

From CITASA to CITAMS

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As voted by our section members, our section's name was changed from "Communications and Information Technologies" Section to the "Communication, Information Technologies, and Media Sociology" Section of the ASA. Thanks to efforts by Jennifer Earl (Section Chair 2013 to 2014), the name change was incorporated into our bylaws.

The inclusion of Media Sociology in our section name was an important moment in several ways. Denotatively, the change made explicit our section's implicit inclusion of media sociology and its contributors from many fields as stated in our section's mission statement, that reads: "We also have the largest number of academics appointed in communication, media, or other similar departments in our fold, including past section officers and chairs... Our section recognizes that communication research is moving toward thinking about multiple media, media systems and ecologies, media convergence, and/or the intersection of media instead of "siloiing" off one kind of media and studying it in isolation. Work done by section members contributes to the growth of research in this area. A number of section members see themselves as media scholars, which fits within the communication studies of the section." To clearly mark this milestone visually, a new section logo was created to include radio, television, and books alongside social media and smartphones.

At the same time, the formalization of the inclusion of media sociology opened the door to several new ventures within the section that continue to bear fruit over time. As one of the first joint ventures between the Media Sociology Preconference and our section, preconference founders Casey Brienza and Matthias Revers invited me as that year's CITAMS section chair to organize the closing session of the 2015 Media Sociology Preconference facilitated by the excellent work of Paul Hirsch. The session participants--Eszter Hargittai (Northwestern University), Saskia Sassen (Columbia University), Judy Wajcman (LSE), and James Witte (George Mason University)—showcased the strengths of the field and provided a lively exchange with the conference participants. A few days later at the close of my year as our section's chair, I initiated our section's formal sponsorship of the Media Sociology Preconference thanks to efforts by Gina Neff (CITAMS Chair 2011-2012) who arranged for the 2016 venue to be held at the UW in Seattle. The sponsorship proved so successful that it has been continued to the present under our current section Chair, Wenhong Chen.

Also at the ASA Annual Meeting in Seattle, as Series Co-Editor of the CITAMS- sponsored *Emerald Studies in Media and Communications* (ESMC), Casey Brienza and I created a new partnership. Starting the following year at the 2017 Media Sociology Preconference in Montréal, ESMC became an official sponsor of the Media Sociology Preconference alongside the continuing sponsorship by CITAMS. I co-organized the closing panel with insightful and timely commentary from panelists Wenhong Chen (UT Austin), Jeffrey Lane (Rutgers), Anabel Quan-Haase (University of Western Ontario), and Casey Brienza (Conference Founder and Organizer). As co-organizer Apryl Williams (Susquehanna University) could not join us in 2017, the torch

has been passed to her for 2018. This summer at the ASA Meeting in Philadelphia, Apryl has organized the closing session of the Media Sociology Preconference with panelists Jenny Davis (Australian National University), Yuli Patrick Hsieh (RTI International), Betty Aldana Marquez (California State University, Monterey Bay), Jessie Sage (Peepshow Podcast), Ruth Tsuria (Seton Hall University), and Mary Chayko (Rutgers). Held at the venue State System @ Center City, the panel will close what promises to be another excellent all-day event thanks to the fine job being done by this year's organizing committee including Julie Wiest and Ian Sheinheit.

Finally, it is only fitting, as our section celebrates its thirtieth year, to mark our continued growth in media sociology with a joint publication. Along with CITAMS members, all Media Sociology Preconference presenters have been invited to have their research considered for potential inclusion in the "CITAMS@30" special anniversary publication of *Emerald Studies in Media and Communications*. Editors of the special volume (or volumes!) Barry Wellman, Shelia Cotten, Wenhong Chen, and Casey Brienza and I are excited about this latest opportunity for our section and the next steps that the future will bring.
