

Political Communication Report

International Communication Association & American Political Science Association, Vol. 11 No. 3, Summer 2001

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This issue of *Political Communication Report* comes out as scholars in the field are preparing to travel to the upcoming APSA convention in San Francisco. The Political Communication [Awards](#) have been announced and will be presented there, along with other items listed on the business meeting [Agenda](#). Details about the [short course](#) are also included here. More information about the conference is available on line at the [APSA Web site](#).

Those attending the ICA convention were saddened to hear of the death of Steve Chaffee, and this issue reports another loss to the field: the death of Jean Pool.

Other [News](#) includes opportunities to serve the field, including a new officer position with APSA and a new program to mentor assistant professors, as well as items about members.

In his [Message](#) to the division, Steve Reese shares observations about the framing concept and the recent ICA conventions sessions. The [Commentary](#) page also responds to sessions at the ICA convention. Ken Hacker, New Mexico State University, explores the ways discussions of the digital divide have become politicized, affecting the interpretation of research results.

The book review is on vacation, but members are invited to propose books to review in advance, to allow time to facilitate the sending of complimentary copies for critical review. See the complete listing of political communication [Book notices](#) received from publishers.

There are several upcoming deadlines for [Grants](#) in this issue, as well as the usual slate of [Calls for papers](#) deadlines. The [Meetings](#) page includes a full listing of upcoming conferences and workshops.

The joint APSA/ICA Political Communication newsletter, *Political Communication Report*, is published exclusively on line. Send your comments, reviews, feature articles, and notes about accomplishments, calls for papers, and meeting announcements for inclusion in the next issue by October 15, 2001.

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News & Notes

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Noted Early Section Supporter Dies

Jean Pool, widow of Ithiel de Sola Pool and herself a political scientist, died in Slovakia on July 20, after suffering a heart attack. She was a sponsor of the Ithiel Pool lectures.

She was an inspiration in the founding of the Political Communication Section of APSA, urging Ann Crigler to organize a group in this field while Lucian Pye was the president of APSA.

A memorial service will be held on Sept. 22 or 23 in Cambridge, Mass. Further information on the schedule and location of the service can be obtained from [Ann Crigler](#), University of Southern California.

Mentors Sought for Assistant Professors

The Young Scholars Committee of the section is working to establish a mentoring program for junior scholars in political communication.

All senior scholars willing to read and critique manuscripts and offer advice to assistant professors on career, publication, and grant matters should send a note to [Amy Jasperson](#). Please also indicate your research expertise and areas of interest.

“This is a fine opportunity for senior scholars not only to share their wisdom with those embarking on an academic career,” said Section Chair Bob Entman, “but to enhance connectedness (and social capital) within our field.”

The mentorship program should be particularly appealing to senior faculty at institutions without Ph.D. programs or without immediate colleagues in political communication. All senior scholars in political communication are encouraged to volunteer.

Section Seeks Membership Officer

The section invites self-nominations for the post as membership officer. The new position was created to develop and implement creative ways to augment the number of section members. Some funds will be available to support recruiting efforts.

In their report last year, the former chairs of the section suggested several initiatives for the section, including the appointment of a membership officer.

Section Chair [Bob Entman](#) said the position “provides the opportunity to perform a valuable service for the section.” For more information or to volunteer, write to him via e-mail or at the Department of Communication, North Carolina State University, Box 8104, Raleigh, NC 27695, or call (919) 515-7942 or fax 919.515.9456.

[More News Notes](#)

[Tim Cook](#), Williams College, has been named to the editorial board of the *American Political Science Review*. In accepting the appointment, he said that he was “very interested in helping with a key task” in the field.

Pat Devlin is again offering a videotape collection of ads from the primary and general campaigns. The ads were created by presidential candidates, political parties, and PACs. The full collection (139 minutes) costs \$225, and primary election ads are available separately (46 minutes) for \$175. Write to Pat at the Dept. of Communication Studies, University of Rhode Island, 60 Upper College Rd., Suite 1, Kingston, RI 02881-0812, call (401) 874-4724 or fax 401.874.4722.

