

ICA CAT Business Meeting 2025 Minutes (June 13, 2025, Denver)

Current elected CAT leadership team

Chair: Katy Pearce, University of Washington

Vice Chair: Veronika Karnowski, Chemnitz University of Technology

Secretary: Adrian Meier, FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg

SEC: Yannic Meier, University of Duisburg-Essen

International Liaison: Chrissy Cook, National Chengchi University

Appointed/non-officer CAT leadership

Awards Chair: Ben Detenber

Social Media Manager: Katy Pearce

Doctoral Consortium Directors: Bree McEwan, Brooke Foucault Welles, Anne Oeldorf-Hirsch

Minutes from the Business Meeting 2024 in Gold Coast can be found here:

https://www.icahdq.org/members/group_content_view.asp?group=186088&id=631408

Agenda

1. Chair's Report
2. Secretary's Report
3. Vice Chair's Report
4. International Liaison's Report
5. SEC Representative's Report
6. Doctoral Consortium Report
7. CAT Awards
8. New Business
9. Adjourn

1. Chair's Report

Katy Pearce opens the meeting and welcomes the team and all CAT members; the current CAT leadership team (see above) is briefly introduced. The agenda for the meeting is presented.

Notes from ICA Board of Directors meeting:

- The **budget passed**; it will be posted to ICA website behind the member firewall (search for "budget" on the ICA website)
- The **audit passed**; the auditors gave ICA a full confidence audit
- The **Activism, Communication, and Social Justice (ACSJ)** Interest Group was **elevated to division** status
- The **LGBTQ Studies** Interest Group was **elevated to division** status
- The establishment of a (new) **Science Communication Interest Group passed**.
- A **new ICA-wide IDEA award** was established; details and the nomination process will be added to the website.
- **US\$10,000/year support for IDEA initiatives** passed
- **Three** task forces are now established as **standing committees**:
 - Global Representation and Engagement (GRE)
 - Transformational Professional Growth (TPG)

- Sustainable Resourcing (SR) (→ this is about ICA's financial/economic sustainability)
- **Talking points for ICA26:** [click here to view memo](#) with details
 - 76th Annual Conference will be held in Cape Town, South Africa from June 4 to June 8, 2026:
 - Location: Cape Town International Convention Center and Westin Cape Town, which are connected to each other via an indoor bridge
 - Hotel blocks open first week of March, staggered as usual
 - Costs: includes full buffet breakfast, 15% VAT, 1% tourism levy, free wifi
 - Westin (HQ hotel): R 4800 (+R 400 for extra guest to cover breakfast)
 - Southern Sun Waterfront: R 2995 (+R 300 for extra guest to cover breakfast)
 - Southern Sun The Cullinan: R 3350 (+R 300 for extra guest to cover breakfast)
 - Hotel Sky: R 1675 (+R 300 for extra guest to cover breakfast)
 - (CURRENT exchange rate is R 4800 = 269 USD or 237 Euro)
 - Theme: *Communication and Inequalities in Context* (Planner & President-Elect Ingrid Bachmann, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile)
 - Mode: primarily in person with some virtual options (similar to Denver)
 - Tours: will be offered by ICA together with *Kiff & Culture* (same provider as in Gold Coast)
 - Submissions due 3 November 2025
 - **Link to the ICA25 conference survey:** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ICA25Attendee>. This survey offers you the opportunity to (1) provide feedback on the conference, and (2) help us plan for the 76th Annual ICA Conference in Cape Town, South Africa.

Upcoming ICA Conferences: <https://www.icahdq.org/page/annual-conference>

- ICA26 – Cape Town, South Africa, 4-8 June
- ICA27 – Glasgow, Scotland, UK, June, dates tbd
- ICA28 – Bangkok, Thailand, 15-19 June
- ICA29 – Chicago, Illinois, USA, dates tbd

Conference registration rates

- Following a robust conversation, the **board passed a two-year 5% non-compounding increase in Tier A membership dues** (2025 & 2026, 5% per year). There has not been an increase in member dues in over 10 years; while ICA is healthy financially, this increase keeps up with inflation, compensating for rising operational expenses related to hybridity and the expansion of our international inclusion and access.

