

ICA Computational Methods Division Business Meeting - Minutes

Date: 2022-05-29

Location: Room 242A, Palais des Congres, Paris and online over Zoom

Current executive committee members present at the venue:

Cindy Shen (CS, Chair), Annie Waldherr (AW, Vice Chair), Felicia Loecherbach (FL, SEC Representative), Wouter van Atteveldt (WvA, Past Chair), Chung-hong Chan (ChC, Secretary)

Current executive committee members absent at the venue:

Chankyung Pak (CP, International Liaison), Wayne Xu (WX, Social media officer)

Agenda

The meeting started at 17:00 CEST.

CS introduced the current executive committee members.

The incoming officers of the division are:

Professor Matthew Weber (Rutgers U, USA) - Vice Chair

Professor Kaiping Chen (U Wisconsin, USA) - International Liaison

ICA Fellow Professor Peter Monge reported information about ICA 2023

- The theme of the conference will be: *Reclaiming Authenticity in Communication*
- Tentatively, the conference will be hybrid, but with no pre-recorded sessions
- New to ICA23
 - Research Escalator - the submissions do not need to be finished paper; the student submitter will be paired with a mentor
 - The Toronto location - 90% of the attendees will be stay in one hotel
 - Hotel book arrangement will be similar to ICA 2022. But Tier 3 members who registered for the conference will get first access to the early bird access, then Tier 2, then Tier 1, and then public.
 - There will be a large cut in room rate for Tier 3 and Tier 2 members
 - Preliminary room rate: Single room 232 CAD -> 205 CAD, Double 262 CAD, Quad 392 CAD
 - There will be more regional hubs

A motion was moved by Professor Mariken van der Velden to approve the minutes of ICA 21 business meeting

(<https://www.icahdq.org/resource/group/8931aeb9-be49-4e77-b121-789a17b594c1/minutes-2021.pdf>), seconded by Dr Nathan TeBlunthuis, and unanimously approved

CS reported the current state of the division

- The current year budget of the division is \$5145
 - Expenditures are travel grants, Hackathon, and reception
- The division has 359 members, a 33% increase from last year
- The current bylaws of the division:
https://www.icahdq.org/resource/group/8931aeb9-be49-4e77-b121-789a17b594c1/icacm_bylaws.pdf

ChC reported the current communication channels of the division

- Monthly newsletters through mass email, Google groups, and the Link
- Twitter and Facebook are very active, thanks to WX
 - @ica_cm has > 1400 followers

WvA reported the current state of *Computational Communication Research (CCR)*

- Official journal of the division since 2019

- Published 35 OA articles, 7 in press
- Special issue “Image As Data” published
- CFP for Special issue “Multilingual Text Analysis” is available now
- Booklets about CCR are available from WvA

FL reported the 2022 Preconference / Hackathon

- Organized by Professor Jacob Fisher, Professor Josephine Lukito, Professor Freddy Hopp, and FL
- Very high interest with a long waiting list
- 8 project teams; 8 breakout sessions
- Probably will become a regular event
- Hackathon for ICA23 is planned to have a bigger venue
- Please help with organizing and sponsoring

FL reported the Slack channel for ECRs

- > 90 members

AW reported the ICA22 review process

- 140 submissions (61 full papers, 79 extended abstracts) and 6 panel submissions.
 - 60% increase from online-only ICA21
- Accepted papers (acceptance rate)
 - 35 papers (57%)
 - 50 abstracts (63%)
 - 3 panels (50%)
 - 3 co-sponsored sessions (JS & PolComm)
- We used our word-embedding-powered paper bidding system with a pool of 254 reviewers
 - 1.7 reviews per reviewer
 - 97% on time
 - Only division with no issues with the review process
 - Our division has been commissioned by the ICA to write a best practice page about reviewing

WvA announced the top reviewer and top papers:

Top reviewer of the division is **Dr Yelena Mejova**

The top paper awards were selected by the Committee: WvA (chair), Professor Dr Emese Domahidi, Professor Josephine Lukito, Professor Hyunjin Song, and Professor Hai Liang

Top student papers (in no particular order)

- **Trap of Entertainment: Recommendation Algorithms Drifted Users away from News on YouTube** by Shengchun Huang, Tian Yang
 - Committee comments: Well written paper using markov chain models to investigate topical filter bubbles on youtube. This is a methodologically interesting paper on a highly relevant topic, showing that transmission probabilities between topics are unequal and asymmetric: news leads to entertainment but not the other way around.
- **The Ideological Space within Reading: Political Ideology and the Consumption of Books in China** by Zhengyi Liang, Naipeng Chao, Zhicong Chen
 - Committee comments: Very interesting application of ideological scaling to a novel context. Given the difficulty of estimating ideology in general and perhaps especially outside of established democracies in particular, this paper presents a very promising methodology and data source.
- **A Network-Based Approach to Understanding Signalling and Irrational Herding Behaviour Online** by Henry Dambanemuya, Eموke-Agnes Horvat

- Committee comments: Innovative paper using data from a peer-to-peer lending platform to understand signaling and irrational herding behavior online. Solid approach that combines network analysis and machine learning on an innovative dataset with great potential for studying collective decision making.

Top Paper Awards (In no particular order)

- **Dynamics of Ecological Adaptation in Online Communities** by Nathan TeBlunthuis.
 - Committee comments: A very interesting and ecologically valid study of competitive and mutualistic interactions between online communities on reddit. The authors use an impressive combination of text, network and time series analysis. This is very relevant to the field not just for the substantive outcomes but also for the methodological improvements and rigor.
- **Building a Multimodal Classifier of Aggressive Political Style: A Tool for Understanding Political Performance in a Populist Era** by Dhavan Shah, Zhongkai Sun, Erik P. Bucy, Sang Jung Kim, Yibing Sun, Mengyu Li
 - Committee comments: A superb study of aggression in political debates. The authors present and apply a very innovative method and tool that combines video, audio, and text features in a multimodal machine learning model. By bridging the gap between textual and non-textual data, we think this approach has the potential to be a great contribution for our field.
- **Imaginary Network Motifs: Structural Patterns of False Positives and Negatives in Social Networks** by Kyosuke Tanaka, George G. Vega Yon
 - Committee comments: Very interesting analysis of the discrepancy between perceived and actual social network structures, looking at multiple theoretically motivated structural mismatch patterns. As this affects virtually all analyses of human-induced networks, this paper makes a strong methodological and theoretical contribution to the field.

AW announced the calling for nominations of secretary and SEC representative

The division is now calling for nominations of the elected positions of secretary (2-year term) and SEC representative (2-year term). The election will take place in fall 2022. The elected officers will take up their positions right after ICA 23.

SC proposed the dissertation award

Our bylaws state the establishment of a dissertation award but it has never been given. A preliminary proposal is to name the dissertation award after Professor Peter Monge, a pioneer in the study of communication networks. This proposal requires a division-wide election in the future to approve.

SC reported the updates from board meeting

The association budget proposal 2023 was passed. The ICA policy on political engagement has been revised. Conferences will take place in Toronto (2023), Gold Coast (2024) and a Latin American country in 2026. There will be a reduction in membership fee for Tier B/C members

AW formally assumed her rule as the chair of the division

AW thanks SC for her service. SC is now the immediate past chair.

The business meeting ended at 17:35 CEST.