

Meeting Minutes of the Theory & Methodology Interest Group  
Eastern Communication Association  
110<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention 2019: Creating Our Future  
Providence, Rhode Island  
Friday, April 12, 2019, 8:00-8:45 p.m. Narragansett B

Attendees:

Rich West, Emerson University, 2019 Planner  
Janie Harden Fritz, Duquesne University, Executive Council Representative  
Matthew P. Mancino, Duquesne University Graduate Student, Secretary  
Donell Murray, Morehead State University  
Maria Selby, Missouri Western State University  
Madison Rounbles, Missouri Western State University  
Taylor Wallace, Missouri Western State University  
Naomi “Bell” O’Neil, Clarion University  
Anna Young, University of Connecticut

- Call to order 8:03 a.m.
- Introductions
- Report of 2019 Convention (from Richard West)
  - Great Numbers—51 affiliated. The numbers have grown; I attribute that to Janie.
  - 15 Papers Submitted—two were passed to other units where they fit better.
  - 3 Programs Slotted for Convention
    - *Top Three* Papers Program
    - Competitive Papers Program
    - Contributors Program
  - Blend of both Pedagogical and Non-Pedagogical
  - Thanks to David McMahan, Lynn Turner, and Candice Thomas-Maddox (Reviewers)
  - Theories—group think, rhetoric of Aristotle—what constitutes theory? Privacy Management Theory—Sandra Petronio one of the most popular interpersonal theories around. Dialectic? Theory finds its way into many other units.
- Report from Executive Council Meeting (from Janie Harden Fritz)
- Elections—I want to look at these great minutes to find out if there is anything there you want to look at to get more info/clarity—New Business. Janie has deferred and Matt will be overseeing that convention.
- Motion to accept 2018 minutes from Janie Harden Fritz
- Naomi O’Neil seconds
- Top Paper (from Richard West)
  - For the top papers I have a card. We also recognize all the authors. The Top Paper is certification from the ECA and framed calligraphy certificates.
  - Top Paper—Team from Missouri Western State.
  - Second Paper— “Comparing Two Measures of Cultural Cringe”
  - Cyberbullying and Social Media Communication
- Ideas for ECA 2020—Baltimore. Harboring Innovation. Baltimore has time after time manufactured innovation. What theories are on the horizon that we are not thinking about?

How do we innovate classic pioneering theories? Social penetration, social exchange, how can you integrate those to infuse social media? What might interest you for a possible program? Conversations—we could invite our theorists to talk about the origins and some new people who are innovating to respond to them. How do you bring the theory to life in the classroom?

- Rich: It could be co-sponsorship with instructional. Instructional has about 175 members.
- Janie: Co-sponsorships. Were there theories that were one hit wonders?
- Rich: Gate-keeping?
- Janie: Theoretical Providence—have come from other theories? Interaction Appearance Theory?
- Rich: What is beautiful is good? One shot wonders and what do we learn from that? Is there anybody in our discipline who proposes a theoretical model that got rejected? The development of what a theory is?
- Janie: Do we still see all these axioms?
- Rich: The relationships of theory to professional career development. The idea of pointing out those theories that advance your career, but got you into the career. Sales, Marketing, Branding, PR Theories, and how they inform that career. It is the idea that we don't think about the intersection between the theoretical and the professional and how can we create that bridge that theory has function.
- Matt: Social penetration theory and social media.
- Rich: Think it is a phenomenal idea—how can we contemporize theory right now? How can these theories be re-examined in 2020? The other thing is how theory is represented in individual lives. A panel that introduces theories and then speakers discuss how it is apparent/not apparent in their lives. Social penetration theory? Not the abandonment of a theory but the presentation of what social media has done with that. Joe Walther—can form equally meaningful relationships over social media. How can we re-conceptualize these theories to make them more applied? 2020 a time for the decade change.
- Other Items (Elections)
  - Matt elected 2020 planner.
  - Donell Murray elected 2020 secretary.
  - Naomi Bell elected 2021 planner.
- Janie: T & M is very much alive at ECA!
- Adjourned 8:56 a.m.