APSA Business Meeting

APSA Convention, San Francisco

Agenda

1. Discussion of actions recommended in report of former section chairs
2. Discussion of procedures for nominating and selecting section award winners
3. Formal approval of criteria for Graber Award
4. Report on State of the Section and on the 2001 APSA section chairs meeting
5. Report of Nominating Committee and vote on nominations
6. Treasurer's report
7. Presentation of awards for 2000
8. Announcements and New Business

Adjourn

APSA Business Meeting

2001 Nominating Committee Report
Political Communication Section
American Political Science Association

The Committee called for nominations from the membership on April 20, 2001. The committee reviewed the names submitted, decided which persons it wished to ask to serve in what section position, and discussed with those persons their willingness to serve.

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NOMINEES

For Chair
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For Vice Chair
Holli A. Semetko, Professor of Audience and Public Opinion Research Chair of the Department of Communication Science, and Chair of the Board, Amsterdam School of Communications Research (ASCoR)
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For Program Chair
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(202) 904-5888
Fax 202.994.5806
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Web site http://www.gwu.edu/~smpa/steven_livingston.htm

For At-Large Members of Executive Committee (Graber and Flickinger)
Doris A. Graber, Professor of Political Science
Affiliate Department of Communication
Affiliate Institute of Government and Public Affairs Book Review Editor, Political Psychology
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1007 W. Harrison St., Chicago, IL, 60607
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Web site <http://www4.wittenberg.edu/academics/poli/flicker.html>

For Committee, The Murray Edelman Distinguished Career Award for lifetime contribution to the study
of political communication (Chair Davis; Hart and Hofstetter)
Richard Davis, Professor of Political Science, Department of Political Science, Brigham Young
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Web site <http://www-rohan.sdsu.edu/dept/polsciwb/hoff.html>

For Committee, The Doris Graber Outstanding Book Award for the best book published on political communication in the last ten years (Chair Johnson-Cartee; Mickiewicz, and Lawrence)

Karen S. Johnson-Cartee, Professor of Advertising and Public Relations and Communication Studies

College of Communication and Information Sciences

University of Alabama, P.O. Box 870172, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0172

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Ellen Mickiewicz, James R. Shepley Professor of Public Policy Studies Director, DeWitt Wallace

Center for Communications and Journalism DeWitt Wallace Center for Communications and Journalism

Duke University Box 90241, Durham, NC 27708-0241

(617) 495-8696 during the fall 2001 term; (919) 613-7340 during the spring 2002 term Fax 919.684.270

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Web site <http://www.upa.pdx.edu/POLISCI/psfaculty1.html>

For Committee, The Paul Lazarsfeld Best Paper Award for the best paper on political communication presented at the previous year's APSA Annual Meeting (Chair: Shoemaker; Shah and Dwyre)

Pamela J. Shoemaker, John Ben Snow Professor, S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications

Syracuse University, 215 University Place, Syracuse, NY 13244-2100

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E-mail [<snowshoe@syr.edu>](mailto:snowshoe@syr.edu)

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Political Communication Awards

[Lazarsfeld Award](#)

[Graber Award](#)

[Edelman Awards](#)

[Althaus and Tewksbury Win Lazarsfeld Award](#)

Scott Althaus and David Tewksbury, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, received the Lazarsfeld Award for Best Paper of 2000. The paper is "Agenda Setting and the 'New' News."

[Richard Flickinger](#), Wittenberg University, chair of the award committee, announced that the vote was unanimous. Other members of the committee were [Bruce Bimber](#), University of California at Santa Barbara, and [John Geer](#), Vanderbilt University.

[Zaller Wins the Graber Book Award](#)

John Zaller, Political Science Dept., UCLA, won the Doris Graber Book Award for Distinguished Contribution to the Scholarly Literature of Political Communication, for his 1992 book, *The Nature & Origins of Mass Opinion* (Cambridge, 1992).

In it Dr. Zaller laid out a framework for understanding the nature of responses to opinion surveys and the forces, including mass media messages, that shape them. Zaller provides a novel way to understand the role of political communication in the formation and change of the mass public's opinions.

