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Editor's Note

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Editor's Note

A Vision for *Democratic Communiqué: Resistance and Revival*

Jeffrey Layne Blevins

I remember the very first time I picked up a copy of *Democratic Communiqué* in 1998 when it was a simply produced photocopied publication. The first article I read was written by Robert McChesney, titled “What is the political economy of communication?” I was a master’s student at the time and I was getting ready to submit my application to law school in hopes of becoming an intellectual property attorney and “working for the man” (so to speak).

However, that issue of *Democratic Communiqué*, quite literally, changed my career path and subsequently, my life. I absorbed it from page-to-page and although, I did not realize it at the time, I was reading the work of scholars who were titans in the field of media political economy and critical cultural studies, which would become my intellectual home in the years to come. Shortly after reading that issue, I abandoned plans for law school and instead decided to pursue a Ph.D. that would allow me to conduct my own political economic studies into media behavior and performance.

From that issue of *Democratic Communiqué*, I went on to read more works under the “political economy of communication” banner, including those by Dallas Smythe, Eileen Meehan, Vincent Mosco, Janet Wasko, Peter Golding and Graham Murdock, as well as several others. My eyes were opened to the significance of ownership and control of media institutions; and the relationships of power among media industries, regulators, audiences, and advertisers; as well as the laws and policies that impact media behavior and content. I adopted political economy’s connection to moral philosophy and its multi-disciplinary methods that draw from history, legal analysis, as well as other critical cultural approaches. Additionally, I have pursued its strategies for resistance to unjust structures and intervention in the system that creates them.

While the *Democratic Communiqué* has diminished some in recent years, due to an inconsistent publishing cycle, I hope to see its revival for future generations of critical media scholars, as it is the official journal of the Union for Democratic Communications and is indexed by Scopus, EBSCO, Google Scholar and the Directory of Open Access Journals. As editor, I hope to further the journal’s recognition among critical scholars in other organizations, such as International Communication Association (ICA), Association for Education in Journalism & Mass Communication (AEJMC), National Communication Association (NCA) and Broadcast

Education Association (BEA), as well as our critical neighbor association, International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR). Some of this effort will involve outreach at conferences and through personal contacts, in addition to interconnection through social media (@DemocraticComm on Twitter and DemocraticCommunique on Facebook).

I ask my fellow UDC members to help our journal grow and thrive by regularly submitting their own scholarship and commentary, and encouraging other researchers, journalists and activists with a critical perspective to consider *Democratic Communiqué* as a primary resource, and venue for their work.

In addition to double-blind peer reviewed scholarly articles (as well as occasional award-winning student work, Dallas Smythe Award keynote lectures, and book reviews), *Democratic Communiqué* now features a new section titled “Critical Commentary” for opinion-editorial style essays that address contemporary issues facing critical scholars and activists. Commentary submissions may be invited by the editor, or unsolicited, and are published at the editor’s discretion. In this issue, Michelle Rodino-Colocino answered my invitation to comment on the challenges of organizing a resistance movement within a large academic association. Thank you, Michelle.

In producing this first issue as editor, I am most grateful to my associate editor, Maggie Heath-Bourne, who is a graduate student in the Communication Department at the University of Cincinnati. Maggie took her bachelor’s degree in my home department of Journalism, and I am fortunate that she courageously agreed to take this journey with me as a first-time journal editor. I also want to thank Aaron Heresco, who came to my rescue by serving as the book review editor. Furthermore, I wish to thank my college dean, Ken Petren and associate dean, Jennifer Malat who supported me in undertaking the editorship, and the University of Cincinnati Graduate School for its support through an editorial assistance award.

Finally, I want to express my sincere appreciation to the reviewers for this issue: T.C. Corrigan (California State University-San Bernardino), Alfred Cotton (University of Cincinnati), Aimee-Marie Dorsten (Point Park University), Tanner Mirrlees (University of Ontario Institute of Technology), Patrick Murphy (Temple University), Jonathan Obar (York University), Jennifer Proffitt (Florida State University), Michelle Rodino-Colocino (Penn State University), and Doug Tewksbury (Niagra University).