Regional Conferences

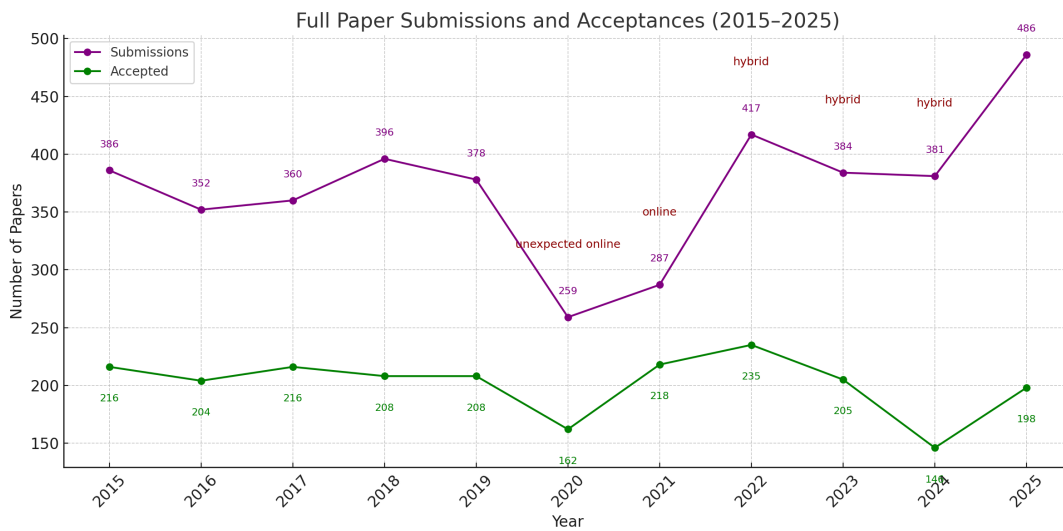
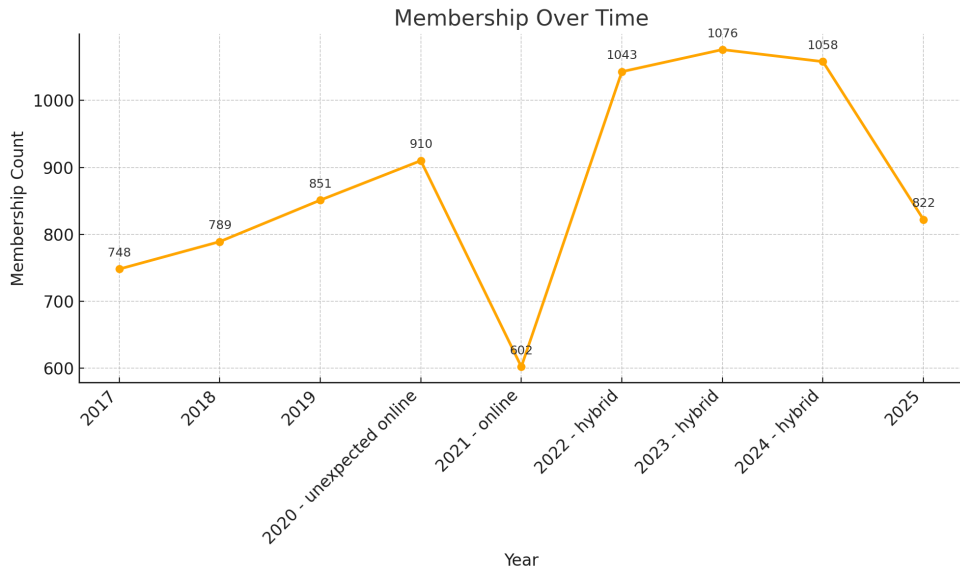
- Late October/early November 2025 (dates tbd) – Hefei (China): *Conference on Diversity and Globalization of Communication Studies in the Age of Artificial Intelligence*
- December 2025 – Lahore (Pakistan): *Conference on Climate and Communication*