"The work has already become a classic in the study of political communication and public opinion," said [Bob Entman](#), North Carolina State University, the chair of the selection committee, who will present the award. Other committee members were [Doris Graber](#), University of Illinois at Chicago, and [Darrell West](#), Brown University.

The award is for a book of lasting value in the field of political communication published within the last decade, 1991 - 2000, that is characterized by distinguished scholarship, theoretical creativity, and analytic ingenuity. The field is defined broadly to include studies with an emphasis on history, policy, or political advocacy as well as empirical and theoretical studies more traditionally associated with the section.

McLeod and Chaffee Win Edelman Awards

Jack McLeod, Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison, and Steven Chaffee, late of the University of California at Santa Barbara, won the Murray Edelman Award for Career Achievement in Political Communication. The two had collaborated on important work together.

The award decision was made before Prof. Chaffee died unexpectedly, and his award will be given posthumously. The presentation will include three brief talks by his friends. The selection committee included [David Weaver](#), Indiana University, chair, [Pamela Shoemaker](#), Syracuse University, and [Susan Herbst](#), Northwestern University.

APSA Short Course

[New Ways to Teach About Campaigns and Elections](#), a short course in advance of this year's APSA convention, will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesday, August 29, in San Francisco.

The course includes three panels, according to [James A. Thurber](#), director of the [Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies](#). In the first, academics will discuss the study and teaching of campaigns and elections. In the second panel, campaign practitioners will discuss what constitutes an informed electorate, informed candidates, and a responsible media and will suggest ways that professors can get interested students involved in practical politics.

The final panel, held during lunch, will include principal investigators in several major Pew-funded projects: James A. Thurber, American University (Improving Campaign Conduct), Sean Treglia, The Pew Charitable Trusts, Paul S. Herrnson, University of Maryland (Campaign Assessment and Candidate Outreach), Michael Malbin, SUNY Albany (Campaign Finance Institute), Thomas E. Mann, The Brookings Institution (Permanent Campaign Project), Paul Taylor (Alliance for Better Campaigns), Michael Cornfield, George Washington University (Democracy On-Line) and Kathleen Hall Jamieson, University of Pennsylvania (Campaign Discourse Mapping Project).

The event is sponsored by the Campaign Management Institute at American University, and will distribute teaching materials assembled and produced as part of the "Improving Campaign Conduct" project funded by The Pew Charitable Trusts.

There is no registration fee. Lunch and teaching materials will be provided. Advance registration is required. Enroll on line at the short course Web site. For more information, call [Leslie McNaugher](#) (202) 885-2360 or send e-mail.

The Framing Concept in Political Communication Research

[Stephen D. Reese](#), *University of Texas - Austin*

At this year's ICA convention in Washington, D.C., one division panel took up the topic of framing, a term seen frequently in research paper titles at these meetings. I've had considerable interest in this area of research, and along with several co-authors have grappled with it in a recent volume from *Framing Public Life: Perspectives on the Media and Our Understanding of the Social World* (edited by S. Reese, O. Gandy, and A. Grant; Mahwah, N.J.: Lawrence Erlbaum, 2001). The panel was an opportunity to air these issues. We had some success considering frames as organizing principles that work to meaningfully structure social (especially political) life, and discussing the research questions springing from that definition.

I don't have undue hope that somehow this paradigm will provide a unitary way to organize the many types of research that characterize the division. But framing does have potential as a cross-over concept, meaningful to scholars, the public, and professional practitioners as well. It also cuts across other binary oppositions, such as qualitative/quantitative, visual/verbal, sociological/psychological, and critical/behavioral. Framing also enjoys much cross-national appeal, beyond the United States, generating interest in Israel, Germany, Holland, Belgium, Spain, Canada, and Korea, to name just a few that I am immediately familiar with.

But within our own panel, there was considerable difference in how to most fruitfully pursue the idea. In my own case, I have focused on how to analytically tie frames to interests, in a quasi-ideological fashion, taking the idea of framing effects largely for granted. Jim Hertog has emphasized the cultural nature of frames, requiring that they have specific content (War on Drugs), compared to the more tactical way of regarding frames (e.g., episodic vs. thematic). He considers how best to read out those frames from media accounts, while working closely with other cultural sources to check their validity and reliability.

