



Harris Institute Organizes Public Forum on Immigration

The Harris Institute, in collaboration with the Center for the United States and Mexico at Rice University, hosted a Community Conversation and Short Film on Immigration Issues on Oct. 14, 2019. The event was intended to expand public discussion and understanding related to the current state of immigration in the United States and Texas, and included a screening of the short film titled “Rational Middle,” part of an ongoing documentary series. Invited panelists included: Rossy Lima, Ph.D., poet, and activist, Chris Lyon, writer and film producer, David Strange, immigration attorney and adjunct professor at the Texas Tech University Law School and Tony Payán, Ph.D., director of the Center for the United States and Mexico at Rice University. Héctor Rendón, Ph.D., moderated the forum.



Chris Lyon, David Strange, Héctor Rendón, Rossy Lima, and Tony Payán.



Dixie Santana, Ph.D. (UP) and students from Universidad Panamericana and Texas Tech

Scholars from Universidad Panamericana-Guadalajara Visit Campus

Five students and three faculty from Universidad Panamericana (UP) in Guadalajara, Mexico, visited the College of Media & Communication Nov. 15-19, 2019. Students attended Kent Wilkinson’s Hispanic Media course to present the results of survey research previously conducted with classmates in Mexico and compare their findings with corresponding research by the Texas Tech students. Additionally, a research forum focused on “Threats to Journalists” featured presentations by UP’s Elba Díaz, Ph.D., and Lucinda Holt, M.A., of TTU. The groups also discussed Mexico-U.S. relations and how to improve them through

communication. However, it wasn’t all work as the visitors attended Texas Tech football and women’s basketball games and made an excursion to Palo Duro State Park and Amarillo. A report on the students’ bilateral, collaborative survey is available at www.depts.ttu.edu/comc/research/hihic/

Robert Picard delivers the Harris Distinguished Lecture

In early March 2020, the Harris Institute and the College of Media & Communication were honored to host Robert Picard, Ph.D., as a Harris Distinguished Lecturer. Picard, a prolific researcher and consultant, is a senior research fellow at the Reuters Institute of the University of Oxford. The talk was titled “The Gathering Storm: Digital Media, Platforms, and Antitrust Enforcement.” Additionally, Picard also shared his expertise and perspectives with students in an undergraduate course in media entrepreneurship and a digital media graduate seminar.



Robert Picard, Ph.D., the 2020 Harris Distinguished Lecturer.

HIHIC Moves Fifth Annual Hispanic/Latinx Symposium Online

The TTU campus shutdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic did not deter the Harris Institute from hosting its fifth Hispanic/Latinx Research and Creativity Symposium on April 23, 2020. The event, originally scheduled for in-person presentations and panel discussions, pivoted to an online format and attracted a significant number of virtual attendees. Aron Aji, Ph.D., an associate professor in linguistics at the University of Iowa, provided the keynote presentation, “Literary Translation and Global Communication,” which segued to a panel discussion of translation and interpretation pedagogies. Other panels focused topics ranging from teaching at a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) to Chicana-Latinx studies and Latin America and its diasporas. Videos of the sessions may be found at www.depts.ttu.edu/comc/research/hihic/events/

Harris Institute Affiliates' Activities



Rauf Arif, Ph.D., has recently published his book *Movements for Change: How Individuals, Social Media and Al Jazeera are Changing Pakistan, Egypt and Tunisia*, with Peter Lang Publishing. It examines social media's roles in creating and sustaining social movements in non-Western settings, such as the Middle East.



Ioana A. Coman, Ph.D., was awarded Page Center Legacy Legacy Scholar awards for two projects: "Tell Me About the #fluvaccine and Covid-19: Using Narratives to Encourage Vaccination" and "Organizational Social Listening & Corporate Climate Advocacy: What Happens When Organizations Don't Listen?" Coman received Best Faculty Award for her solo-authored paper, "Beyond the National Limits and Media System Models – Terrorism and Mediatized Online Public Spheres," and placed fourth for the co-authored paper: "Tweeting the #FluShot: Beliefs, Barriers, and Perceived Threat at Different Points of the Flu Season" at the 2019 WJEC/AEJMC Conference in Paris.



Leo Eko, Ph.D., Palgrave Macmillan recently published Eko's book, *The Charlie Hebdo Affair and Comparative Journalistic Cultures: Human Rights v. Religious Rites*. He also published book chapters, including "African Television in the Age of Globalization, Digitization, and Media Convergence" in *The Routledge Companion to Global Television*.



