

**Eastern Communication Association Conference 2019**  
**Political Communication Program/Panels**  
**Thursday (April 11)**

**Title: Grappling with the Political Future of Fake News**

**Time:** 10:30AM-11:45AM

**Room:** Blackstone - 3rd Level

**Panel Description:** This panel uses quantitative and qualitative methods to analyze the political fake news posts created by the Russian Internet Research Agency. In light of this analysis, it explores, through a series of case studies, how journalists, librarians, and academics are grappling with fake news through their engagement with the public. These case studies offer a path toward creating a political future that no longer struggles with the issue of fake news.

---

**Title: "You are Fake News!" How Fictional Journalists and Satirical Websites Create Future Political Discourse**

**Time:** 12:00PM-1:15PM

**Room:** Narragansett A - Ground Level

**Panel Description:** How do satirical news stories and fictional characters resonate with "fake news?" While the Trump administration employs "fake news" for anything that challenges or undermines their policies, this panel investigates how fictional journalists/commentators and satirical news sites actually provide us new insights into political discourse. Given the ECA theme of "Creating our Future," we question how fictional journalists/commentators and satirical approaches to ideas contribute to new understandings and political discourse in a fiercely divided America.

---

**Title: Bidding Senator John McCain Goodbye: Memorializing Across Genres and Contexts**

**Time:** 4:30PM-5:45PM

**Room:** Providence I - 3rd Level

**Panel Description:** This panel examines the multiple contexts in which the nation said goodbye to the late Senator John McCain (R-AZ). Spanning diverse genres and focusing on various styles of epideictic discourse, the papers on this panel combine to offer a detailed look at the functions, types, and outcomes of political memorializing in contemporary culture.

**Panelists Include** (panelists not listed on ECA Program):

- **Theodore F. Sheckels**, Randolph Macon University
  - **Susan Drucker**, Hofstra University and Gary Gumpert, Urban Communication Foundation
  - **Kathleen R. Kendall**, University of Maryland
  - **Richard E. Vatz**, Towson State University
  - **David G. LeVasseur**, West Chester University of Pennsylvania
  - **Christina M. Knopf**, State University of New York, Cortland
  - **Mary L. Kahl**, Pennsylvania State University, Behrend
  - **Jason Edwards**, Bridgewater State University (discussion facilitator)
-

## Friday (April 12)

### **Business Meeting: Political Communication**

**Time:** 8:00AM-8:45AM

**Room:** Narragansett A - Ground Level

**Program Description:** We will be discussing things, Political Communication Interest Group related things, that are so exciting that they cannot be expressed in mere words. And, if they don't turn out to be that exciting after all, it might be a good idea to bring some coffee to this early meeting.

---

### **Title: Top Papers in Political Communication**

**Time:** 9:00AM-10:15AM

**Room:** Narragansett A - Ground Level

**Program Description:** These Top Papers in Political Communication reveal that political messages reach the public in a variety of ways-ways that extend well beyond traditional political speeches, ads or debates. More specifically, the papers on this panel attest to the important role that social media, particularly Twitter, plays in the realm of political communication as a message conduit for government agencies and for extreme political rhetoric. This panel also uncovers the interesting and unique role that comics play in political campaigns.

---

### **Title: From Political Messages to Mediums to Media Coverage**

**Time:** 3:00PM-4:15PM

**Room:** Narragansett A - Ground Level

**Program Description:** In American Democracy, politicians disseminate messages through various mediums, and they hope that their messages will be further transmitted by the news media. This panel examines the full breath of that process by looking at everything from political messages (Reagan's Iran-Contra Address) to mediums used to transmit political message (how various presidents have worked successfully or unsuccessfully with television) to new coverage of political messages (newspaper coverage of a local political race and news magazine coverage of presidential campaigns).

---

### **Title: Wine and Spots**

**Time:** 6:30PM-8:30PM

**Room:** Newport - 3rd Level

**Presentation By:** Colin Kearney, University of Florida

**Sponsored By:** Richard E. Vatz

---

## Saturday (April 13)

### **Title: The Trump Watch 2019: Evaluations of Political Rhetoric and Policy**

**Time:** 10:30AM-11:45AM

**Room:** Narragansett B - Ground Level

**Panel Description:** In 2019, views on the rhetorical and political success or failure of President Donald Trump are completely polarized. According to the Left, the Trump Presidency is a complete disaster, perhaps a unique disaster, from his personal predilections/outrages to his Supreme Court nominees to his domestic policy to his foreign policy. According to the Right, President Trump is a diamond in the rough, forging needed domestic and foreign policy changes, making his presidency one of greatness.

---

### **Title: The Future of the Democratic Party: An Examination of 2018 Mid-Term Elections in Five States**

**Time:** 3:00PM-4:15PM

**Room:** Newport - 3rd Level

After 2016 and in the wake of Trump, how should Democrats define themselves? Should they lean left or right? The panelists examine crucial 2018 races in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, Ohio, and Kansas in an attempt to determine what the viable strategy might be.