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e-Newsletter

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In this issue:

Interview with Ethan Ankrum, Social Science Division Representative

Social Science Division

Fall Meeting

Upcoming

Opportunities and

Deadlines

Interview with Christopher Josey, Social Science Division Representative

Could you first provide a little background on yourself—your institution and role(s) there, for example?



I serve as the Director of Undergraduate Research and Honors Program within the Department of Communication at the University of Missouri. I'm originally from rural southern Indiana and am a first generation college graduate and academic. I completed my BS at Bradley University and PhD at the University of Illinois. My research focuses on the portrayal of marginalized groups within news media and the cognitive impacts it has on consumers.

What CUR committees or task forces are you currently serving on?

I currently serve with Social Science Division at CUR and am on the awards committee within that division.

How long have you been mentoring undergraduate research?

I have been mentoring undergraduate research and creative activities since I started my graduate degree. My type of research often involves heavy reliance on large teams of research assistants. So I found myself recruiting undergraduates from my department to work in my and my doctoral advisor's lab. Since then, I don't think that I have gone even a semester without a team of 5-14 undergraduate scholars working with me. I currently lead a large social science lab at Mizzou that uses the peer mentor model with undergraduates. We research how social identity focused news sites serve as a safe space of empowerment for marginalized groups.

Have you had any other involvement in leading experiential learning activities for undergraduates that you would like to share?

I am currently teaching two 1 credit hour courses where a small class of undergraduates will be cataloging stories of immigrants and stories of first generation Americans to preserve their experiences for posterity.

What influenced you to join CUR?

I had been involved in URCA for quite some time at Illinois and Mizzou. While I was serving the college of Arts and Science as a faculty fellow for undergraduate research, our campus director highly encouraged getting involved at CUR. I have been a member ever since and presented twice now. I love the supportive community and have already learned so much!

Anything else you would like to share with the division... (awards, directing study abroad, students sponsored for conferences or scholarships, etc)

I am greatly looking forward to encouraging many of my students to attend NCUR. Some of them already present at regional and national disciplinary conferences and would greatly benefit from this experience I believe.

Social Science Division Fall Meeting

The Social Science Division Fall 2024 meeting is scheduled for October 17, 5-6pm ET. Your input is very important, so please plan to attend on Zoom. Zoom Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/7426714037?pwd=VW9qbHJjRnN6bVlxV0J6anRRZm1FUT09&omn=81995046468>

Meeting ID: 742 671 4037

Passcode: 326371

Upcoming Opportunities and Deadlines



Jeanetta Sims, Social Science Division Councilor has organized a panel at the National Communication Association Conference with multiple CUR Social Science Division members presenting. Jennifer Edwards, Social Science Division Representative, will be facilitating. **Theme: Communication for Greater Regard - Conference Dates: November 21 - November 24, 2024 - Conference Location: New Orleans, LA. Presentation Title:** Greater Regard for Impacting Student Engagement, Career Preparation, and Institutional Success through

Undergraduate Research.

The Social Sciences Division of the Council on Undergraduate Research provides networking opportunities, activities, and resources to assist administrators, faculty members, students, practitioners, mentors, and others in advancing undergraduate research.

NCUR 2025 will take place April 7-9, 2025, in Pittsburgh in partnership with Duquesne University and the Pittsburgh Council on Higher Education. The submission window opens September 10, 2024.

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<https://www.cur.org/who/governance/divisions/socsci/>