ICA Computational Methods Division Business Meeting - Minutes

Date: 2023-05-26
Location: York Room, Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel, Toronto, Canada

Current executive committee members present at the venue:
Annie Waldherr (AW, Chair), Matthew Weber (MW, Vice Chair), Kaiping Chen (KC, International Liaison), Felicia Loecherbach (FL, SEC Representative), Cindy Shen (CS, Past Chair), Sarah Shugars (SS, Social Media Officer), Chung-hong Chan (ChC, Secretary)

Agenda
The meeting started at 16:30 EDT.

AW introduced the current executive committee members.
The incoming officers of the division are:
Professor Soojong Kim (SK, UC Davis, USA) - Secretary
Mr Patrick Schwabl (PS, LMU Munich, Germany) - SEC Representative

AW thanks outgoing SEC Representative FL and secretary ChC.

A motion was moved by AW to approve the minutes of ICA 22 business meeting (https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.icahdq.org/resource/group/8931aeb9-be49-4e77-b121-789a17b594c1/ica_cm_business_meeting_2022.pdf), and unanimously approved

AW reported the current state of the division
- The current year budget of the division is $10,238
  - Expenditures are travel grants, Hackathon, and reception
- The division has 468 members, a 30% increase from last year
- The current bylaws of the division: https://www.icahdq.org/resource/group/8931aeb9-be49-4e77-b121-789a17b594c1/icacm_bylaws.pdf

AW 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 SS
  - @ica_cm has > 1700 followers
- ICA CM is also on Mastodon (@ica_cm@sciences.social) with 84 followers

Professor Wouter van Atteveldt (WvA, Editor in Chief) reported the current state of
Computational Communication Research (CCR)
- Official journal of the division since 2019
- CCR is now indexed by Scopus
- The submission system will be hosted by University of Zurich (Switzerland)’s HOPE platform
- Now accept submission in LaTeX and Quarto
- WvA thanks outgoing assistant editor Monika Simon, new assistant editor is Rupert Kiddle

KC reported on the Division's diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs
- Year 1: need-finding; Year 2: resource seeking
- Year 1 2021-2022 program: Need finding
  - Virtual deliberation meeting (n = 9) and survey (n = 22 so far, still calling for participation: https://tinyurl.com/ica-cm-dei) - identified urgent problems: lack of diversity in researchers, research regions, & topics; lack of non-English training materials, social media datasets are not representative
Several suggestions: Diversify the modalities of conference (e.g. Hybrid), organize teaching panels and knowledge exchange partnership program

- Upcoming program
  - How to implement some of the suggestions in the upcoming year
  - Explore regional hub opportunity for CM
  - Systemic investigation on publications that use computational methods to quantify the scope of diversity problems facing our subfield

**PS reported the 2023 Preconference / Hackathon**
- Organized by Jacob Fisher, FL, Laura Laugwitz, Dani Cosme, Margaret Ng, and Christian Pipal
- Double participants than last year (? the largest ICA23 preconference)
- Call for sponsorship / venue of the next year’s hackathon

**PS reported the Slack channel for ECRs**
- > 120 members

**Professor Claes de Vreese announced details about ICA 2024 (Gold Coast, Australia)**
- Date: June 20-24, 2024 (Not in May!)
- Next year’s theme: Communication and Global Human Rights

**MW reported the ICA23 review process**
- 195 submissions (104 full papers, 65 extended abstracts, 26 research escalator submissions) and 6 panel submissions.
  - New record, 44% increase from last year
- Accepted papers (acceptance rate)
  - 50 papers (48%)
  - 43 abstracts (66%)
  - 17 research escalator submission (65%)
  - 3 panels (50%)
  - 5 co-sponsored sessions (JS, PolComm & CAT)

**MW announced the rockstar reviewer**
Rockerstar reviewer of the division is **Ms Jana Bernhard** (University of Vienna, Austria)

**MV announced possible changes for ICA24**
- Check for the adherence to the formatting guidelines
- Sign up for session chairs (not the last speaker of a session)
- The paper update system will be updated (code, and find a permanent home)
- Research Escalator session might change, based on the evaluation from this year

**CS announced the top papers:**
The top paper awards were selected by the Committee: CS (chair), Professor Christian Baden (Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel), Professor Benjamin Mako Hill (University of Washington, USA), Professor Kokil Jaidka (National University of Singapore, Singapore), Professor Hai Liang (Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong), and Professor Hyunjin Song (Yonsei University, South Korea)

Top Paper Awards (in no particular order)
- **Evaluating the Structural Position, Cinematographic Representation, & Emotional Portrayal of Female Characters in International Feature Films** by Musa Malik, Sungbin Youk, Rene Weber
  - Committee comments: Excellent application of vision research to the most communication-centric problem, with impressive empirical treatment of the topic. Communication scientists are increasingly realizing that we can no longer ignore image/video content... and this nicely illustrates how computational methods could push and innovate one of the field’s oldest questions.

