

Pepperdine Journal of Communication Research Call for Papers

Our goal in this volume of the journal is to reflect the broader changes and dialogue developing in communication practices. The improvements in our career, social, and life circumstances are the result of research that has transformed theory into practice, which bridges the gaps in the current literature on communication. In turn, working with the journal allows you to walk away with a new understanding of your role in reshaping the social, political, and commercial status quo of communication in your fields. In the current in-between space that resembles neither the “Zoom life” to which we have grown accustomed nor a return “back to normal,” we have faced the new task of redefining our goals in a once again connected world. In the absence of crucial time within our communities, the question of where to focus our attention, and where to let it go, is more important than ever.

This brings us to this journal’s current theme, “release.” Today’s evolving discussions of social responsibility have simultaneously shown our culture’s deepest divisions and its potential to release them. This journal asks how communication patterns have reflected tension and release in our beliefs, from personal conversations to newsroom and boardroom meetings.

There are multiple submission options:

Research Paper

In deciding your paper’s focus, a question you may find helpful is: *Why am I passionate about the communication practices I am discussing? Why is it important that I share the potential consequences and solutions of these practices with my community?* Your submission will be its strongest if you write about your topic as if you are informing the public on countering future communication challenges. Students submitting papers can explore how the theme of “release” appears in interpersonal tensions, power dynamics or norms within an organization, or media messages challenging or conforming to traditional perspectives. The initial topics that may be relevant to your major and focus include:

- How have corporate/nonprofit organizations responded to the public health crisis and concerns toward social inequality? What hierarchies or policies have shifted or remained?
- How has emphasis on social justice and Covid-19 prevention affected the content and purpose of this generation’s interactions with friends and family?
- Why have marketing practices adapted to or sought to work around divisive topics in the past year? What symbols and language have been used to achieve this?
- What framing strategies and topics has the media prioritized in the past year?
- What does your research show about the impact of returning to in-person interactions on the openness and collaborative aspects of communication in different contexts?

Book or Journal Article Review

This volume also encourages students to review academic books and articles. These can be works read in classes or in your personal research. In your review, you would evaluate the strength of the writer’s points and evidence, examining the limits and usefulness of their argument. What communication patterns or problems should the writer have addressed in more depth, or differently? Your review would also describe how the article topic relates to the theme of release or a separate theme you notice.

Whether you hope to explore one of these questions or review other communication writings, we highly value the perspectives all students have to offer to this journal. If you are interested in spreading awareness about a topic that matters to you, we want to hear from you.

Submission Guidelines

- Submissions should be sent in standard formats for the field;
- Research papers should be sent in proper APA format;
- If you are doing any sort of research that includes human subjects you must be IRB certified and have your method approved through IRB before conducting your research
 - This includes (but is not limited to) surveys, interviews, case studies, focus groups, etc.
 - This does not include (but is not limited to) autoethnographies, rhetorical criticisms, etc.
 - Editor-in-Chief Margaret Bennett can answer questions regarding IRB and APA to help in this process
- Papers, case studies, etc. should be sent as a Word document or Google doc;
- Do not send a graded copy – please send originals only.

All submissions should be sent with a short cover letter or e-mail that includes: (1) About 1 paragraph on how the submission addresses the call; and (2) A brief description of the assignment's requested format taken from syllabus or other description, if based on an assignment.

Submissions will be accepted from now until the deadline on **January 31st, 2022**. Please submit using the following link: <https://digitalcommons.pepperdine.edu/cgi/submit.cgi?context=pjcr>. Once you go to the link, you will create a username and password and make the submission.

Submissions will undergo a peer review process in which the editor-in-chief in consultation with associate editors will determine if submissions meet the journal criteria. Submissions may be accepted with minor revisions, accepted pending major revisions, or rejected based on fit for the journal, faculty support of the project, and the students' willingness to revise the manuscript. The review and revision process is such that the publication will occur at the end of the Spring 2022 semester. Questions regarding the submission process may be addressed to this year's editor-in-chief, Margaret Bennet margaretkbennett@pepperdine.edu or the faculty advisor, Dr. Diana Martínez diana.martinez@pepperdine.edu.

For my part, what drew me to this journal is the way that communication research reminds us of the power of our own minds anytime we receive a message. Questioning the ideas and agendas aimed at us gives us agency over what we think and who we become. By evaluating messages, we pull apart the illusion of being bystanders in our culture. So, let's publish research together, unravel the myths around us, and make our own choices about what ideas to accept.

Sincerely,
Margaret Bennett
Editor-in-Chief, Pepperdine Journal of Communication Research
Pepperdine University | Seaver College