ICA CAT Online Business Meeting 2021
Minutes

Current elected CAT leadership team (2020-2022)
Chair: Ran Wei, Chinese University of Hong Kong and University of South Carolina
Vice Chair: Caleb T. Carr, Illinois State University
Secretary: Anna Sophie Kümpel, TU Dresden
SEC: Bingjie, Liu, Cal State University-Los Angeles
International Liaison: Natalie Bazarova, Cornell University

Appointed/non-officer CAT leadership
Awards Chair: Joseph B. Walther, University of California – Santa Barbara
Social Media Manager: Katy Pearce, Washington University
Co-Director of Doctoral Consortium: Katy Pearce, Washington University & Jordan Frith, Clemson University

Minutes from the Online Business Meeting 2020 can be found here:
https://www.icahdq.org/members/group_content_view.asp?group=186088&id=631408

Agenda
1. Call to Order & Welcome
2. Chair’s Report
3. Secretary’s Report
4. Vice Chair’s Report
5. Awards
6. Further Reports from the entire CAT team
   a. International Liaison’s Report
   b. SEC Representative’s Report
   c. Social Media Report
   d. Doctoral Consortium Report
7. Thank you & Goodbye

1. Call to Order & Welcome

Ran Wei opens the meeting and welcomes the team and all CAT members.

2. Chair’s Report

Notes from Board of Directors:
- Due to the timing of this meeting, information from ICA HQ about new policies, announcements, next year’s conference, etc. will come later
- ICA BOD virtual meeting is scheduled with an online vote; any announcements will be shared with a post to members
Division Announcement:
- The current leadership has taken over in 2020 (with the secretary serving a special three-year term)
- Joseph B. Walther was selected as the new Awards Chair for two years
- Election of new vice chair scheduled for fall 2021
- CAT 2020 annual report required by ICA has been submitted on April 9, 2021
- Current number of CAT members: 602

3. Secretary’s Report

CAT Budget:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rollover from FY2020 Budget</td>
<td>5,976.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership ($5 per member + $2 subsidy from ICA)</td>
<td>4,788.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional Budget from Discontinued Midyear BOD Meeting</td>
<td>1,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Budget</td>
<td>11,764.06</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Costs</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No costs for Reception</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No costs for Doctoral Consortium</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Waivers for CAT Members in Need (9x $50)</td>
<td>450.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Costs</td>
<td>450.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget minus Costs</td>
<td>11,314.06</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conference Fee Waivers:
In early March, we invited CAT members to apply for conference fee waivers. We wanted to grant up to 20 waivers, but received less applications, which is why the intended prioritization of applications was ultimately not an issue. All members that applied and fulfilled the formal criteria could thus be funded, which was the case for nine CAT members.

4. Vice Chair’s Report

Conference slot allocations:
- Research session slots: 57 (55 paper presentation sessions + 2 panel sessions + 1 student poster session)
- Poster slots: 17
- Co-sponsored sessions: 7
- Division(s)/interest group(s) with which we co-sponsored session(s): Human-Machine Communication; Mobile Communication; Activism, Communication and Social Justice; Organizational Communication; Journalism Studies; Game Studies; Political Communication
- Pre/Post conferences: 0 – CAT Doctoral Consortium was cancelled this year due to pandemic

---

1 Note from Caleb Carr: We have also received a donation from the Underwood Institute (Thank you!), but this was not yet booked when we have received the overview of our budget.
Submissions:
- Paper submissions: 218/287 accepted (75.96% acceptance rate)
- Panel submissions: 2/10 accepted (20% acceptance rate)
- Extended abstract submissions: 43/125 (34.4% acceptance rate)

Review process:
- Paper and abstract review: 301 Reviewers (average # of submission per reviewer: 2)
- Panel review: 1 Reviewer
- Comments on the review process: The system has been improved a lot, and the automated matching of reviewers to papers for the initial pass was helpful. However, keyword matching with reviewer’s expertise continues to be an issue, and no initial assignment of reviewers to panels was problematic (only discovered after review period had closed). Most panel submissions did not meet submission criteria and could be easily screened. Several submitters did not review at all or dropped reviews, and compressed review deadline mid-pandemic was unavoidable but problematic as well.

