual conference last year were the chats during each session. I didn't really expect that going in, but keeping the chat sidebar open during each session and participating in the ongoing conversation was very valuable to me. People were sharing resources, citations, and other sessions they felt were helpful (that we could then go back and watch). I highly recommend that virtual attenders keep that chat window open and participate.

—Kelli Boling, research committee chair

Plan ahead so that you have the time and space to focus (think distractions for kiddos, removing yourself from noisy settings). I know attending a session virtually isn't as engaging as in-person, but if you have quiet and the ability to take notes + ask questions of the presenters at the end, it makes the session more valuable for everyone involved.

Take advantage of recorded sessions! The team at OU is working to make this a possibility – so if you have to miss one or will be double-booked, you can still view all the content because of the virtual platform.



#AEJMC21
WILL BE VIRTUAL
Safely join us August 4-7
for our virtual conference.

Read our modality statement

Follow-up via email if you have questions or comments! We can usually stop a speaker after a session to chat when we're in person. With the hard timelines and virtual format, sometimes it isn't possible to follow-up the way you wanted. Make sure to note the speaker's email and follow-up! Sometimes this can be even more meaningful – and lead to even more important conversations – than what would've taken place in-person.

—Katie Olsen, midwinter paper competition co-chair



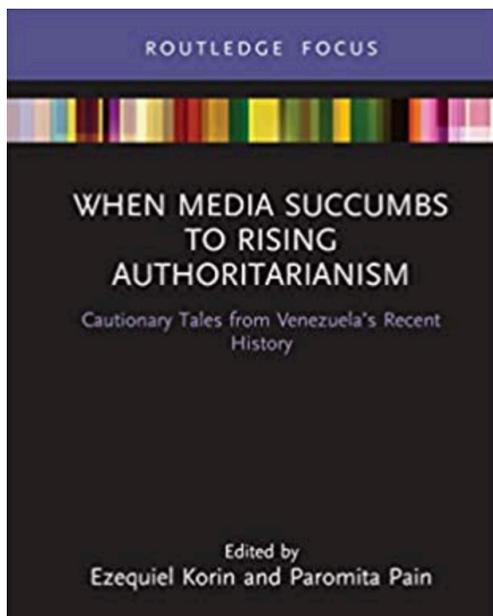
[CSW Writing Support Group](#)

Participating in this group is easy! Grab your coffee, tea or some snacks. Cuddle in with your computer or your research. Then tell us how much you accomplished each day! One of the group moderators will post a “how are you doing” post once a day that you can respond to. Give everyone else virtual high fives and love!

We Want to Hear From You!

Have you been promoted? Do you have any new publications? Have you been the recipient of an award? Share your achievements with us so we can celebrate your success in our next CSW Newsletter! Email Newsletter Editors Natalee (nseely.1@gmail.com) or Charli (ckerns@vols.utk.edu) with your updates and keep an eye out for the next newsletter call.

PROMOTIONS & PUBLICATIONS



Paromita Pain and Ezequiel Korin. An edited collection on journalism in Venezuela, “When Media Succumbs to Rising Authoritarianism: Cautionary Tales from Venezuela’s Recent History.” The book, published by Routledge Focus, provides a transversal scholarly exploration of the changes around Venezuelan media during the Chávez regime. Get more information here: <https://tinyurl.com/y5n7qydp>



Janice Collins. “[Teaching without Borders](#): Creating Equity and Inclusion through Active Centralized Empowerment.” “At a time where everyone and anyone can feel excluded, Active Centralized Empowerment teaches inclusion, equity, leadership, empowerment, and self agency within a collective no matter who you are, where you are from and no

matter the discipline or grade level. It is Teaching Without Borders that can bring out the best in the educator, student, and learning space.”



Natalee Seely. Forthcoming article in *Newspaper Research Journal*, “Reporting on transgender victims of homicide: Practices of misgendering, sourcing and transparency”



Maria B. Marron is pleased to announce her forthcoming edited book, “Misogyny across Global Media.” Dr. Marron is a professor in the College of Journalism and Mass Communications at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where she served as dean from 2014-2018. Read more about the book [here](#).



