

Minutes for ICA Game Studies Division Business meeting – 22 May 2015

Led by: James Ivory (Chair, Outgoing at end of conference) and Nick Bowman (Vice-Chair, incoming Chair after conference)

1. CALL TO ORDER – James D. Ivory (Chair)

2. MINUTES

- a. A motion to approve the 2014 Game Studies business meeting minutes as distributed to members via email prior to the conference was approved.

3. CHAIR'S REPORT—James D. Ivory (Chair)

a. Game Studies News

- i. This is the 10th anniversary of Game Studies at ICA after its founding at a meeting held at the 2005 conference in New York.
- ii. After a decade as an interest group since its founding in 2005, Game Studies was recognized with division status prior to the conference after maintaining a membership of more than 200 for three consecutive years.

b. ICA News

- i. ICA's financial status was reported as healthy at the 2015 Board of Directors meeting prior to the conference. Expenses from the Seattle conference in 2014 and building depreciation influenced a decline in the bottom line during the previous year, but the trend is positive for the organization.
- ii. ICA's assets are around 4m USD, liabilities 1m USD.
- iii. ICA projects possible decline in attendance at the 2016 conference in Fukuoka, which may have implications for Game Studies as the organization now requires membership of 5% of total ICA membership for division status and our division's membership vacillates slightly with conference attendance.
- iv. 42% of ICA income is publications, which are only 5% of expenses (100K out, 951K in). The conference breaks even financially at best, so the journals subsidize a lot of other activities. (i.e., most journals bring in 150-200K/year).
- v. 2015 conference-wide acceptance rate is 44.4%, a 10% (percentage points) increase from 2014. There were more than 3000 paper submissions, and 270+ panel submissions.

4. CONFERENCE REPORT—Nicholas D. Bowman (Vice Chair)

- a. 84 papers were submitted to Game Studies for the 2015 paper competition, 44 from students and 40 from faculty. Of these, 47 were programmed (56% acceptance rate). Of accepted papers, 30% had an author from an institution outside the United States.
- b. Three panel proposals were submitted. Of these, 1 was accepted.
- c. There were 84 reviewers, 31 of whom were students (6 non-U.S.) and 51 of whom were faculty (32 non-U.S.). Students were assigned 3 papers each; faculty 3 or 4.
- d. Top paper award winners were: 1) Jesse Fox & Wai Yen Tang; 2) Joshua Clark (student); 3) Sophie Waterloo (student) & Jeroen Lemmens; 4) Malte Elson, James Ivory, & Jens Vogelgesang. Top poster awards were given to: 1) Zongyuan Wang, Brittany Diff,

& Junle Qian; 2) Tobias Hopp. Conference fee waivers were extended to Joshua Clark, Jose Aviles, and Arienne Ferchaud.

5. ICA 2016 CONFERENCE PREVIEW—Peng Hwa Ang (ICA President Elect-Select)
 - a. Ang visited the division’s meeting briefly on behalf of the ICA executive committee and shared information about the conference. Points of emphasis were the affordability of lodging, food, and transportation in Fukuoka (with detailed examples) and the position of Fukuoka some distance south and west of the site of the Fukushima reactor tragedy.
5. PRECONFERENCE REPORT—Daniel Pietschmann (Preconference Co-Organizer)
 - a. For the third consecutive year, Game Studies held a preconference event featuring competitively-selected papers (as well as a preconference event with invited speakers in 2012). The event was held 21 May at the University of Puerto Rico. This year’s theme was “Gaming Bodies.”
 - b. Preconference sponsors were: University of Puerto Rico, School of Public Communication; University of Southern California, Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism; University of Muenster, Department of Communication; Northeastern University, Department of Communication Studies & PLAIT Lab; West Virginia University, Department of Communication Studies; Michigan State University, Department of Media & Information; European Research Council.
 - c. Along with three invited opening speakers, presentations included 11 research reports, 6 research posters, and 3 game demonstrations.
6. INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH LIAISON REPORT—Malte Elson (International Outreach Liaison)
 - a. Elson has been in contact with ICA leadership about the new position, one of two mandated by the ICA executive committee, but no formal duties have been assigned. Elson noted that he continues to exist.
7. GRADUATE STUDENT/EARLY CAREER SCHOLAR LIAISON REPORT—Elizabeth Newbury (Graduate Student/Early Career Scholar Liaison)
 - a. Newbury continues to remain in this role, also mandated by the ICA executive committee, and there has been correspondence but limited formal duty thus far.
8. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. Daniel Pietschmann accepted a nomination for the two-year position of division secretary to replace outgoing secretary Rachel Kowert. The election for the position will be held through 15 October along with all other ICA elections. (Another nomination from the floor was declined post hoc.)
 - b. Ideas for the 2016 Fukuoka conference were discussed. Teresa Lynch agreed to lead a task force to arrange a preconference event for the 2016 conference.
 - c. Ivory noted the need to formalize the contributions of Jesse Fox to the division’s communication and social media efforts with a named office.
 - d. Fox was thanked for her organization of “office hours” for informal conversations with Game Studies members. The successful event, which earned the attention of ICA leadership, will be continued in 2016.

- e. Upon request, former ICA Game Studies chair John Sherry spoke briefly about the history of the division and its rationale, accomplishments, and goals, and acknowledged contributors throughout the group's ten-year history.
 - f. Incoming National Communication Association Game Studies division chair Jaime Banks introduced the division and invited participation from ICA Game Studies members.
 - g. Incoming chair Nicholas Bowman and incoming vice chair Julia Kneer were welcomed,
 - h. Elson prepared a "lobhudelei" (loosely translates to an over-the-top praising speech to the point of excess) recognizing outgoing chair Ivory, possibly with tongue in cheek and featuring sufficiently entertaining and embarrassing visual aids.
9. OLD BUSINESS
- a. No old business was raised from the floor.
10. ADJOURNMENT
- a. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by James Ivory, chair. (Secretary Kowert was unable to attend the meeting.)