

CENTRAL STATES COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION
POLITICAL COMMUNICATION
INTEREST GROUP NEWSLETTER

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A Message from Our Chair

Greetings! I am excited to invite you to join us for our 2013 meeting in Kansas City. We have a fantastic program featuring plenty of research and reflection on a gripping election season. The interest group is honored to sponsor fourteen content panels, each illuminating political communication phenomena in important ways.

Be sure you are in Kansas City and ready for panels on Thursday, as the interest group has a strong first day lineup. Eat your lunch early because we want a packed house for the panel, "Beyond Political Polarization" which features celebrity guest panelists: Bill Lacy, the Director of the Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas and a former White House Political Director; Sandy Praeger, the Insurance Commissioner for the State of Kansas; and Dave Helling, the political correspondent for *The Kansas City Star*. We are honored to have these guests and hope to show them how vibrant political communication scholarship is in the Midwest. Thursday also features a group of distinguished scholars discussing "The War on Women" in the 2012 political campaign at 9:30,

and other top scholars discussing the future of political communication research at 2:00.

Friday features a great deal of the outstanding research produced by members of our interest group. Be sure to attend as many of these wonderful panels as you can. Finally, on Saturday we will feature "From Obamacare to Romnesia," a scholarly reflection on the 2012 election with some of the top minds in political communication. From there you can attend our business meeting at 12:30 and stick around for the top paper panel at 3:30. I would like to especially congratulate Hayley Cole and Joshua Hawthorne for winning the J. Jeffrey Auer award for top student authored paper and Mike Milford for authoring the top overall paper.

Our members have produced an amazing conference this year. I hope you are as excited as I am to hear all of the wonderful new research. I'll see you in Kansas City!

Ben Warner
University of Missouri

Political Communication Interest Group Officers

Chair:

Benjamin Warner
University of Missouri
warnerbe@missouri.edu

Vice-Chair

James Schnoebelen
Washburn University
jim.schnoebelen@washburn.edu

Secretary:

Kelly Winfrey
University of Kansas
kwinfrey@ku.edu

Vice-Chair-Elect

Ryan Neville-Shepard
Indiana University-Purdue University Columbus
nevshep@iupuc.edu

Secretary-Elect

Abbie Hodgson
University of Kansas
abbie.hodgson@gmail.edu

Celebrity Guest Panel: Beyond Political Polarization: Communicating the Possible for Bipartisan Dialogue

If you are attending the conference in Kansas City, be sure to plan an early lunch on Thursday, April 4th. One of our most intriguing panels this year meets in Trianon E from 12:30-1:45 pm on the first day of panels. The special celebrity guest panel will examine political polarization and the hope of bipartisan dialogue from the perspective of the media, elected officials and political institutions, and citizens' political interaction. The panel, chaired by Dr. Mary C. Banwart of the University of Kansas, will start with remarks from each of the four panelists, and then move to an interactive discussion. Here's a brief introduction to each panelist.



The first panelist, Dave Helling, will present on "The Media and Partisan Politics." Helling is a Political Correspondent for *The Kansas City Star*. He has worked in radio, television, and print media since 1977, and has served the Kansas City region since 1985. As a longtime political reporter, Helling was well known for his "Truthwatch" stories in which he examined claims made in political advertising. During his distinguished career, he has received the ACLU's Freedom of the Press Award, three Emmy nominations, and a Silver medal from the New York Film Festival.

The second panelist, Bill Lacy, will present on "The Need for Civil Discourse in Democracy." Lacy has served as the Director of the Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas since 2004. He had a twenty year career in Washington, D.C., holding many positions with the Republican National Committee, and as a campaign strategist serving in major roles in seven presidential campaigns. Notably, he served in senior roles in Bob Dole's presidential campaigns in 1988 and 1996, and managed Sen. Fred Thomson's presidential campaign in 2008.



The third panelist, Sandy Praeger, will present on "A Moderate in a Hostile Land." She is the current Kansas Commissioner of Insurance, having served in the position since 2003. Praeger is also the past-president of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners. She previously served in the Kansas House of Representatives, and was elected to the Kansas State Senate in 1992, 1996, and 2000. Praeger has testified in multiple hearings for the US Congress, notably on issues of health care.

The final panelist, Benjamin R. Warner, will present on "Examining Citizens' Political polarization." Warner is an Assistant Professor of Communication at the University of Missouri. Warner's research focuses on political extremism. He is currently interested in the communication phenomena that contribute to political polarization including digital media technology and group homogeneity. Warner has published in multiple journals, including *Communication Studies*, *Communication Quarterly*, *American Behavioral Scientist*, and many others. He is also the current Chair of CSCA's Political Communication Interest Group.



Featured Panels

The “War on Women”: Gender, Politics, and Rhetoric. Thursday, April 4, 9:30-10:45am, Trianon C

From scandalous (and sexist) comments about women’s bodies (e.g., Rush Limbaugh’s attack on Sandra Fluke, Todd Akin’s comment of “legitimate rape”) to the rise in the debate about women’s reproductive rights, much attention has been given to women voters in the 2012 elections. This panel of feminist rhetorical scholars (including Karlyn Kohrs Campbell, University of Minnesota; Mary Banwart, University of Kansas; Dianne Bystrom, Iowa State University; Leslie J. Harris, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; and Dana M. Schowalter, University of Minnesota) examines the role of women and gender in political discourse.

