

Call for Chapter Proposals

News in the Mountains: How Journalism has Shaped Appalachian Communities and How Communities can Shape Appalachian Journalism

Editors: Dr. Michael Clay Carey (Samford University) and Dr. Cecilia Salomone (West Liberty University)

Scholars, activists, and professionals are invited to submit chapter proposals for an edited volume tentatively titled *News in the Mountains: How Journalism has Shaped Appalachian Communities and How Communities can Shape Appalachian Journalism*.

The Appalachian region of the U.S. stretches across 13 eastern states from New York to Mississippi and is home to 26.4 million people. Despite its size and diversity, popular media (including journalism) frequently typecast Appalachia's residents and communities in one-dimensional terms: Appalachians are often portrayed in national news reports, television shows, and movies as simple and folksy or, conversely, deranged and dangerous. This book will critically analyze the ways journalism has approached Appalachia and its people, from the color writing published in magazines of the Progressive Era to the coverage that accompanies the War on Poverty in the 1960s to contemporary coverage of national politics. Importantly, it will highlight the voices of journalists and other media producers who work to reframe the region by highlighting its diversity and opportunity. This interdisciplinary work will be a valuable resource for Appalachian scholars, rural sociologists, and teachers and scholars interested in media ethics, the interplay between media and identity, and other representation issues.

Submitting a proposal

Chapter proposals should be based on original, unpublished research. We anticipate that chapters will be between 7,000 and 8,000 words long (including notes and references). Please provide an abstract of 500-750 words. Along with your abstract, please include:

- A working chapter title
- Your name, affiliation, and degree (emerging scholars and those who are ABD are encouraged to submit)
- A brief CV or resume

Authors from diverse research and professional perspectives, including journalism and media studies, Appalachian studies, sociology, history, political communication, communication studies, political science, social work, education, and other disciplines are welcome to submit chapter proposals.

Proposal submissions may be made using [this form](#).

Possible chapter topics might include:

- Histories of television, radio, newspapers, or magazines in Appalachia
- Access to broadband Internet in the region
- The contemporary state of access to news and information in the region

- Nonprofit organizations that provide news and information in the region
- Historical or contemporary representation of Appalachian communities and issues
- Coverage of major Appalachian news events, such as the damage caused by Hurricane Helene
- News coverage of social trends as represented in the region, either historical (for example, the War on Poverty) or contemporary (such as the opioid epidemic)
- Coverage of contemporary politics in Appalachia
- The history and contemporary state of the Black press in Appalachia
- Representations of LGBTQIA+ communities
- Media by and for immigrant communities
- News and social inequality in Appalachia
- The use of podcasts and other digital technologies to deliver news in the region
- Scholastic journalism in the region (particularly in high schools)
- Efforts to develop news literacy skills in the region
- Work to develop more diverse, robust media ecosystems
- Media interactions between folklore, legend, and internet culture in Appalachia
- How journalists in Appalachia conceptualize regional identity and integrate it into their work
- Case studies of innovative approaches to news delivery in the region

Proposals focused on other topics are encouraged. The authors welcome a wide range of theoretical and methodological approaches to this research.

To submit a chapter proposal, use [this form](#).

Timeline

April 21, 2025 - Chapter proposals (abstracts) due

Late May/Early June, 2025 - Decisions announced

December 1, 2025 - Full chapter drafts due

December 2025/January 2026 - Reviews returned to editors

March 14 - Final chapters due