

Mobile Communication Division

Business meeting minutes

Programmed: May 29 May, 2022, 5:00 PM - 6:15 PM; Hyatt - Regency 3+4 (Hyatt)

Chair: Keri Stephens (The U of Texas at Austin)

Vice Chair: Mariek Vanden Abeele (Ghent U)

Secretary: Jakob Ohme (Freie U Berlin / Weizenbaum Institute for the Networked Society),

About 40 persons attended

Agenda

1.	Chair's report & Division Status	Keri Stephens
2.	Pre-conference	Mariek Vanden Abeele
3.	Doctoral consortium	Jordan Frith
4.	Secretary	Jakob Ohme
5.	Student & Early Career Rep.	Lara Wolfers
6.	International Liaison	Hoan Nguyen
7.	Mobile Media & Communication	Veronika Karnowski
8.	Awards	Jason Martin
9.	Fall elections	Lynne Kelly
10.	Bylaw proposals	Lara Wolfers & Keri Stephens
11.	ICA 2023: Toronto	Mariek Vanden Abeele
12.	New officers	Kathrin Karsay, Waqas Ejaz, Anneleen Meeus

1. Chair's report (*Keri Stephens, Chair*)

Our chair, Keri, officially announces that the ICA Board has granted the Interest Group Division status. She highlights the importance of this step and honors all the people currently involved, particularly those who laid the groundwork: Rich Ling, Veronika Karnowski, Jordan Frith, and Mariek Vanden Abeele. Thank you all!

Our chair presents recent study findings on the national diversity of ICA, showing that Mobile Com is the second most diverse division (only preceded by Journalism Studies). These numbers reflect our proactive efforts to reach national diversity. The chair also stresses continuing and intensifying these efforts within the Mobile Communication Division.

Keri continues by presenting some numbers on the state of our—now—division:

- In terms of membership, we are at 240 members (as of August 2021)
- Finances are good (\$3,655; prior to ICA 2022)
- Paper submissions and extended abstracts increased substantially
- Acceptance rates for student-only and student-led papers (combined) had a similar acceptance rate compared to faculty members
- Of our 89 papers/extended abstracts programmed, the first authors were from 26 different countries
- Authors were asked to choose to present in-person or virtually (virtual had a slightly higher acceptance rate)

Keri further informed us of the motions from the ICA Board meeting:

- The ICA budget passed

- Revised Political Engagement Policy
- All DIVS/IGS will get a research escalator session
- Dues will be drastically reduced for Tier B/C effective 1 July
- New affiliate journal -see ICA website, but multiple languages now
- We will have a hybrid conference with changes for next year
- Regional & Affiliated Conferences Committee - scope expanded & new name crowdsourcing (\$50 GC ICA Brand Store contest)

Keri addressed the matching of reviews at the ICA Board meeting. She explains that for the automated matching of reviewers, only the first of the three provided keywords is used for the matching algorithm. Thus, she emphasizes the importance of the first keyword. Finally, our chair thanks our session/panel chairs and reviewers for ICA 2022!

2. Pre-conference (*Mariek Vanden Abeele, Vice-Chair*)

Our vice-chair, Mariek, reports about the 19th Annual ICA Mobile Preconference on the topic: "Emerging Trends and Practices Around the Globe in Mobile Media & Communication."

- The conference had about 40 attendees, four workshops, and a great keynote by Christian Licoppe.
- The pre-conference continues to be a space where mobile scholars can meet and share ideas.
- She thanked the sponsors. She also highlighted that sponsors will also be needed for next year's pre-conference and that small amounts starting from 100€ are already helpful.

Next, Mariek announced the 20th edition of the pre-conference:

- The pre-conference will take place on 24 May 2023 in Toronto, Canada.
- The local host and keynote speaker will be Prof. dr. Jeffrey Boase
- The call for proposals for the pre-conference will be released in October 2022. The deadline for workshop submissions is December 2022; acceptance notifications are planned for January 2023
- Joining the pre-conference planning team is possible, please contact Mariek

3. Doctoral consortium (*Jordan Frith*)

Jordan Frith, Co-Organizer of the Doctoral Consortium (together with the Communication and Technology Division of ICA), updates the group:

- The doctoral consortium 2022 took place virtually, with a focus on mentorship and provision of resources
- 2023, traditional format planned
- Need for (more) mentors at universities with higher teaching loads because of relevance to many early career scholars

4. Secretary (*Jakob Ohme*)

Our Secretary, Jakob, presents information on the four communication channels of the interest group.