Beyond Political Polarization: Communicating the Possible for Bipartisan Dialogue. Thursday, April 4, 12:30-1:45 pm, Trianon E

This is a very special panel composed of several celebrity guest panelists, including: Dave Helling, Political Correspondent for *The Kansas City Star*; Bill Lacy, Director of the Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas; Sandy Praeger, Kansas Commissioner of Insurance; and Benjamin Warner, assistant professor at the University of Missouri. The panelists will examine political polarization and the hope of a bipartisan political dialogue from the perspective of the media, elected officials and political institutions, and the citizens’ political interaction.

Looking Back, Looking Forward: Lessons Learned from Campaign 2012. Friday, April 6, 11:00am-12:15pm, Tea Room

This panel brings together a group of accomplished political communication scholars to discuss their research and insights from the 2012 campaign. The panel includes: Trevor Parry-Giles, NCA; Mary Banwart, University of Kansas; Dianne Bystrom, Iowa State University; Mitchell McKinney, University of Missouri; Jerry Miller, Ohio University; and John Tedesco, Virginia Tech.

From Obamacare to Romnesia: Senior Scholars on Presidential Rhetoric in America. Saturday, April 6, 11:00am-12:15pm, Trianon C

This panel assembles a distinguished group of senior scholars (including David Zarefsky, Northwestern University; Robert C. Rowland, University of Kansas; Michael Kaplan, Baruch College, CUNY; Jay P. Childers, University of Kansas; and James R. Andrews, Indiana University) to discuss the salient political rhetoric that defined the 2012 U.S. presidential campaign cycle. The panelists will each present their own views, followed by a question and answer session / discussion with the audience.

Top Papers Panel: Saturday, April 6, 3:30-4:45pm, Trianon A

The Top Paper Panel will include presentations from Mike Milford, Auburn University; Hayley Cole and Joshua Hawthorne, University of Missouri; Darin Gully, Ithaca College; and Corey B. Davis, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

Business Meeting and Officer Elections

Please mark your calendar for the 2013 Political Communication Interest Group Business Meeting on Saturday, April 6. The business meeting will be held in the Trianon A room from 12:30-1:45pm. Among other things, we will elect new officers and begin planning for the 2014 convention. If you would like to nominate yourself and will not be present, please contact Ryan Neville-Shepard, Vice-Chair-Elect, by Monday, April 1st (nevshep@iupuc.edu).

Political Communication Interest Group Panels – April 4-6, 2012

Thursday, April 4, 2013

- 1202 Trianon C 9:30-10:45 am
“The War on Women”: Gender, Politics, and Rhetoric
- 1212 Yardbird A 9:30-10:45 am
Challenges to the “Possible”: The Intersection of Political Communication and Social Protest
- 1401 Trianon A 12:30-1:45 pm
The Art of the Possible in Political Communication Pedagogy
- 1402 Trianon C 12:30-1:45 pm
Possibilizing the Future: Visions from the 2012 U.S. Presidential Campaign
- 1404 Trianon E 12:30-1:45 pm
Beyond Political Polarization: Communicating the Possible for Bipartisan Dialogue
- 1511 Yardbird A 2:00-3:15 pm
Imagining the Possible for Political Communication Research
- 1601 Trianon A 3:30-4:45 pm
Playing Nice: The Political Civility of Citizens and Politicians

Friday, April 5, 2013

- 2101 Trianon A 8:00-9:15 am
Policy Making and Political Activism: Exploring Rhetorics with Local, National, and Global Contexts

Friday, April 5, 2013

- 2203 Trianon C 9:30-10:45 am
Communicating about the “Possible” in Collective Bargaining
- 2301 Trianon A 11:00 am - 12:15 pm
New Media, Agenda Setting, and Political Humor: Changing Trends in Candidate Communication and Communication about Candidates
- 2308 Tea Room 11:00 am – 12:15 pm
Looking Back, Looking Forward: Lessons Learned from Campaign 2012
- 2502 Trianon B 4:00-5:15 pm
Exploring What’s “Possible”: Unconventional Forms and Styles of Political Communication

Saturday, April 6, 2013

- 3101 Trianon A 8:00-9:15 am
Competitive Student Papers in Political Communication
- 3303 Trianon C 11:00 am – 12:15 pm
From Obamacare to Romnesia: Senior Scholars on Presidential Rhetoric in America
- 3401 Trianon A 12:30-1:45 pm
Political Communication Interest Group Business Meeting
- 3601 Trianon A 3:30-4:45 pm
Top Papers in Political Communication

2013 Top Paper Awards

Congratulations to Mike Milford, Auburn University—his paper “George W. Bush and the Great Inaugural Do-Over of September 20, 2001” was ranked the top overall paper for the Political Communication Interest Group. Congratulations also to Hayley Cole and Joshua Hawthorne, University of Missouri—their paper “Issue Ownership Trends and Tensions in 2008: Obama, the Transformative Democrat?” won the J. Jeffrey Auer Award for the top graduate student paper.