

Political Communication Pre-Conference 2018
Boston, MA

“Facts, Fiction, and Free Media: The Fourth Estate and Its Discontents”

“The conception of it has always been fluctuating, never stable.
It has been limited in one country by government action,
in another by vested wealth, in another by political parties;
elsewhere it has been controlled by the Church,
in another country by the ascendant industry,
in another by chauvinism, and
everywhere by authority.”
Lucy Maynard Salmon
on media freedom
1923

Political Communication is confronting a range of new, old, and revised concepts influencing the post-truth environment: misinformation, disinformation, fake news, conspiracy thinking, misperceptions, and dueling fact perceptions. News media and social media are at the forefront of blame and response regarding these phenomena. Can free media (both news and social) establish and maintain a distinction between fact and fiction, or are criticisms of free media and the demand for reforms valid? We invite a range of perspectives and research on the role of news media, social media, press freedoms, criticisms of media, and the causes and consequences of the post-truth environment as it interacts with the dilemmas of a free society.

To be considered, please submit an abstract of no more than 350 words (2,000 characters) plus 3-5 keywords [here](#). The deadline for submission is no later than **Monday, April 16, 2018**.

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