- Email to members via ICA list (strictly to current members)
- Relunched ICA Mobile Website (<https://www.icamobile.org>)

- Twitter Profile @ICA_Mobile (517 Follower, increase by 200)
- ICA LINK community 'Mobile Communication' (70 Members, 88 Discussions)
- Twitter data indicates that @ICA_Mobile Followers are fairly diverse

Jakob raises the question of whether further diversification of platforms is needed and whether someone is aware of platforms that should be considered in the future.

Arul Chib suggests that LinkedIn could be considered.

Finally, Jakob raises the question of whether a social media manager post would be necessary to account for the increasing workload in the future.

5. Student & Early Career Rep (*Lara Wolfers*)

Our Student and Early Career Representative, Lara, reports on the social activities from last year.

- #MobileComm Topic Coffees: 9 topic coffees were hosted online in the week before ICA by senior researchers & early-career scholars with 70 signups and participants from around the world. Lara thanked the hosts for the topic coffees.
- #MobileComm Lit Hunt - World Map edition: Aim was to engage early career scholars and to showcase mobile communication papers around the world. Lara congratulates the winners of the hunt
- #MobileComm Early Career Lunch: On-site lunch in Paris to connect Mobile Comm early career scholars; Huge success with more than 60 participants

6. IL Updates (*Hoan Nguyen*)

Our International Liaison (IL), Hoan, presents work from the past year:

- Global South Mobile Comm Club House: New Facebook/Metaverse Group for scholars, students, and faculty from/in/for Global South to connect. She hopes that current and future ILs will coordinate to manage and expand the site.
- Hoan proposes appointing Regional IL officers in the future and is open to suggestions. She also addresses whether these positions need to be official or elected.

7. Mobile Media & Communication (*Veronika Karnowski*)

Veronika, Editor of Mobile Media & Communication, gives an update on the journal:

- the 5-year Impact factor: 3.0
- Ranking in communication: 35 out of 95
- Original submissions past year (May 2021-April 2022): 219
- Current acceptance rate: 8.6%
- Upcoming special issues / Calls:
 - 10-year-Anniversary Issue 11(1): "COVID-19 Now and Then: Reflections on Mobile Communication and the Pandemic" guest editors Adriana de Souza e Silva & Mai Nou Xiong-Gum, to be published in May 2023
 - "Homelessness and Mobile Media" guest editors Maren Hartmann, Justine Humphry, David Lewis & Will Marler, to be published in January 2024
 - There is also an open call for Research Software Reviews; this review section is a dialogue-oriented format, short format of 1000 words

- All calls are available on the Journal website.
- Veronika thanks all reviewers and authors

Rich Ling adds that together with Gerard Goggin, Leopoldina Fortunati, and Suzanne Richardson, the Oxford book series will be re-launched at Routledge. Proposals from either single (or multiple) authored monographs or edited collections are welcome and should be directed to any of the editors.

8. Awards (*Jason Martin*)

Jason Martin, Head of the Awards Committee, leads through the awards presentation.

The Top Paper Awards Co-Winners are (because of score tie):

Mobile Phones and Power Relationships: Understanding the Agentic Motivations and Strategies of North Korean Defectors by **Gabrielle C. Ibasco, Arul Chib, Juhee Kang**

Hybrid War, Hybrid Peace: Mobile Communication at the Frontline in Eastern Ukraine by **Roman Horbyk**

We also honored the 2020 Top Paper Award in person:

Digital Wellbeing as a Dynamic Construct, **Mariek Vanden Abeele**

Emerging Scholar Research Awards, \$500 grant:

The mediating role of social support and social comparison: Impact and Comparison of WeChat and Weibo usage behaviors on subjective well-being by **Yuying Deng**, Ph.D. student, University of Salamanca

We also honored the 2020 and 2021 Emerging Scholars in person:

Always connected: The context and consequences of ubiquitous screen media exposure among preadolescents by **Anneleen Meeus**, Doctoral Researcher, KU Leuven (2020)

Third person effect and mobile media use by **Archana Krishnan**, Asst. Professor, SUNY Albany (2020)

Towards a Spatial Grounding of Mediated and Non-mediated Communication to Capture Hybrid Communication through Chat App by **Deepti Singh Apte**, PhD student, Symbiosis International (Deemed University), Pune, India (2021)