Zhongdang Pan and Jerry Kosicki have emphasized the public deliberation aspects of framing, arguing that the venues for public political discourse have greatly increased, making our understanding of the framing process that much more important. They advocate using a case study approach (as they did with the health care debate) to consider the sociological web of subsidies that undergird the framing process, which must be regarded as an inevitable part of public deliberation-not just the occasional and suspect "spin." Mark Miller derives frames inductively from media texts, identifying vocabularies associated the frames utilized by specific interest groups. This approach allows quantitative analysis of vast amounts of text, but requires the assumption that the frame is lodged in the manifest text at word

level.

The flexibility of the framing concept may account in part for its popularity, allowing scholars to project onto it a variety of questions, not adequately addressed by other perspectives. But this flexibility also makes it more difficult to teach as a “method,” with agreed upon measurement procedures. The agenda-setting paradigm, for example, has enjoyed great success in many countries, as a set of concepts and techniques that permit ready adoption in other settings. I suspect the framing approach will need much more local adaptation and familiarity, especially if one is using the cultural approach advocated by Hertog, and others such as William Gamson.

Nevertheless, framing does seem to get us past certain traditional impasses. As I have written in the coming volume, it’s not enough to say either that knowledge is in the service of power or that knowledge emerges naturally through the pluralistic interplay of forces. Framing suggests that we specifically study how our social understanding is structured and how these understandings are tied to interests. Thus, to study framing means we must address normative issues.

Although social science research has not emphasized explicit value judgments in analysis of press coverage, framing can’t help but suggest them. How well did the press frame do justice to the issue? Why were journalists so willing to adopt the frame of a special interest group, when another would have been closer to the truth?

This advances our understanding of press performance, which as a director of a school of journalism I regard as the central concern of our scholarly project. These are questions that academic analysts can easily share with media professionals. In his review of press coverage of China, for example, journalist James Mann considers the frame concept: “the single story, image, or concept” that governs the reporting in the media, affects editors mindsets, and sets the context against which journalists contend. Specifically, he warns against reducing China to a one dimensional, and distorting, frame. Editor Frank Denton cited framing research he found useful in understanding how journalists and readers approach stories from different perspectives. Jay Rosen has used the framing concept in his discussion of public journalism, providing a useful way for journalists to consider the many alternative ways they can approach the same general story.

The growing and powerful media watchdog industry, especially well-funded on the Right, has been doing this kind of framing research for years without exactly calling it that (e.g., Accuracy in Media, Media Research Institute, Fairness & Accuracy in Reporting). And critical analyses have been emerging recently of the important framing role played by the public relations industry. Even if academic media researchers do not share the political spin of such groups, it is important that they be aware of the concerns that animate them — that the media are powerful, economic concerns, often distant from the audiences they serve, producing news as a commodity, generating frames that may distort as much as they illuminate our social world. The framing model comes closer than many research areas in our field to posing important, intelligible questions of common concern to scholars, press watchdogs, and ultimately the public as well.

[Stephen D. Reese](#) is director of the [School of Journalism](#), University of Texas, Austin, TX 78712 (512) 471-1845 Fax 512.471.7979.

ICA Minutes

Political Communication Division
2001 Business Meeting
Washington, D.C.

Division chair Steve Reese conducted the meeting. A total of 99 papers and 13 panels were submitted to the division for this conference (compared to 85 papers and a few panels submitted for the Acapulco meeting), of which 62 papers and 10 panels were accepted. Four top paper and three student paper awards were given this year, and the division was able to award each student paper winner \$100 to help offset travel costs.

Outgoing Political Communication editor David Swanson reported that the journal is financially healthy, largely on the basis of library subscriptions. Subscriptions to the journal are still poor among division members, though the journal has been able to maintain its \$43 individual subscription rate for several years without increase. Beginning with volume 19, Taylor and Francis will initiate a \$25 student subscription rate for the journal. Swanson also noted that the most recent ISI journal impact analysis shows that the 1999 volume of Political Communication had the highest impact score ever recorded for the journal. The journal's impact score — derived from an analysis of published citations to Political Communication articles — placed the journal 17th in overall impact out of 76 political science journals and 9th in overall impact among 43 communication journals.