Misc. Notes from ICA HQ

- **Publications:** ICA is pleased to announce that its new open-access journal, *Global Perspectives in Communication*, is open for submissions <https://academic.oup.com/gpc> (Launch editor: Nick Bowman)
- **The Link:** ICA HQ says: DIV/IGs will be transitioning away from email to exclusively using *The Link* for member correspondence. Watch the guided introduction on this page: <https://link.icaheadq.org/help/welcome-to-the-link>

Health of CAT:

- Continued thanks to Underwood Institute for their sustained generosity!
- Good health: CAT remains one of the largest ICA divisions, but the move away from hybrid conferences has led to a normalization of membership numbers to pre-pandemic levels; submission numbers are at an all-time high in 2025; number of accepted papers around 200 per year for the past 10 years
 - Membership numbers: 822 CAT members (2024: 1,058; 2023: 1,076; 2022: 1,043)
 - Submissions (full papers only): 486 (2024: 381, 2023: 384, 2022: 417)



2. Secretary's Report

Adrian Meier informs CAT members about the budget of the CAT division:

CAT Budget:

Rollover from FY2024 Budget	14,540.02
Membership (\$5 per member + \$2 subsidy from ICA)	5,754.00
Additional Budget from Discontinued Midyear BOD Meeting	1,000.00
Donation from The Underwood Institute	500.00
CAT Swag Revenue	0.00
Total Budget	21,794.02
Costs for 2025 Reception (no final numbers yet!)	~5,750.33
Costs for Travel Grants	2,750.00
Costs for Doctoral Consortium	250.00
Total Costs	8,750.33
Budget minus Costs	13,043.69

3. Vice Chair's Report

Veronika Karnowski informs CAT members about the conference planning and additional VC activities:

Conference slot allocations:

- 53 research session slots
- 7 co-sponsored sessions
- 3 pre-/post-conferences
- 7 poster slots

Submissions:

- **Paper submissions:** 486/198 accepted (41% acceptance rate)
- **Panel submissions:** 10/3 accepted (30% acceptance rate)
- **Abstracts & Posters:** 166/7 accepted (4% acceptance rate)
- **Research Escalators:** discontinued, not included in 2025 CAT CFP

Some notes on reviewing:

- **Thank you to everybody who reviewed for CAT - especially to those who did extra reviews!**
- ICA policy is that if you submit to a division/IG, you review for that division/IG (with exceptions for exceptional circumstances)
- For the first time, we used a paper bidding system (big thanks to Computational Methods division!), which overall worked quite well
 - 1281 reviewers (average number of submissions per reviewer: 1.9 assigned; 1.8 completed)
- CAT Rockstar Reviewer: Zhiyi Chen (Tsinghua U)

- Some concern around last-minute no-shows at the 2025 conference, Veronika Karnowski is asking panel chairs to send updates about no-shows to monitor this development
- The ScholarOne reviewing system has some challenges → Please help us by setting your keywords appropriately!
 - Division tag first (e.g., Communication & Technology: Romantic relationships)
 - Know that tags do not cross-reference, so even if you told Mass Communication that you have expertise in social network analysis, the system does not use that information for your assignments in other divisions/IGs.
 - Specific > Broad, because the system does not understand that “interpersonal communication” would also likely include “romantic relationships.”

4. International Liaison’s Report

International Liaison Chrissy Cook presents her report:

- CAT has a broad international representation (e.g., 60 countries in 2024)
- [ICA country tiers](#) follow the UN model for A, B, and C countries, based on the World Bank's indicators of Gross National Income
- Differences in Acceptance/Rejection rates:

Table 1.

Acceptance and rejection rates based on submission tier.

	Accepted	Rejected
Tier A	176 (1.61)	319 (-1.09)
Tier B	28 (-2.84)	123 (1.92)
Tier C	1 (-0.46)	4 (0.31)

Note. $X^2(2) = 15.83, p < .001$. Pearson residuals are provided in parentheses.

Table 2.

Type of submissions accepted based on submission tier.

