



# Journal of Public Interest Communications

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## *JPIC* Farewell Editor's Essay

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It has been a pleasure serving as Executive Editor of the *Journal of Public Interest Communications* since its inception in 2017. In these 5+ years, we have published 54 articles from authors from around the globe. These articles and authors have had an immense impact on building the field and creating the theoretical groundwork of public interest communications. Thank you to our authors for sharing your knowledge with *JPIC* and the world and for taking a chance on a new journal. I know taking such a leap is not easy, especially when on the tenure clock. However, without you sharing your work and knowledge, there would be very little theoretical basis to PIC.

Serving as Executive Editor has allowed me to witness this new area of communication emerge and become part of what we teach and research. It has been exciting to be a part of this development, and it has been an honor to work with talented and incredible editorial teams throughout these years. I have learned so much from the experience. I saw how a journal was built from the ground floor up; I became a better time manager; I understood the need for empathy in some situations as well as the need to make a tough decision; and I became a better editor of others' and my own writing. However, I did not do this work alone.

A huge thank you to former College of Journalism and Communications Dean Diane McFarland and current Dean Hub Brown and Executive Associate Dean Spiro Kiouis at the University of Florida for their continued support of and investment in *JPIC* and PIC. If you did not have the vision to see the importance of PIC, *JPIC* would not exist.

Thank yous are also owed to my Managing Editors—Lauren Griffin, Kelly Chernin, and Joseph Radice. Lauren, who served as *JPIC*'s first journal manager, helped me with establishing our guidelines and editorial board and did all the initial heavy lifting to create *JPIC*'s website via the Public Knowledge Project hosted by UF Libraries. Kelly Chernin helped bring *JPIC* to the next level by pursuing *JPIC*'s indexing within the Directory of Open Access Journals as well as working to establish DOI numbers for *JPIC*. These tasks might not seem like much, but they took hours upon hours of work and helped ensure the quality and reputation of the journal. Her

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additional work with practitioner interviews further broadened the scope of *JPIC*. Joseph Radice has served as Managing Editor the last three years and has brought a keen eye and excellent editing skills, and has supplied important advice. Joseph has been a constant and ever reliable partner in this endeavor. I never had a worry about anything—I always knew Joseph could handle any issue and would help with any task. And, did I mention, he's my go-to for all questions about APA Style? Without Joseph the day-to-day operations of *JPIC* would not have been as smooth. Each of my Managing Editors contributed in different ways, and I could not have asked for a better group to assist me. I appreciate all your help with responding to authors, allowing manuscripts to flow, keeping track of reviewers, and copy editing, formatting, and publishing each issue. I also thank Jasper Fessmann, who was the associate editor for the inaugural issue, and worked with Lauren to outline the mission of *JPIC* as well as create the journal's graphic identity and formatting style for manuscripts.

My heartfelt thanks must be given to my Journal Supervisor, Linda Hon, who is the consummate mentor. Without her guidance I never would have been able to bring *JPIC* to where it is. I wouldn't have known even where to start. Linda was there every step of the way and there was no task she refused—even helping to copy edit issues with close to 200 pages of content. Linda has been instrumental in establishing PIC as a distinct and important area of study not only through her work with the journal, but also with her teaching and her own research. Her theoretical contributions are unmatched, and I believe she should be thought of as a founding figure of PIC as we know it.

Finally, I want to thank our editorial board members and reviewers. Without you none of this work would be done. I appreciate your time and dedication to making *JPIC* a respected open-access outlet for peer-reviewed research. I know reviewing falls into those murky areas of unpaid labor that we all take on to keep academics going. A special thank you to those reviewers whom I leaned on when I needed a review completed because a scheduled review fell through—you know who you are.

Since 2017, *JPIC* has explored many issues such as diversity and various research approaches. Dialogue and its ability to build understanding to build ethical and moral communication was also examined. However, we did not shy away from issues that might be deemed more controversial either. For example, articles have investigated how to find stability and trust in times of chaos and change and others have asked, "What happens when we make private interests public ones?". In this last issue, authors delve into social media communication and PIC and demonstrate how Twitter in particular has become a site for contesting corporate communication power structures and how corporations use Twitter for organizational advocacy related to public interest issues.

During this time, *JPIC* had the opportunity to collaborate with the Public Relations Division of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication. This partnership initiated by Richard Waters and Giselle Auger led to an amazing preconference session about PIC and a special issue of *JPIC* devoted to Advocacy and PIC. I again owe my sincere gratitude to Richard and Giselle for seeing this important alliance through. We also had an opportunity to

host a preconference at the International Communication Association—PIC in a Global Context. This preconference was also fertile ground for research and many of the contributors had their work published within *JPIC*, bringing unique ideas and perspectives to the journal.

I am proud of what we have accomplished in these five years, and I look forward to where *JPIC* will go next.