Kevin Barnhurst reported that the Web-based Political Communication Report newsletter has been widely used, averaging 2,500 hits per issue (roughly 42 per day) from an average of 600 different readers per issue.

Since a best article awards committee was not appointed for the 2000-1 academic year, no article of the year award was given this year. The floor was opened regarding whether the coming year's awards committee should present a total of two awards, one for each year, or a single award covering two years. Members suggested two awards, one for each year.

Steve Reese mentioned that advisory board members for the Political Communication journal need to be appointed, and that the terms of service for current division officers expire at the end of the coming academic year. Reese also inquired whether the division should hold its annual post-reception dinner at the Seoul meeting in 2002. It was pointed out that the number of hosted dinners might limit attendance to a division dinner, and it was suggested that the division not sponsor a dinner next year.

The ICA newsletter has now expanded to 10 issues per year, so division members are encouraged to

contribute commentary, announcements, and articles of interest to the newsletter. All submissions from division members can be emailed to Steve Reese, who can in turn submit them to the ICA newsletter.

Incoming ICA president Cindy Gallois and ICA executive director Michael Haley made a brief presentation about the 2002 ICA meeting at Seoul, South Korea. ICA is retaining its traditional deadline for paper submissions even though the 2002 meeting is being held later in the summer than usual. Efforts are being made to include Chinese and North Korean communication scholars in the meeting activities. Given that travel and lodging expenses will be so reasonable — ICA is negotiating with KAL airlines to provide roundtrip airfare to Seoul for under \$800, and the Seoul Hilton is a bit less expensive than the Washington DC Hilton and Towers — Gallois and Haley encouraged division members to consider attending next year's meeting.

—[Scott L. Althaus](#), *Political Communication Division Secretary*

[Scott L. Althaus](#), is assistant professor in two departments, *Speech Communication and Political Science*, at the *University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*, 702 S. Wright St., Rm. 244, Urbana, IL 61801 USA (217) 333-8968 fax 217.244.1598

Meetings

August

Columbus, Ohio. [Summer Institute in Political Psychology](#), July 23 - Aug. 17, 2001. Lectures by Laura Stoker, UC Berkeley, Roderick Kramer, Stanford, James Sidani, UCLA, David Winter, University of Michigan, and others.

Washington, D.C., August 5 - 8. [Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, Annual Conference](#). Call (800) 798-0271.

Anaheim, Calif., August 18 - 21. August [American Sociological Association](#), Political Sociology Sessions, [Annual Convention](#). Call (202) 383-9005.

San Francisco, Calif., August 30 - September 2. [American Political Science Association](#), Annual Convention. [Registration](#), [hotel reservations](#), and [membership renewal](#) available on line.

September

Canterbury, England. [ECPR](#) Media and Politics Section Panel on "Democratization and the Media," September 6 - 8. Chair, [Sean Jacobs](#), Idasa, South Africa and University of London, Birkbeck College

Gilbertsville, Ky. Conference on Media and Communication Research, Sept. 14 - 15. Kentucky Dam Village Resort State Park. Write to [Linda Lyle](#).

Singapore, September 14 - 15. [Internet Political Economy Forum](#), "Internet and Development in Asia."

October

Cholula, Mexico, October 30 - November 1. University of the Americas, Puebla, Mexico. Third Communication Biennial, "Globalization, Technology, and Culture." Write to [Jorge Calles](#), [Jose Manuel Ramos](#), or [Jose Antonio Meyer](#) of UCLA, Mexico, or to [Jose Manuel de Pablos](#), University of La Laguna, Spain, call (52-2) 229-2003 or -2292, or fax 522.229.2009.

November

Atlanta, Georgia, November 1 - 4. [National Communication Association](#), 88th Annual Meeting, "Radical (izing) Roots." For information, write to [Donna Porter](#).

Austin, Texas. Conference on the Digital Divide, Nov. 17 - 19. Sponsored by ICA and IAMCR. For information, write to [Wolfgang Donsbach](#).