5. Awards

5a Top Paper/Poster Awards

Big congratulations to this year’s award winners!

Top paper 2021:
- From Flexible labour to “Sticky labour”: A Tracking Study of Workers in the Food-delivery Platform Economy of (China Ping SUN, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, CHINA Julie Chen, U of Toronto, CANADA Uma Amara, International Labour Organization, SWITZERLAND)
- How the Internet got weaponized: Insight from U.S. legislation and Executive Orders (Ada Peter, Covenant U, NIGERIA)
- #authentic? Differences in Users’ State Authenticity Across Instagram Stories and Posts (Rebekka Kreling, Johannes Gutenberg U of Mainz, GERMANY Adrian Meier, U of Amsterdam, NETHERLANDS Leonard Reinecke, Johannes Gutenberg U of Mainz, GERMANY)
- Deepfake and Social Presence: An Experimental Test of Employing False Tags to Reduce Social Presence of Deepfake (Jiyoung Lee, U of Alabama, USA Soo Yun Shin, U of Hawaii at Manoa, USA)

Top student paper 2021:
- Biased by being there: The persuasive impact of spatial presence on cognitive processing (Priska Breves, Julius-Maximilians-Universitat Wurzburg, GERMANY)
- Man vs. Machine: The Impact of Algorithmic Comment Moderation on News Perceptions (Sai Wang, City U of Hong Kong, HONG KONG)
- AI, Don’t Surprise Me and Stay in Your Lane: An Experimental Testing of Perceiving Humanlike Performances of Artificial Intelligence (Joo-Wha Hong, U of Southern California, USA)
• The politics and practices of care in China and South Korea’s quarantine enforcement apps for COVID-19 response (Youngrim Kim, U of Michigan, USA Yuchen Chen, U of Michigan, USA Fan Liang, U of Michigan, USA)

*Top poster 2021:*
• Us vs. Them: Internet memes and construction of (counter)protest identities in Ukraine and Venezuela (J. González Aguilar, Universidad Internacional de La Rioja, Madrid, Madrid, SPAIN; M. Makhortykh, Media and Communication Studies, University of Bern, Bern, SWITZERLAND)

5b CAT Awards

In addition to the conference awards, CAT also awarded the (1) Frederick Williams Prize for Contribution to the Study of Communication and Technology and the (2) Herbert S. Dordick Dissertation Award for an outstanding doctoral dissertation in the field of communication and technology in 2021. The committee for (1) included Ran Wei, S. Shyam Sundar, and Joseph B. Walther. The committee for (2) included Ran Wei, Natalie Bazarova, Jeremy Foote, Nicole Zamanzadeh, and Joseph B. Walther.

(1) The Frederick Williams Prize for Contribution to the Study of Communication and Technology recognizes the major contributions and cumulative achievements of a senior scholar who has advanced the study and the field of communication and technology. In 2021, the Frederick Williams Prize is awarded to James E. Katz from Boston University.

*Notes from CAT Awards Committee Chair Joseph B. Walther:*
Professor James E. Katz is an intellectual trailblazer and preeminent researcher in studies of the social uses and consequences of communication technologies. Beginning in 1988, Jim Katz analyzed communication privacy concerns in a variety of technological contexts as well as impacts of pagers and other mobile communication technology. He studied telephone calls and, using feminist theory, patterns of obscene phone calls.

In 1996, Katz conducted the first-ever US representative national survey comparing users and non-users of the Internet. Katz et al. found that many new relationships were formed via the Internet, and quite contrary to any number of speculative research articles and newspaper editorials of that time, that involvement in online communities increased, rather than decreased, civic participation.

But Jim is not just one of the first major scholars in Communication and Technology: His pioneering work has contributed perpetually, shaping and re-shaping the field as technology morphed and changed. His publications include 21 books—yes, 21—over 160 published, translated, and reprinted articles and chapters. His 2002 book, *Perpetual Contact*, helped develop the field of mobile communication research.