“Digital Boutiques” on Whatsapp and Facebook in Niger: Exploring Their Affordances and Uses Across Gender, Literacy, and Status by **Ibrahim Maïdakouale**, Doctoral Researcher in Information and Communication Sciences, Université Bourgogne Franche-Comté (2021)

The recipients of the registration waivers are:

- **Yuying Deng**, The University of Salamanca (doctoral student)
- **Pallavi Khurana**, University at Albany (doctoral student)
- **Larissa Lawrie**, University of Missouri (doctoral student)
- **Kafina Kamalul** (ICA provided), Monash University Malaysia (doc. student)
- **Morgan Quinn Ross**, The Ohio State University (doctoral student)
- **Jonalou Labor**, University of the Philippines (faculty)

Top Student-only Paper Award (also \$600 travel award):

- **Pranav Malhotra**, University of Washington

Top Student-led Paper Award:

- **Morgan Quinn Ross**, Ohio State University

2021 Top Dissertation Award (giving it in person):

- **Will Marler**, University of Zürich

9. Fall elections (Lynne Kelly)

Lynne Kelly, Head of Elections Committee, updates the membership on the vice-chair position to be filled in Fall 2022:

- **Vice-chair** (a 2-year position + 2 years as Chair)
 - Assume the position after the Toronto ('23) Conference
 - Support Chair with the management of the Interest Group
 - Organize the pre-conference in Gold Coast and Denver
 - Start as Chair, organize 2026 (TBD) and 2027 (TBD) conferences
- **Role of the Nomination Committee**
 - Committee: Chair, Lynne Kelly, Keri Stephens, Mariek Vanden Abeele, and Kathrin Karsay
 - Review nominations and select finalists
 - Contact: Lynne Kelly, kelly@hartford.edu

10. Bylaws proposal

Student awards

Keri presents an amendment to the bylaws, which involves the motion to add a Top Student-led and a Top Student-only Paper Award to the bylaws:

„Students are an important part of our division. The paper led by a student author, at time of submission, that receives the highest numerical score shall receive the Top Student-led Paper Award. The paper authored only by student(s), at time of submission, that receives the highest numerical score shall receive the Top Student-Only Paper Award.“

Lee Humphrey raises the concern that authors/supervisors might remove themselves for strategic reasons to increase the student's chance of receiving a Top Student-Only Paper award.

Janneke Schokkenbroek adds that from a student perspective, the student-only award might help early career scholars gain autonomy from their supervisors by allowing students to open up the discussion about independence with their supervisors.

Keri Stephens adds that any type of student award is currently included in the bylaws. She further elaborates that 39% of papers are submitted by students. Thus, these awards allow students to have more recognition on their CVs.

Chib Arul proposes that left-over division money should be provided to the future student award winners.

Keri Stephens explains that the recipient of the Emerging Scholar Award received a grant of 500 USD.

Morgan Quinn Ross mentions that the flip side of a student-only award could be that the supervisors would be incentivized not to provide help to their students.

An attendant from the business meeting asks why we won't have only the students-only papers award.

Another attendant explains that one reason for the differentiation between student-only and student-led awards is different cultures in supervision and co-authorship. For example, in some systems, supervisors automatically become co-authors.

Jakob Ohme raises the question of whether, in such a supervision system, students would be able to apply for a student-only award or not.

Keri Stephens proposed that the management team of the division will be considering the input and work on a proposal that will be put forward to a vote in the upcoming ICA elections in fall 2022.

this decision will be put on the ballot for next year, and, for now, only a student-led paper award will be included.

Additional elected officer

Lara Wolfers mentions that there have been repeated requests for additional social activities that occur throughout the year and not only around the annual conference of ICA. For example, there has been an idea for a talk series. She thus proposes the new position as membership engagement officer.

She also mentions that these additional activities would be overburdening the role of a student and early career representative and require a different position. She also mentions that position could be merged with a social media officer, as proposed by Jakob Ohme, to account for the coordination efforts.

The chair asks for comments from the attendants:

Hoan agrees that engagement mid-year has been requested. She raises the question of increased coordination effort: With an International Liaison, a student and early career representative, and a secretary, what will the engagement officer do? Where are the responsibilities overlapping?

Keri suggests forming a small committee to address these raised concerns and discuss them in the future with the members.

11. ICA 2023

Toronto, random book machine

Mariek briefly presents some information on Toronto, where the ICA 2023 will take place.

12. New officers

Keri Stephens introduces the new officers

- Secretary: **Kathrin Karsay**
- Student & Early Career Rep: **Anneleen Meeus**
- International Liaison: **Waqas Ejaz**