Calls for Papers

November 30. Workshop on "Globalization of Political Communication Issues," organized by the Political Communication Research Committee, International Political Science Association. To be held August 25 - 28, 2002, in a mountain resort in northern Italy, near Milan. Theoretical, practical, and comparative papers are welcome. For more information or the full call for papers, write to Research Committee Chair [Philippe J. Maarek](#). Send a 1500-word abstract and a half-page by e-mail or, if e-mail is not available, by fax 33.1.423.59.57.03.

December 1. *Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly*. Special issue on the Mythological Role of Journalism to explore political and other connections between news and myth. Topics include myth, ritual, and political news coverage, among others. Send manuscripts conforming to *J&MCQ* guidelines to [Linda Steiner](#), Journalism & Media Studies Dept., Rutgers University, 4 Huntington St., New Brunswick, NJ 08903 or call (732) 932-8567

Some Observations About Digital Divide

[Kenneth L. Hacker](#), New Mexico State University

If there were no benefits to Internet communication, there might be little concern for the digital divide among communication scientists. If the benefits are only luxuries, then the Bush administration might be justified in equating the digital divide to a “Mercedes divide.” Perhaps if the gaps constituting the divide are now all closed or closing, there might be little left (on this subject) to study and debate. In my view, particularly after attending numerous panels at ICA about the divide, all of these possible assumptions are false.

The May 2001 ICA conference in Washington, D.C., this year featured many scholars presenting research that revealed differing assumptions and conclusions about the digital divide. One expert announced that the divide is closed or closing. A second suggested a reverse divide as he laughed at the fact that certain ethnic minority groups have more cell phones than European Americans. Because I work at a minority university and endorse anti-racism, I was unable to appreciate his sense of humor. Fortunately, most of the others who discussed the digital divide recognized that it entails much more substantive issues than simple channel or device access.

As I observed communication scientists belittling the digital divide as a concept, I could not help but wonder if they were guiding their analysis by the political right. Other digital divide researchers, many of them graduate students, appeared to be more closely in touch with the detailed data gathered by the NTIA, RAND, GAO, Pew, and other sources. If one examines the digital divide data, it becomes apparent that there are no univariate answers to the multivariate phenomena involved in the issues.

For the most part, the digital divide panels at ICA were insightful and useful for communication scientists trying to sort out what divide issues need the most study. Two issues, however, appear to have been neglected. First, definitions of access did not receive much attention. This has always been a thorny issue in terms of validity and conceptual clarity. Second, there was a lack of explanation concerning why the gaps exist, why they open and close, and what they mean to human communication and in particular, to political communication.

More focus was needed on the political side of digital divide scholarship itself. The underlying politics may be latent, but they appear to have an impact, judging from the contradictory conclusions researchers are reaching about the same data sets. A Pew Research analyst noted that their survey indicated 47 percent of people using the Internet for on-line groups say they feel committed to those groups.

Spin 1. On-line groups are good for communication because people feel so good about them.

Now turn this on its head and you have 53 percent who must not feel committed to their groups.

Spin 2. On-line groups are a waste of time.

Those concerned about social inequalities in general (progressives, liberals, leftists) might look for new gaps to replace old gaps, in order to perpetuate attention on issues of economic, social, and political inequalities. Those who interpret knowledge gaps and information gaps as merely a reflection of natural economic differences in a free market (conservatives, libertarians, rightists) are likely to see the gaps as essentially closed or insignificant.

Most of us would agree that spinning has a better place in politics than in research, but some spinning may be occurring with some of the research concerning the digital divide. If so, we risk getting caught in a quagmire.

One alternative is to step back from the divide and use a more theoretical approach to the Internet and political communication. Gaps in political communication technologies are important for certain types of political information-seeking, knowledge acquisition, social interaction, and community building. We need to concentrate more on the actual and verifiable impacts of the divide gaps on political communication.

After attending the ICA sessions, I was convinced that we need to view multiple data sets on the digital divide and test competing hypotheses about the gaps and their consequences to political communication and political participation. We must be cautious in accepting simple observations about self-reported use of the Net for political information-seeking as evidence that citizens are using the Internet for meaningful political communication. The ICA panels led me to several realizations:

First, we need a rigorous and theoretical debate about the major components making up the overarching concept, "the digital divide." This begins with the term "access" and moves into other concepts like "usage." What precisely do people mean by the terms "social capital" and "cultural capital." If these concepts cannot be measured (and not applied only in some poetic sense), they may not be as useful as they sound.