Kelsey Mesmer, a PhD Candidate at Wayne State University, was awarded the 2021 Garrett T. Heberlein Excellence in Teaching Award for Graduate Students. The university-wide award recognizes Wayne State graduate students for demonstrating instructional excellence. The awards are designed in part to elevate the attention given to teaching as part of graduate education and the preparation of graduate students to serve as college and university faculty.



In January, **Kim Fox** was selected as one of 10 educators who are featured in the annual Crain’s NewsPro top educators article. Check out the article [here](#).

AEMC 2021: EXTENDED ABSTRACT CALL

AEJMC will accept extended abstracts for 2021 conference in light of the continued extraordinary and historic disruptions to the lives of faculty members and graduate students as a result of the spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. AEJMC will accept extended abstracts as well as full papers in all divisions and interest groups for the 2021 conference.

The extended abstract format is suitable for authors who are sufficiently along in the research process to address the content elements described below, but have not had sufficient time to prepare the full paper. The extended abstracts must be at least 750 words long but no more than 1,500 words. Extended abstracts must include a reference list and a 75-word summary of the abstract (the reference list and summary are not included in the word count). Extended abstracts may be submitted to only one division or interest group. Extended abstracts must be uploaded as a single file to the AEJMC All-Academic site by the existing conference deadline of 11:59 p.m. CDT April 1, 2021. Authors whose extended abstracts are selected for presentation at the conference must still submit their full paper, with all identifying author information, to the All-Academic site by 11:59 p.m. CDT, July 15, 2021.

To preserve the value of fully developed research papers, long a hallmark of the AEJMC conference, extended abstracts will not be eligible for division, interest group, or conference-wide awards. Divisions and interest groups can program extended abstracts as they see fit in regular paper sessions, high density sessions, or poster sessions, and will specify allotted presentation time as appropriate.

Abstract Submission Content and Formatting Guidelines

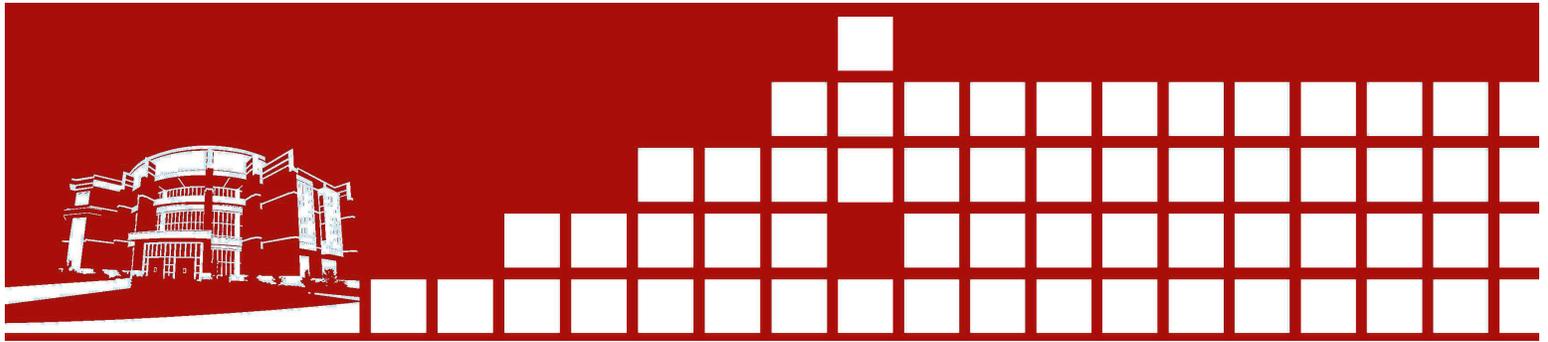
- 1) Extended abstracts must be at least 750 words but no more than 1,500 words. A 75-word (max.) summary of the abstract should precede the abstract itself. References and summary are excluded from the word count.
- 2) Extended abstracts should contain all of the same content sections/elements that would normally be used in the division or interest group's paper submissions, including the study's purpose, literature review, research questions and/or hypotheses, method, findings and discussion/conclusion. The main difference, however, is the length of this submission format.
- 3) For authors considering the extended abstract option, data collection and analysis must be at least 75% complete in order to meaningfully report tentative findings and conclusions. Authors should clearly report in the Method and Findings sections how far along the data collection and analysis phases are, respectively, and explain what steps remain and the anticipated value/contribution of these steps, so that reviewers can assess the foundations on which conclusions are based. Extended abstracts will be reviewed and scored using evaluation criteria specific to the abstracts and not the same as those used for full papers.
- 4) When submitting in this format, authors must select the "Extended Abstract" option in All Academic AND include the words "Extended Abstract" at the start of their paper title (e.g., "Extended Abstract: [Your paper title]"). Authors should clearly indicate the same on the title page of their submission. Submissions that are not appropriately labeled may be rejected.

