

Meeting Minutes of the Theory & Methodology Interest Group
Eastern Communication Association
108th Annual Convention 2017: Freedom from... Freedom To...
Boston, Massachusetts, Omni Parker House Hotel
Saturday, April 1, 2017, 2:00-3:15 p.m. Hawthorne Room

Attendees:

Janie Harden Fritz, Duquesne University, 2017 Planner
Craig T. Maier, Duquesne University, 2018 Planner
Richard West, Emerson University, 2019 Planner
Amanda McKendree, University of Notre Dame
New Secretary, Matthew P. Mancino, Duquesne University Graduate Student

- Call to order 2:09 p.m.
- Report of 2017 Convention (From Janie Harden Fritz)
 - Filled all spots, constructive panels sent our way.
 - Had helpful reviewers.
 - Four panels were programmed – Top Papers, two constructive panels, had to turn a couple down.
 - Theme for Pittsburgh is “Building Bridges” – hoping for jointly sponsored panels. Theory & Methodology pairs with everything.
 - Craig T. Maier plans for Pittsburgh 2018.
 - Janie Harden Fritz is representative to nominating committee.
 - Craig T. Maier, 59 or 60 members.
- New Business Building Bridges
 - Panel Brainstorming
 - Richard West, pipeline concern – can’t get people to come to meetings, run for office. These are the steps. Think about getting graduate students, six different institutions and have them do a roundtable discussion about theories that matter— Legacy Theories or the horizon, theory and social media?
 - Janie Harden Fritz, under theorized and over practiced.
 - Janie Harden Fritz, “The Legacy of Theory.”
 - Richard West, programming two panels, bring people outside of unit into panels.
 - Janie Harden Fritz, several groups that have theory, interpersonal, organizational communication, etc. We could co-sponsor with all these groups.
 - Richard West, Family Communication.
 - Janie Harden Fritz, “The Genealogy Panel.”
 - Richard West, “Honoring the Integrity and Evolution of a Theory.”
 - Craig T. Maier, “Historicity of Theories.”
 - Richard West, Activities, Methods, Activities related to teaching method, teaching theory.
 - Amanda McKendree, we could try a short course.
 - Janie Harden Fritz, that could create interest for division.
 - Richard West, short courses attract a different kind of people who want to learn how to teach theory. There is zero experience at short course level, people in the panels are experienced.

- Richard West, Mediation Analysis—the variable behind the variables that they thought would interrelate. That means nothing to an undergrad. I skyped here in and had her explain it. New methods of research.
- Janie Harden Fritz, I like that, invite selected folks from particular units to talk about theory, method, etiology, here’s how we have made it our own.
- Craig T. Maier, Work at respondent level. Have several papers on a topic, family communication, with a more established scholar within that area—“Bridging Generations, Theory and Practice.”
- Richard West, pedagogic panel.
- Richard West, bring in senior, with not senior faculty, and then look at the lineage of a theory. Talk about philosophical roots and how they have been so informative today. Respect the historical tradition.
- Janie Harden Fritz, “Standing on the Shoulder of Giants,” “Understanding our Historical and Contemporary Roots.”
- Craig T. Maier, “Origin of Speech and Teaching.”
- Strategies for Interest Group Visibility
 - Richard West, We want visibility – a debate. (Describes successful debate).
 - Janie Harden Fritz, I love the idea of a debate, “Hegemony of Teaching Has Been Rejected.”
 - Richard West, We could apply for grants, what does that entail?
 - Richard West, We could host a social event, debate with refreshments.
 - Janie Harden Fritz, Andy Warhol Museum.
 - Richard West, that’s great!
 - Richard West, Pittsburgh is great, local and a big one. Got more engagement, get different types, thread.
 - Janie Harden Fritz, keep it going. Keep holes plugged and moving forward.
 - Richard West, foundations in philosophy, we can’t lose this.
 - Janie Harden Fritz, people step up because they care.
 - Richard West, use the money for a raffle, bring down room costs, buy drinks, award ceremony where recipients speak, have a luncheon at 10 dollars to off-set price.
- Adjourned 2:39 p.m.



Pictured: Top Paper Panel



Pictured: (From Left) Top Paper Recipient, Melanie R. Savelli and Dr. Janie Harden Fritz