Second, the ethnic group gaps, despite the hype in various news media and oversimplified assertions of some observers, have not closed and are not explained away by either income or education.

Third, there are important social, economic, and political consequences to sustained gaps in Internet communication.

Fourth, as Jim McConnaughey of NTIA noted, all ships are rising but some are rising faster than others. We need to explain what political consequences result from this

inequality.

Political resources and government services are continuously increasing their Internet presence. Each time this occurs, those without Net access or those with low Internet communication skills get further behind, with fewer new political communication opportunities. The process suggests that the digital divide is becoming more, and not less, important as time goes on.

Political communication scholars have some strong contributions to make to the research being conducted about the digital divide. We can help to focus attention on government - citizen channels, political information resources, citizen groups, candidate Web sites, political networking possibilities, and new forms of political communication that might emerge for those with access, skills, experience, and support. More importantly, perhaps, we can help diminish another divide — a credibility divide in the past and current commentaries about how the Internet is affecting political communication.

[Kenneth L. Hacker](#) is associate professor in the Department of Communication Studies, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces. He is co-editor of the recent book, Digital Democracy: Issues of Theory & Practice (Sage, 2000).

Books Noted

Dooley, Brendan, and Sabrina Baron, eds. *Politics of Information in Early Modern Europe*. New York: [Routledge](#). 336 pages. \$110 (cloth) ISBN 0-415-20310-4.

Glenn, John K. *Framing Democracy: Civil Society and Civic Movements in Eastern Europe*. Palo Alto: [Stanford University Press](#).

Huff, W.A. Kelly. *Regulating the Future: Broadcasting Technology and Governmental Control*. [Greenwood Press](#). 256 pages, \$64 (cloth) ISBN 0-313-31468-3.

Liebovich, Louis W. *The Press and the Modern Presidency: Myths and Mindsets from Kennedy to Election 2000*. 2d. Ed. rev. Westport: [Praeger](#). \$64 (cloth) ISBN 0-275-97403-0; \$24 (paper) ISBN 0-275-97404-9.

McCargo, Duncan. *Politics and the Press in Thailand: Media Machinations*. New York: [Routledge](#). 208 pages. \$90 (cloth) ISBN 0-415-23376-3.

Rajagopal, Arvind. *Politics after Television: Hindu Nationalism and the Reshaping of the Public in India*. New York: [Cambridge University Press](#). \$69.95 (cloth) ISBN 0-521-64053-9; \$24.95 (paper) ISBN 0-521-64839-4.

Rosen, Jay. *What Are Journalists For?* New Haven: [Yale University Press](#). \$16.95 (paper)

Scheuer, Jeffrey. *The Sound Bite Society: How Television Helps the Right & Hurts the Left*. New York: [Routledge](#), October. 240 pages. \$15.95 (paper) ISBN 0-415-93662-4.

[Sobel, Richard](#). *The Impact of Public Opinion on U.S. Foreign Policy Since Vietnam*. New York: [Oxford University Press](#). 288 pages. \$24.95 (paper) ISBN 0-19-510528-1; \$49.95 (cloth) 0-19-510527-3.

Special \$20/\$40 for orders placed by August 31, 2001. Refer to American History Cat. K577 1234. 1 (800) 451-7556.

2000

Bennett, W. Lance, and Robert M. Entman, eds. *Mediated Politics: Communication in the Future of Democracy*. New York: [Cambridge University Press](#). 489 pages. \$74.95 (cloth) ISBN 0-521-78356-9; \$29.95 (paper) ISBN 0-521-78356-9.

Craig, Douglas B. *Fireside Politics: Radio & Political Culture in the United States, 1920 - 1940*. [Johns Hopkins University Press](#). 368 pages, 6 illus., 14 figures, and 5 maps. \$45 (cloth) ISBN 0-8018-6439-9.

