

Annual Report to the International Communication Association

(i) For the ICA Board Meeting, May 2017

(ii) For the ICA Annual Report, May 2017

Division/Interest Group: **Game Studies**

Chair: **Nick Bowman**

Vice chair: **Julia Kneer**

Report

*200 words: to include commentary on trends in membership numbers/**diversity**, past year's activities (including the annual conference), any prizes awarded, plans for the year ahead, issues to be raised in the coming year*

Note that in the January 2008 board meeting, it was agreed to accept the Internationalisation Committee's recommendation that divisions also include, in their annual reports and at board meetings, an accounting of their efforts to achieve higher levels of international membership (e.g., number of non-US reviewers, number of awards given to scholars from outside US, officers elected from non-US countries, or special outreach initiatives undertaken to increase the international character of the division).

Please also note that in the January 2016 board meeting, the board approved the addition to this report of information regarding each Division/Interest Group's submission practices (e.g. abstracts vs. full papers) and the implication of those practices.

In our second year as a Division, GSD remains both strong and growing.

On social media, our Twitter handle @ICAGames has 1052 followers as of 3 April 2017, up nearly 250 followers from this point last year. Our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/icagames/>) has 714 likes, up just over 200 from this time last year.

For ICA17 San Diego, we continued our "Best Reviewer" and "Graduate Student Flashlight" programs. As with last year, we were very strict on formal submission guidelines (such as a hard 25-page limit) with no one expressing negative feedback – we also used a short pre-survey of our reviewers to better match papers and reviewers, with positive feedback from both; authors and reviewers. We will be hosting our fifth consecutive pre-conference at Barra Barra Saloon on May 25, and 16 total papers were programmed (out of 20 submitted). Anna Huerta of Zynga Games and Sebastian Deterding of University of York will be keynote speakers at the pre-conference. Tine Vyvey (U of Gent, Belgium) did a fantastic job designing visuals and marketing content for us.

We're also hosting our second annual "Scholar-to-Scholar Office Hours" at the main conference, coordinated by Jesse Fox, Ohio State University, where we pair up senior scholars with graduate student and early career scholars to discuss research and scholarship in an informal setting.

A joint reception is planned (with sponsorship from the Underwood Institute) at the Quad Ale House in Gaslamp District (in conjunction with Information Systems, Communication and Biology, and Computational Methods). This is also the final year of Nick Bowman's (West Virginia U, USA) term as Chair, with Julia Kneer (Erasmus U Rotterdam, Netherlands) assuming the role and Robby Ratan (Michigan State U, USA) assuming the position of Vice-Chair.

As for the ICA17 paper competition itself, 86 papers and 6 panel proposals were submitted to GSD for the 2017 paper competition (58 empirical papers, 5 poster proposals, 12 theory papers, 9 flashlights, one without pdf-file and one was withdrawn before the review process started). 77 papers and 5 panel proposals were competitively reviewed. 54 papers (70%, lowest average score of 3.20) accepted. 23 of these papers had authors from non-US institutions (7 students), 31 had authors from US (16 student). Two panels were programmed. Five papers to the Scholar-to-Scholar (poster) plenary sessions. 70 total reviewers were used, 28 students (10 from non-US institutions) and 42 faculty (16 from non-US institutions); students reviewed three papers each, faculty reviewed at most 5 papers each. Each paper was reviewed by at least one student and one faculty. All submissions got three reviews (besides three papers only got two reviews). Of all 228 reviews, only 8 had no written comments.

Top paper awards were given to nine scholars (in order):

Jaime Banks (West Virginia University), Jih-Hsuan Lin (National Cheng-Chi University), Daniel Pietschmann (Chemnitz University of Technology), Nicholas David Bowman (West Virginia University); Maxwell Foxman (Columbia University); and Eric James (Northwestern University, best student paper)

Top poster award was given to: Jessica McCain (University of Georgia)

Conference fee waivers were extended to Anna Huerta (Zynga Games, keynote speaker pre-conference), Sebastian Deterding (University of York, speaker pre-conference) and Lena Frischlich (University of Muenster, best reviewer). GSD will also reimburse the conference fee of the graduate student Flashlight winner (to be determined at the conference itself, via audience vote).