His scholarship is recognized across nations and across disciplines. He holds an honorary doctorate from Budapest University of Economics & Technology, a Fulbright Distinguished Chair, the Ogburn Career Achievement Award from the American Sociological Association, a Distinguished Professorship at Peking University’s School of
New Media, and is a Fellow not only of the ICA but of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, too.

Close to home, he has advanced all our work through his service as CAT Division Chair and editor of *Human Communication Research*. He is also a man of congeniality, wisdom, and soft-spoken good humor.

(2) The Herbert S. Dordick Dissertation Award recognizes the most outstanding doctoral dissertation in the area of communication and technology completed and defended in the preceding year. In 2021, the Herbert S. Dordick Dissertation Award is awarded to **Adrian Meier** from Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU).

*Notes from CAT Awards Committee Chair Joseph B. Walther:*

The committee fielded 10 nominations for the Dordick Dissertation award. One of our committee members remarked, clearly the future of the field is in good hands given the quality of research by our most recent PhDs. Another committee member remarked, “What an impressive collection of dissertations! I was truly impressed by the outstanding work the applicants had accomplished. In fact, I had a very hard time choosing the winner because (they were) very close for me. I consider (many) of them worthy of the ICA CAT Dordick Dissertation award…”

This year’s winner, nevertheless, is Dr. Adrian Meier, and his dissertation, “Do Social Media Make Us (Un)happy? A Communication-Centered Approach.” Dr. Meier currently works in the School of Business, Economics and Society at the Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU) in Germany. He completed his doctorate at the Department of Communication, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, Germany, under the supervision of Prof. Leonard Reinecke.

Despite hundreds of studies, the existing research on the effects of social media on the mental health and well-being offer very few conclusive or actionable insights. Dr. Meier’s thesis develops and tests an alternative, communication-centered approach to answer the questions of whether, why, how, and under which conditions social media can make us (un)happy. The thesis begins with a critical discussion of the existing literature of over 1,300 publications. It then presents a research program spanning six studies, including cross-sectional, experimental, and short-term longitudinal designs.

Dr. Meier credits “A key driver of (his) work was the regular engagement with ICA’s Communication & Technology community...(particularly) from my participation in CAT’s 2017 San Diego Doctoral Consortium.”

I could tell you more about the research but in this case, you can readily read it yourself, as it has already yielded several publications in top journals and handbooks, including Yates & Rice’s *Oxford Handbook of Digital Technology and Society; Communication Research; Cyberpsychology, Behavior, and Social Networking*; the *Journal of Communication*, and *Medien & Kommunikationswissenschaft*. 
6. Further Reports from the entire CAT team

6a International Liaison’s Report

- We have identified supporting existing members from Tier B and C countries as our priority for this year
- To this end, we have created a survey to solicit their perspectives on the unique challenges facing scholars in those countries and support desirable and valuable from our Division
- One of the potential directions we’re currently considering is to create a mentorship program where members from Tier B and C countries are paired up with more established members of our Division to receive support and networking opportunities

6b SEC Representative’s Report

- We worked with SECAC to create the “Finding Your Divisional Home” column in the Jan/Feb ICA newsletter for students and early career scholars
- A number of graduate student and junior scholars expressed their concerns about rising hate crimes against Asians to the SEC; they would like to have the support from ICA with an association-wide statement; the concern was conveyed to ICA leadership
- Suggestions conveyed to SECAC: opportunities for overcoming language barriers for SECs and enhancing collaborative research

6c Social Media Report

- A lot of members and interested parties are engaged on Twitter and Facebook!
- We do weekly “Throwback Thursday” posts and “Teaching Tuesday” posts
- For March (Women’s History Month, International Women’s Day), we highlighted women’s research, which was a hit
- Follow us! @ica_cat on Twitter | icacat on Facebook

6d Doctoral Consortium Report

- After a lot of consideration, we opted again to not do a Doctoral Consortium in 2021 (worries about replicating the intimacy of the DC online; difficulties with time zones)
- Great hope that a DC at ICA 2022 in Paris will be possible!
  - If you are a member with French language skills willing to help communicate with possible venues, please contact Katy Pearce

7. Thank you & Goodbye

Ran Wei closes the meeting and expresses his gratitude in the name of the entire CAT team.