Gray, Chris Hables. *Cyborg Citizen: Politics in the Posthuman Age*. New York: [Routledge](#). 256 pages. \$28 (cloth) ISBN 0-415-91978-9.

McNair, Brian. *Journalism & Democracy: An Evaluation of the Political Public Sphere*. New York: [Routledge](#). 208 pages, 1 illus. \$85 (cloth) ISBN 415-21279-0; \$32.99 (paper) ISBN 415-21280-4.

West, Darrell. *Patrick Kennedy: The Rise to Power*. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: [Prentice Hall](#), 2000. 192 pp. \$18.67

Grants

Received

Shawn J. Parry-Giles, Assistant Professor, Communication, University of Maryland. \$12,000 from campus Graduate Research Board to study media coverage of Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Available

August 1. [Fulbright Scholar](#) awards. In Communication, 108 lecturing and research awards are available for the 2002 - 2003 academic year. A new short-term program offers two- to six-week grants to Fulbright Senior Specialists. For more information consult the Web site.

February 2. APSA Small Research Grant Program. Supports research from all fields of political science. Applicants must be APSA members and political science faculty members at non Ph.D. granting institutions, or political scientists not affiliated with an academic institution. Individual grants of up to \$2500 for activities such as research travel, administration and coding of instruments, research assistance, and the purchase of data sets. For details, write to [APSA Research Grants](#), American Political Science Association, 1527 New Hampshire Ave., NW ; Washington, DC 20036.

Other Funding Programs

[Pew Charitable Trusts](#), "Strengthening Democratic Life in the United States." Write to [Michael X. Delli Carpini](#), Public Policy Program, 2005 Market St., Ste 1700, Philadelphia, PA 19103-7017, call (215) 575-4720, fax 215.575.4939, or download [e-forms](#).

[Mott Foundation](#) Civil Society Program, Flint, MI 48502-1851 (810) 238-5651, fax 810.766.1753, [e-mail](#), and [e-forms](#).

[Markle Foundation](#). E-mail to [Susan Sigel](#), Grants Manager, 10 Rockefeller Plaza, Floor 16, New York, NY 10020 (212) 713-7619, fax 212.765.9690.

[Johnson Foundation](#) Wingspread Conferences program. Write to Barbara J. Schmidt, Program Secretary, P.O. Box 547, Racine, WI 53401-0547, call (262) 681-3343, fax 262.681.3325, or visit the Web site for [e-forms](#).

[CBS Foundation](#). Write to Helene Blieberg, 51 West 52nd Street, New York, NY 10029, call (212) 975-

3773, fax 212.975.3515.

The [NEH 1999 Annual Report](#) contains descriptions of programs and a complete list of grants funded for examination or downloading.

This issue of *Political Communication Report* comes out as scholars in the field are preparing to travel to the upcoming APSA convention in San Francisco. The Political Communication [Awards](#) have been announced and will be presented there, along with other items listed on the business meeting [Agenda](#). Details about the [short course](#) are also included here. More information about the conference is available on line at the [APSA Web site](#).

Those attending the ICA convention were saddened to hear of the death of Steve Chaffee, and this issue reports another loss to the field: the death of Jean Pool.

Other [News](#) includes opportunities to serve the field, including a new officer position with APSA and a new program to mentor assistant professors, as well as items about members.

In his [Message](#) to the division, Steve Reese shares observations about the framing concept and the recent ICA conventions sessions. The [Commentary](#) page also responds to sessions at the ICA convention. Ken Hacker, New Mexico State University, explores the ways discussions of the digital divide have become politicized, affecting the interpretation of research results.

The book review is on vacation, but members are invited to propose books to review in advance, to allow time to facilitate the sending of complimentary copies for critical review. See the complete listing of political communication [Book notices](#) received from publishers.

There are several upcoming deadlines for [Grants](#) in this issue, as well as the usual slate of [Calls for papers](#) deadlines. The [Meetings](#) page includes a full listing of upcoming conferences and workshops.

The joint APSA/ICA Political Communication newsletter, *Political Communication Report*, is published exclusively on line. Send your comments, reviews, feature articles, and notes about accomplishments, calls for papers, and meeting announcements for inclusion in the next issue by October 15, 2001.

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