Call for Reviewers!

The Commission on the Status of Women encourages you to be a reviewer for the AEJMC 2021 annual conference. Participants can submit papers to the Commission division and still have the opportunity to review, and we'll make sure that there is no conflict of interest in the process. We also welcome graduate students who would like to gain experience in the peer-reviewing to volunteer as reviewers for the Commission. Contact Deepa Fadnis (deepa.fadnis@utexas.edu) with any questions you might have regarding the reviewing process. We look forward to hearing from you!

- 5) When creating the file for upload, please insert the 75-word summary of the abstract at the beginning of the extended abstract, so that this is what readers and reviewers see first.
- 6) As with full paper submissions, please ensure all identifying author information has been removed for extended abstract submissions and that title pages do not contain author information. Please reference the AEJMC Uniform Paper Call for information about how to ensure this information is removed in order to ensure a blind review.
- 7) Other than the extended abstract format (including length differences) and ineligibility for award competitions, all other AEJMC Uniform Paper Guidelines apply. Please review these at <https://www.aejmc.org/home/events/annual-conference/>.

For questions please contact Katie Foss, Council of Divisions Head or Jan Boyles, Council of Divisions Vice Head.



AEJMC MIDWINTER CONFERENCE 2021

March 5-6, 2021

Programming for the Commission on the Status Women

Session Title: Women's Issues Around the World

Chair: April Spray Newton, University of Maryland

Papers

“Mera Jism Meri Marzi” – A Contentious Slogan at the Center of Every Feminist Rhetoric in Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Sundas Zahra, Ohio University

Research on Online Social Support Related to Gender Issues from the Perspective of Communication – An empirical analysis based on Zhihu, an online question-and-answer community in China

Tian Xinhe, Communication University of China

Impact of Interventional Documentary on Knowledge of Breast Cancer among Reproductive-age Women in Rural Nigeria

Olubunmi F Agbana, Kogi State University, & Anyigba, Kogi State University

Discussant: TBD

Session Title: Women Rising in this Political Movement

Chair: Mimi Wiggins Perreault, East Tennessee State University

Papers

When Women Make Race and Gender History: Intersectionality in News Coverage of Four Women Shattering Glass Ceilings* (Top Abstract)

George L. Daniels, The University of Alabama

Still she Rises: An analysis of Memes and Misinformation about Kamala Harris Moving from U.S. Senator to Vice President

Dorothy M. Bland, University of North Texas; Mia Moody, Baylor University; Ghenni N. Platenburg, Auburn University; & Mira Lowe, University of Florida

The Balancing Act: Asian American Women Journalists, Work, and Family

Indah Setiawati, University of Missouri, & Monique L. R. Luisi, University of Missouri

Discussant: TBD

Session Title: Historical Evolution of Women's Issues

Chair: TBD

Papers

Feminism vs. Womanism: A philosophical look at how 1980s and early 1990s Rap music explained being a Black feminist and sought to bridge the gap between two philosophies

Angeline J Taylor, Arizona State University

Exploring Femininity in the Sounds of Resilience: Politics and Music from the 19th-21st Century

