



Changes with the *Journal of International Crisis and Risk Communication Research*

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In 2017, the Nicholson School of Communication (NSC) took the initial steps to launch the *Journal of International Crisis and Risk Communication Research* because for more than 15 years, crisis and risk scholars had called for a dedicated journal focused on the growing interest in crisis and risk research. With a new NSC Director in place and an established International Crisis and Risk Communication Conference drawing scholars to the University of Central Florida since 2011, the decision was made for NSC to become the journal's publisher and funds were earmarked to make its publication a reality.

The first issue of Volume 1 was published in 2018 and by the time of the second issue, the NSC and the Digital Media and Film programs from the School of Visual Arts and Design had merged to become the Nicholson School of Communication and Media (NSCM). As an academic unit, NSCM expanded its academic programs and provided a more robust and interdisciplinary curriculum for its nearly 4,500 students. As part of the expanded offerings, in late 2018, the Florida Board of Governors approved the doctoral program in Strategic Communication and its first cohort group was recruited to begin in the fall of 2019.

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Since that time, JICRCR has published 13 issues across six volumes. From UCF, Timothy L. Sellnow has served as Editor-in-Chief since its founding and Patric R. Spence has been Managing Editor. Invited Volume Editors include Matthew W. Seeger (Wayne State University), Brooke Fisher Liu (University of Maryland), Audra Diers-Lawson (Leeds Beckett University), and Kenneth A. Lachlan (University of Connecticut) and Special Issue editor Yan Jin (University of Georgia). This issue completes Volume 6 and with this publication, comes a new chapter in the life of the journal. Succession planning is a necessary practice that provides for sustained excellence over time. Due to the journal's growth in prominence due to decreasing acceptance rates and the indexing of its articles in major academic search engines, the time has come to transfer the publication of the journal to a professional publisher with the capability to help the journal expand its circulation and readership.

The Netherlands Press (NP) has secured ownership of the journal and subsequently will be managing its publication. The CEO of NP has pledged to uphold the quality and integrity of the journal, relying upon the current editor and editorial board to provide academic leadership. Lachlan will continue his term as Editor and Spence will continue as Associate Editor for some time to provide continuity and serve as a liaison between the NP and scholars affiliated with the International Crisis and Risk Communication Association (ICRCA). Future Editors will be recommended by the ICRCA and have the authority to name an Editorial Board to review manuscripts and make recommendations pertaining to publication. Readers should expect a smooth transition as the journal moves into Volume 7.

I must admit that there is some nostalgia associated with this transfer of publisher rights. Just as parents watch their baby grow into a toddler and then a young child, venturing into the future; those of us who brought JICRCR into the world of crisis and risk communication research have witnessed the growth and maturity of the research being published. Similarly, the interest of scholars in the content being published in its volumes gives us confidence in the continued success of the journal. While the desire to

hold on to what we have may cause us to second guess our decision to transfer it to someone else, knowing that we have laid a solid foundation for the journal gives us hope that what we started will continue to grow and thrive.

Congratulations and best wishes to The Netherlands Press, the new publishers of the Journal of International Crisis and Risk Communication Research.