	PhD-Level	Student-Led	Student Only
Tier A	92 (0.47)	64 (-0.46)	20 (-0.13)
Tier B	10 (-1.05)	14 (0.98)	4 (0.40)
Tier C	0 (-0.71)	1 (0.99)	0 (-0.34)

Note. $X^2(4) = 4.28, p = .37$. Pearson residuals are provided in parentheses.

5. SEC Representative’s Report

SEC Representative Yannic Meier presents his report:

- Most submissions to CAT are student-led or student-only!
- Half of acceptances are student-led or student-only!
- Extended abstracts are particularly interesting for SEC scholars, but by far the lowest success rate (2025: 4%)
- Outlook: Webinars
 - Coming soon: webinars for SEC members
 - Soon to be advertised via CAT newsletter/The Link and social media

6. Doctoral Consortium Report

Bree McEwan reports on the 14th CAT/Mobile Doctoral Consortium (DC):

- Co-organizers CAT: Brooke Foucault Welles (Northeastern U), Anne Oeldorf-Hirsch (U of Connecticut)
- Co-organizer Mobile: Will Marler (Tilberg U)
- Local liaison: Hamilton Bean (U of Colorado Denver)
- Great opportunity for doctoral students to develop their research and get valuable feedback from experienced CAT scholars
 - DC in 2024: 22 students & 10 mentors
 - DC in 2025: 15 students & 10 mentors
- Mentors are needed → Goal for 2026 (as in previous years): Improve the diversity of the mentors; big pool of people is needed to match the topics of the students to mentors' expertise
 - so please get in touch if you can imagine being a mentor (no formal commitment needed at this point!) and sign-up when the survey for that comes later this year
 - but: volunteering as a mentor does not mean that you will definitely be called upon to mentor in the DC, depends on topical matching with mentees

7. CAT Awards

Big congratulations to this year's award winners!

- **Top Poster:**
 - Shari Adlung, Friederike Jage-D'Aprile, Claudia Wegener & Matthias Hufgard (Film U Babelsberg, Potsdam): Professional moms on Instagram? An analysis of how momfluencers present themselves in relation to their reach
- **Top Student Papers:**
 - Yichen Zhou (National U of Singapore) & Z. Wu (U of Tokyo): Read, or Not: How Japanese Digital Immigrants and Digital Natives Domesticate LINE and the "Read Receipt" Feature
 - Matthias Van Campenhout, Margot Lissens, & Babette Hermans (U of Antwerp): Young Campaign Consumers: How Generation Z consumes news and acquires current affairs knowledge
 - Andrea Stockinger (U of Vienna): Tackling Online Incivility and Misinformation: A User-Centric Evaluation of Different Content Moderation Strategies
- **Top Papers:**
 - Philipp K. Masur & Emma Diel (Vrije U Amsterdam): The Power of Others: A Qualitative Mixed-Method Study of Norm Adoption and Norm Adherence on Social Media
 - Sonia Kim & Ioana Literat (Columbia U): "Glow Up With Me": Portraits of College Student Life on YouTube
 - Fangjing Tu, Ryan C. Moore, Sunny X. Liu, & Jeff Hancock (Stanford U): General Warnings, Verification Skills, and Social Correction: Differential Effects of Digital Media Literacy Interventions to Combat Misinformation

In addition to the conference awards, CAT also awarded the 2025 (1) Frederick Williams Prize for Contribution to the Study of Communication and Technology and the 2025 (2) Herbert S.

Dordick Dissertation Award for an outstanding doctoral dissertation in the field of communication and technology.