Ngozi Akinro, Texas Wesleyan University, & Jenny Dean, Texas Wesleyan University

Perceptions of purity messaging on women and secular society

Madison Hurd, University of North Texas

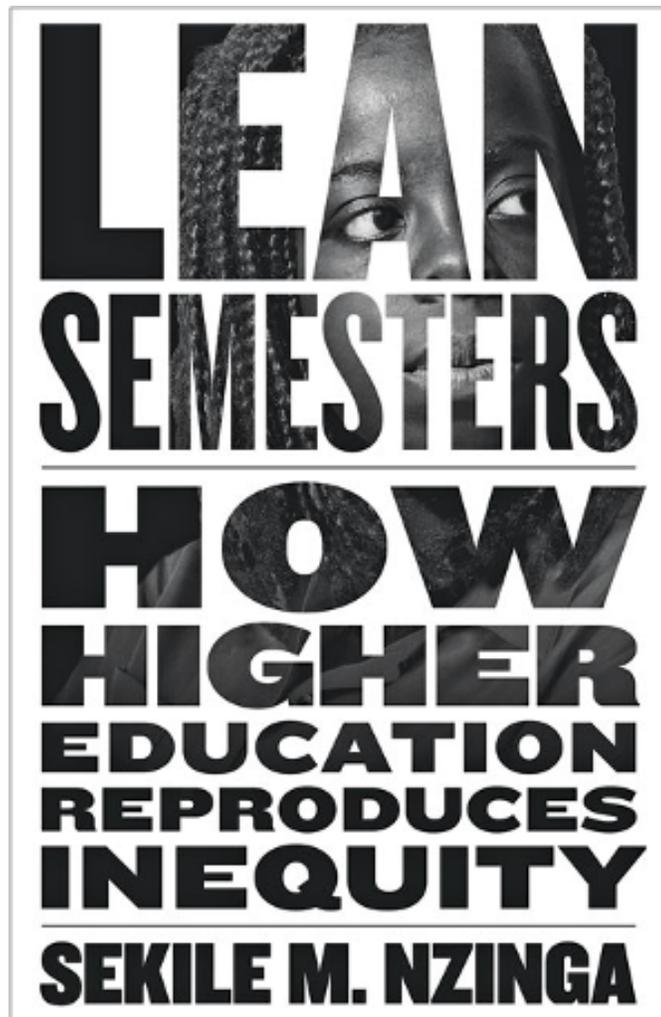
Discussant: TBD

JANUARY BOOK TALK

The first book talk of the year featured author Sekile Nzinga, who discussed her book, “Lean Semesters: How Higher Education Reproduces Inequity.”

Dr. Nzinga is the director of the Women’s Center and Interim Chief Diversity Officer at Northwestern University. She engages in community-engaged work and research focused on Black women’s and girls’ health and mental health, reproductive justice, healing from sexual trauma, program development & evaluation, and intersectional feminist leadership.

Dr. Nzinga talked about her journey in academia as a tenured professor, her decision to leave academia temporarily, her policy work, and her return to academia as an administrator and lecturer at Northwestern University. Her book examines the intersection of race, class and gender in higher education. Her first book, “Laboring Positions: Black Women, Mothering and the Academy,” was published in 2013. Get more information about the new book here: <https://jhupbooks.press.jhu.edu/title/lean-semester>.



“We should expose where we are falling short and use that as motivation for how to see ourselves back,” Dr. Nzinga said about the importance of critically examining the higher education system.

Mark your calendar for the upcoming book talks!

AEJMC's CSW BOOK TALKS



25 FEB 3PM *Maria Edström*
Comparing Gender and Media Equality Across the Globe: A Cross-National Study of the Qualities, Causes and Consequences of Gender Equality in and Through the News Media

18 MAR 2PM *Katie Foss, Ph.D*
Constructing the Outbreak: Epidemics in Media and Collective Memory

15 APR 4PM *Amanda Sturgill, Ph.D*
Detecting Deception: Tools to Fight Fake News

20 MAY 4PM *Pallavi Guha, Ph.D*
Hear #MeToo in India

Thursday, February 25 at 3 p.m.

Editor: Maria Edström

Book: *Comparing Gender and Media Equality Across the Globe: A Cross-National Study of the Qualities, Causes and Consequences of Gender Equality in and Through the News Media*

Thursday, March 18 at 2 p.m.

Author: Katie Foss, Ph.D.

Book: *Constructing the Outbreak: Epidemics in Media and Collective Memory*

Thursday, April 15 at 4 p.m.

Author: Amanda Sturgill, Ph.D.

Book: *Detecting Deception: Tools to Fight Fake News*