- **Automated Content Misclassification Causes Bias in Regression. Can We Fix It? Yes We Can!** by Nathan E TeBlunthuis, Valerie Hase, Chung-hong Chan
  - Committee comments: The manuscript illuminates a critical, underestimated flaw in current uses of machine classification and immediately proposes a sound, simulation-validated, and accessible solution (in the form of a new package). With the rapid development and deployment of AI tools in and beyond computational communication studies, the committee found the raised awareness of the issue almost more important than the proposed statistical solution, but both were much needed interventions.

- **A Benchmark Dataset for Detecting Frames in Multi-topical News Content** by Chung-hong Chan, Rainer Freundenthaler
  - Committee comments: The manuscript, which the title massively undersells, introduces a highly original, bold and powerful strategy to give substance to a problem that we have all been sensing, but that used to be hard to pin down. While the findings deal a blow to popular low-effort approaches to framing analysis, the offered dataset (and even more importantly, the idea behind it) holds rich potential for developing and validating superior strategies.

**Professor Dr Emese Domahidi announced the Dissertation Award**

The dissertation award was selected by the Committee: Professor Dr Emese Domahidi (TU Ilmenau, Germany), Professor Dr Jürgen Pascal (Universität Trier, Germany), Professor Anne C. Kroon (Universiteit van Amsterdam, the Netherlands), Professor Subhayan Mukerjee (National University of Singapore, Singapore), and Professor Katherine Ognyanova (Rutgers University, USA)

The winner is Dr Fabienne Lind - "Multilingual Automated Content Analysis for Comparative Communication Research" (University of Vienna, Austria, 2021)

Committee comments: A PhD thesis with a clear focus on the development of computational methods for the very relevant and timely area of multilingual text analysis, with a very high quality throughout, and the potential for a great impact for the CCS community.

**MW chaired the consultation session on Bylaws Revisions**

- Change the language from Interest Group to Division (Procedural change, no vote)
  - No query
- Minor edit on the purpose of the division from “social media analytics” to more board “communication research” §2 (section number is based on this document)
  - No query
- Add new language to represent the diversity of the division §4.7
  - No query
- The addition of an Awards Chair §4.8
  - No query
- Formalize the Top Student Papers §9.2
  - Eligibility & Number of top papers
    - Questions from the floor about what student papers are: Student-led vs Student-only (the current proposal is student-only) - ERC researchers might not have the resources to conduct computational research; faculty members might also be authors because they secure the resources. Also in some cultural norms faculty members must be included even for student papers
    - Another question from the floor about students in career transition - The submitter might not be a student anymore at the time of submission. MW clarified that it is defined by when the work was done
    - The general consensus is to change it to “primarily students”, i.e. “Five papers which receive the highest numeric score from peer reviewers and whose authors are all primarily students”
    - Another question from the floor about the number of top papers. A suggestion is to remove the numbers (“1-3”) to provide flexibility
    - A motion is moved by Winson Peng to propose the following two changes to the proposal
      1. “Five papers which receive the highest numeric score from peer reviewers and whose authors are primarily students…”
      2. “The Awards Committee selects top papers,...”
    - Seconded by Wouter van Atteveldt, and unanimously approved
  - Formally establish the roles of International Liaison and SEC Representative §4.8
    - No query
  - Expand the Executive Committee to include the Student and Early Career Representative, the International Liaison and the Awards Chair §5.1.
    - No query

AW announced the call for officer nominations
- Vice Chair (4-year term) and International Liaison (2-year term)
- Elections will take place in fall 2023

AW gave updates from Board meeting
- Open access / open scholarship Task Face
- The current tier system will be reviewed by the new country categorization task force
- Upcoming conferences: 2024 Gold Coast, 2025 Denver, 2026 still open (? South America / Europe)

Other announcements
- Representative from Journal of Communication (Professor Winson Peng, Michigan State University, USA) calls for submissions
- Representative from Journal of Advertising Research (Professor Jisu Huh, University of Minnesota, USA) announced the CfP for the special issue “Computational Advertising Research Methodology”
- Professor Christian Badan announced the COST - OPINION network.
- Professor Daniel Angus (Queensland University of Technology, Australia) invites preconference organizers to consider QUT as the venue next year.

The business meeting ended at 17:50 EDT.

Recorded by: ChC