Samer Melhem, Ph.D., has recently published two manuscripts: "Using Cultivation Theory to Understand American College Students' Perceptions of Arabs in the Media" in the *Journal of Muslim Minority Affairs* (Melhem & Punyanunt-Carter, 2019) and "College Students' Perceptions of Television Portrayals of Hispanics" (Punyanunt-Carter, Oviedo, & Melhem, 2019) in the journal *Qualitative Research Reports in Communication*.



Bolanle Olaniran, Ph.D., received a TTU Alumni Association grant (\$10,000) to investigate virtual reality as intervention for communication apprehension. His recent publications include: "Proxemics, Social Media, and Structural Transformation in Public and Private Spheres" in the *Electronic Journal of Communication* (2020) and "Anticipatory Model of Crisis Management and the Crisis Communication Center (CCC): The Need to Transfer New Knowledge to Resources" (Olaniran & Scholl) in the *Handbook of Applied Communication Research*.



Miglena Sternadori, Ph.D., is the lead editor of the *Handbook of Magazine Studies* published in April by Wiley-Blackwell. From 2018 to 2020, Sternadori authored or co-authored 10 articles, five chapters, and five book reviews. Those studies include: "Support for Women's Rights and Feminist Self-identification as Antecedents of Attitude toward Femvertising" (Sternadori & Abitbol, 2019) in the *Journal of Consumer Marketing*, and "Famous Women Yearn for Putin, and Other Unlikely Tales: Glamorizing Rightwing Populist Actors in the Bulgarian Editions of Cosmopolitan and Elle" in the *Central European Journal of Communication*.



Kent Wilkinson, Ph.D., continues working with the cross-disciplinary research group Lubbock Scapes Collective, and on immigration narratives with Institute affiliates Bryan McLaughlin, Ph.D, Héctor Rendón, Ph.D., and TJ Martinez, M.F.A. His co-authored chapter "Magazines in Spanish and Portuguese America" was published in Dr. Sternadori's *Handbook of Magazine Studies*. Wilkinson presented his research at TTU's Luso-Hispanic Cultural Studies Theory and Practice Conference—for which he is contributing a book chapter.



Weiwu Zhang, Ph.D., completed his fellowship at the Institute for Diverse Leadership in Journalism and Communication (IDL) hosted by the AEJMC and ASJMC in August 2019. He served as IDL representative of the ASJMC delegation while attending the "Leading Together" Deans' Forum at the annual convention of the Chinese Association for History of Journalism and Communication in Beijing, China, Nov. 12-17, 2019.



Oluseyi Adegbola (Ph.D. student) presented his paper, "How Political Communication and Perception of Candidate Ethnicity Shape Engagement: Hispanic Political Engagement During the 2018 Texas Senate Election" (Adegbola & Gearhart, 2020) at the 2020 AEJMC midwinter conference. Adegbola is near completion of his dissertation, "A Vote for a Bottle of Beer on Election Day: Media Use, Political Orientations and Participation in a Developing Democracy," funded in part by a grant from the Harris Institute.



Gabriel Domínguez Partida (Ph.D. student) has presented research at TTU's Luso-Hispanic Cultural Studies Theory and Practice Conference, and the Global Fusion Conference. His recent publications include: "Are we or not? Traits of Mexican identity from Roma" in the *Journal of Latin American Communication Research* and "A devil's dissection: Encouraging social change through discussing the Mexican documentary, *The Devil's Freedom* on Twitter" in *International Communication Research Journal*.



Christina Jimenez Najera (Ph.D. student), recently contributed to several research teams whose papers were accepted by the International Communication Association (2019 and 2020), Cognitive Neuroscience Society (2019 and 2020), and the Social and Affective Neuroscience Society (2019). Najera received the Regent Professors' Graduate Student Research Small Grant.



Jonathan Blackwell, M.B.A., (M.A. student) has been working in research related to renewable energy investment. He has also been working on research projects in his role as program manager at eLearning.ttu.edu.



Sarah Dweik (M.A. student) has been coaching the debate team and working at the Communication Training Center as a teaching assistant. Her scholarship includes two studies about the ineffective rhetoric of an infographic and the rhetoric of the 70th anniversary of the Nakba.

