

Mobile Communication Interest Group business meeting minutes

Aqua 305

Hilton San Diego Bayfront, San Diego

May 26, 2017, 11:00-12:15

Chair: Veronika Karnowski

Vice Chair: Colin Agur

Secretary: Thilo von Pape

Agenda

1. 2018 Conference Preview
2. Current membership
3. Emerging Scholar Research Grant 2017
4. Best paper award 2017
5. New team
6. Review process 2017
7. Preconference
8. Doctoral consortium
9. Best thesis award
10. Nomination committee for fall election of secretary
11. Committee for best paper award 2018
12. Further business

1. 2018 Conference Preview (*Peter Vorderer, Past President of the ICA*)

In a brief visit, ICA past president Peter Vorderer shared information about the ICA 2018 conference in Prague, Czech Republic. A constituent asked about possible problems regarding the organization and accommodation of preconferences. Peter Vorderer confirmed that accommodating preconferences would be a challenge in the next year.

2. Current membership (*Veronika Karnowski, Chair*)

Veronika reported the current number of members at 180. In terms of global diversity, the largest group of members is clearly US-Americans. However, this dominance is less pronounced than among the total membership of the ICA. Veronika encouraged to increase our visibility in other parts of the world and reach out to underrepresented regions such as Africa and South America.

3. Emerging Scholar Research Grant 2017 (*Jason Martin*)

The Awards Committee Chair Jason Martin recalled the modalities of the emerging scholar research grant. The idea for this grant of 500\$ had been raised at last year's business meeting as a means to support a specific research project by advanced graduate students, post-doctoral researchers, and other early-career scholars and professors adhering to the Mobile Communication Interest Group.

Jason Martin awarded the certificate to the first laureat Niklas Johannes from Radboud University (Netherlands).

4. Best paper award 2017 (*Rich Ling, elected Vice Chair*)

Vice Chair Rich Ling awarded Chang Sup Park from Bloomsburg University with the Top Paper Award for the manuscript "The Moderating Roles of Cross-Cutting Exposure and Weak-Tie Networks in the Impacts of Mobile Communication on Civic Engagement". In the name of the committee, Rich Ling stated that Park's manuscript produced interesting and useful findings, contributing to our understanding of how mobile communication plays into social commitment.

5. New team (*Veronika Karnowski, Chair*)

Veronika announced the new leadership team of the Mobile Communication Interest Group for the year 2017-2018: The incumbent Vice Chair Colin Agur (University of Minnesota Twin Cities) would become the new Chair, the newly elected Rich Ling (Nanyang Technical University) would become the Vice Chair, and Thilo von Pape (University of Hohenheim) would remain secretary for a third year.

6. Review process 2017 (*Veronika Karnowski, Chair*)

Veronika summarized the review process of the 2017 conference. Altogether, the interest group received 59 submissions, after 81 submissions in 2016. Veronika suggested to follow many other divisions and interest groups in including accepting in the next call for papers, namely as a means that would most likely lead to a larger number of submissions.

A constituent asked what would be the interest in receiving a large number of submissions. Veronika explained that the number of sessions allotted to an interest group in the main conference depends on the number of manuscripts submitted, so that more submissions mean more panels for the interest group. A constituent expressed concern about the additional administrative work which dealing which two types of submissions (full paper and abstract) would signify. Another constituent suggested to facilitate this work by requiring in the call for papers that all submitted abstracts be identified as such by adding the word "abstract" in their title. A constituent observed that the quality is generally lower in abstracts than in full papers and that reviews are often harsher for abstracts than for full papers. One constituent questioned that 2.000 words suffice for authors to express their work and for reviewers to do justice to it, to which another constituent responded that 2.000 words would indeed suffice.

Several alternatives to simply including abstracts as a second type of submissions were discussed and discarded. Either the interest group could remain with full papers only. No constituent expressed support for this idea. Or the interest group could accept abstracts only under particular conditions. Thus, abstracts of empirical studies could be accepted only under the condition that the data collection has been completed, or that the expectations are made explicit in the sense of pre-registered studies. While these suggestions received some support, they were ultimately discarded in the discussion. The interest group therefore remained with Veronika's suggestion to open the call up for the unconditioned submission of abstracts in 2018. The question was to be revisited in the next year's business meeting.

As a final comment to the reviewing process, one constituent emphasised the need to mobilize manuscripts and reviewers from Africa and South America.

7. Preconference (*Colin Agur, Vice Chair*)

Vice Chair Colin Agur reported on the preconference that had taken place on the San Diego Campus of the University of California on May 24. The number of registered participants was 44, the actual participation was in the high 30s.

With regards to the future of the preconference, Colin stated that it has historically formed the heart of mobile communication studies within ICA. He therefore urged to keep the preconference up despite the space restrictions expected for Prague.

A constituent asked how it came that the preconference is held on the day before the opening of the conference and suggested to consider organizing it on the opening day itself. Rich Ling provided several explanations: the preconference had originally extended over the two days preceding the main conference. The Wednesday was then held because it permits to attend other preconferences and the joint doctoral consortium of CAT and the Mobile Communication Interest Group. Finally, Rich emphasized the importance of the preconference dinner on Wednesday evening as the principal event for networking and socializing among mobile communication scholars, in particular since there is no regular reception of the Mobile Communication Interest Group. Such an event is impossible on Thursday evening because of the main conference's opening reception. These reasons have been weighed against the burden for attendants to arrive a day earlier and finance the longer stay.

Regarding the internal organization of the preconference, one constituent suggested to shorten the individual sessions to 80 minutes.

Finally, the location of the preconference was discussed. Rich suggested to hold it in Prague again, namely for logistic reasons and because there was no compelling reason to search a different location.

In accordance to the statutes, Rich Ling as Vice Chair took it up to organize the preconference.

8. Doctoral consortium (*Veronika Karnowski, Chair*)

Veronika reported on the state of the doctoral consortium, which had been held jointly with the Communication and Technology Section. She praised the advantages of this cooperation both because the contents of the presented projects touch issues of mobility and technology, and because the pooling permits to use resources more efficiently.

9. Best thesis award (*Veronika Karnowski, Chair*)

The Interest Group had received no submissions this year. Therefore no award was granted, and we will try to receive submissions next year.

10. Nomination committee for fall election of secretary (*Veronika Karnowski, Chair*)

Veronika explained that a new secretary would have to be elected to replace Thilo von Pape. She recalled the duties of the secretary from the bylaws. Jordan Frith volunteered to head the nomination commission.

11. Committees for awards and grants (*Veronika Karnowski, Chair*)

Jason Martin volunteered to preside over the commissions for the best paper and the emerging scholar grant. Keri Stephens volunteered to preside over the commission for the best thesis award.

12. Further business (*Veronika Karnowski, Chair*)

Jakob Ohme spoke about the initiative to support the ICA board in improving the conference app. He described this effort as a constant communication process. He announced as a next step a meeting with the ICA Associate Executive Director Jean-Paul Gutierrez on the following Sunday to discuss further cooperation.