Greetings from the MCQ Staff!

Greetings! We have a jam-packed May 2018 issue — with articles, a research note, a research method article, and a forum that addresses communication and the closeting of various types of identities. Take a look at the Table of Contents for the current issue, highlighted articles from that issue, other news relevant to MCQ readers, and read about two of our wonderful editorial board members — Marya Doerfel and Amy O’Connor.

❯ MCQ Statistics 2016-2017

For manuscripts submitted during the past two years (2016-2017):

Acceptance rate: 13%

Average Days to 1st decision: 42 days
Untangling the Processes of Leaving a Member-Abusive Organization

JOHNY GARNER & BRITTANY L. PETERSON

Examining former members’ stories collected using online artifacts, the authors study Mars Hill Church as an abusive organization, and its members’ processes of exit from the organization. Analyses revealed that former members used faith-based reasoning or spiritual rationality to make sense of the tension created by the organization’s strategies of pressuring members to stay or leave. The authors also demonstrate the contradictory and fluid nature of members’ identities and their targets of identification. The study extends research on abusive organizations to an hitherto unexplored form, a church. Their research also highlights the complex nature of identity and identification in a value-driven and identity-embedded organization. The article concludes with a discussion section and practical implications.

Implementing Sustainability in Organizations: How Practitioners Discursively Position Work

RAHUL MITRA & PATRICE BUZZANELL

The authors examine how sustainability practitioners make sense of and enact their work. They use qualitative methods including interviews with 45 practitioners and 35 curriculum vitae. Using discursive positioning theory, the authors demonstrate how practitioners employ different kinds of communicative resources to craft four subject positions – discovery, enlightenment, legitimacy, and consumption. The authors’ findings also show how politics shape sustainability practitioners’ subjectivities. The article concludes with implications for theory and practice.
The Current Issue

Management Communication Quarterly
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IMPLEMENTING SUSTAINABILITY IN ORGANIZATIONS: HOW PRACTITIONERS DISCURSIVELY POSITION WORK
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Reviewed by Ryan S. Bisel
Marya Doerfel is Professor at Rutgers University School of Communication and Information, as well as co-Director of the Rutgers Network Science Lab. Her recent publications include a co-authored peer-reviewed journal article, ‘The Story of Collective Action: The Emergence of Ideological Leaders, Collective Action Network Leaders, and Cross-Sector Network Partners in Civil Society’ published in the Journal of Communication and a single-authored chapter, ‘Engaging partnerships: A network-based typology of interorganizational relationships and their communities,” published in the The handbook of communication engagement. Her research interests are in areas of community resilience with a particular interest in disruptions that impact inter-organizational relationships and their broader community networks.

Amy O'Connor is Professor in the Hubbard School of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Minnesota. Her research explores how corporations and stakeholders communica-tively co-construct what corporate social responsibility (CSR) means. Her approach is grounded in the belief that the value of CSR is constituted through communication, subject to institutional level pressures, and is relationship based. Her work blends institutional theory, issue-management, and strategic communication literature with the Symbiotic Sustainability Model to examine corporate-NGO partnerships specifically and the effects of CSR communication broadly. Dr. O'Connor's research has been published in numerous scholarly outlets and has been featured by the Conference Board of Directors. She is the recipient of a National Science Foundation Grant. She has won numerous teaching awards during her career and she is passionate about creating a vibrant and engaged classroom for all students.
Editorial Team

Editor-in-Chief
Patricia M. Sias
University of Arizona
psias@email.arizona.edu

Associate Editors

Boris Brummans
University of Montreal
boris.brummans@umontreal.ca

Keri Stephens
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keristephens@mail.utexas.edu

Vernon Miller
Michigan State University
vmiller@msu.edu

Erik Timmerman
Texas State University
eriktimm@txstate.edu
Editorial Team (contd.)

Assistant Editors

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Independent Researcher
suchitraspacker@outlook.com
Newsletter Designer

Scott D’Urso
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scott.durso@marquette.edu
Social Media Editor

Sage Publishing Editor

Martha Avtandilian
Martha.avtandilian@sagepub.com