- *Herbert S. Dordick Dissertation Award 2025: Dr. Sarah Lutz* (Chemnitz U of Technology)
 - Dr. Lutz's dissertation titled *Media as a double-edged sword: Investigating its role as a source of and a tool for coping with social exclusion* was outstanding, and the unanimous choice of the committee. As one committee member said, "Lutz's dissertation is thoughtfully structured and grounded in a strong theoretical framework. Drawing on the temporal need-threat model (Williams, 2009), the author examines the dual role of communication technology as both a source of social exclusion and a tool for coping with it. The three empirical studies are well-integrated and clearly aligned with her research question, offering a nuanced understanding of mediated social exclusion and generating valuable theoretical and practical implications."
- *Frederick Williams Prize for Contribution to the Study of Communication and Technology 2025: Prof. Nicole Ellison* (U of Michigan)
 - The committee unanimously decided that we should recognize Dr. Ellison and her extensive accomplishments. As one prior recipient of the award put it, "Nicole B. Ellison is a leading scholar in the field of computer-mediated communication, whose research on social media and online relationships has greatly influenced our understanding of digital interaction. Her widely cited publications demonstrate her significant impact on our field. Within the International Communication Association (ICA), she has shown exceptional commitment, serving as Chair of the Communication and Technology Division and as Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication."

8. New Business

- ICA Elections → 3 CAT executive positions voted on in September 2025 ICA Election
 - New positions to be filled: Vice Chair; Student and Early Career (SEC) Representative; International Liaison
 - 2-year term, beginning at conclusion of ICA26 in Cape Town
 - Please contact Katy or Veronika if interested!
- Changes in Leadership
 - Outgoing Secretary: Adrian Meier (FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg)
 - Incoming Secretary: Ranjana Das (U of Surrey)
- Other new business
 - Katy Pearce opens discussion on whether we should include a vote on the September 2025 ballot about whether CAT should increase its member fees from 5 USD currently to 6 or 7 USD starting with ICA26; last increase in CAT member fees was in 2019 from then 3 USD to 5 USD; inflation in recent years is increasing reception costs, eating away at the CAT budget; current budget is fine given solid rollover from previous years (savings from online-only Covid-19 years)
 - Q by Doug Parry: Is the fee increase mainly to finance the reception?
 - Katy: Currently, member fees cover our reception costs, but travel grants and doctoral consortium are financed through our savings, not sustainable

- Doug Parry points out that at ICA26 in Cape Town, drinks might be cheaper than in 2025
- Katy responded that hotel catering is often pretty standard globally, so while bars/restaurants may be cheaper in Cape Town, it is difficult to know what the hotel situation will look like
- Caleb Carr asks whether it is worth to wait for two years until the ICA-wide membership fee increase has set in to see whether that will improve the division budget (e.g., though higher division subsidies from ICA)?
- Ben Detenber points out that a 2 USD increase in CAT member fees is relatively small in comparison to the 5% increase in ICA member fees for Tier A countries
- Bree McEwan points out that the DC will likely require 500 USD instead of previous 250 USD in 2025 and expects higher costs for a location in 2026 as well
- A member suggests that maybe a voluntary donation model by Tier A members could be a solution
 - Katy notes that this is difficult to do with ICA's online payment system, without setting up some sort of fund to donate too, but we can look into this.
- A member suggests that we could reduce the number of drink tickets at the reception or quit giving out tickets entirely
- Caleb Carr points out that for young scholars, a 2 USD fee increase is preferable to having to buy drinks at the reception on their own budget (prices for a glass of wine/beer are much higher)
- Katy Pearce points out that the need for travel grants will likely increase in the future, so the division might want to be able to spend money on that in the future
- Doug Parry suggests that members might want to choose whether their fees go to the reception vs. to travel grants
- Katy gives an update on the proposed "Cliff Nass Article Award for best article in communication and technology in an ICA journal"; award will begin accepting donations to begin an endowment soon.
 - Please speak with Robby Ratan, Shyam Sundar, Kwan Min Lee, or Katy Pearce for details.
 - Further information is forthcoming, but if you're possibly interested, please fill out this form to *Support the ICA/CAT Cliff Nass Award Fund*: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfK_WC-qNL1hdf8Jz0HEbzIj9T3t1tPW3rz4QruzGU5ODMLAQ/viewform
 - Robby Ratan explains that the goal is to collect 25,000 USD which then goes to an ICA endowment; returns on that go to the award that is given out each year (likely a couple of hundred USD, which will go to the recipient)

9. Adjourn

The meeting is adjourned.