

ICA Games Studies Interest Group

Business Meeting, Sunday May 29 2011, 4:30pm - 5:4pm, Boston

Present: Dmitri Williams (incoming chair, chairing the meeting on behalf of present chair John Sherry who could not attend due to a family emergency), Jim Ivory (incoming vice-chair), Tilo Hartmann (secretary), and the following members of the GSIG: Ratan, Kahn, Li, Tanes, Malliet, Ribbens, Newbury, Reich, Shaffer, Haagsma, Joeckel, Bouwman, Wohn, Downs, Neys, Jansz.

TOP 1 Report on next ICA by Michael Haley

- Next ICA will be held in Phoenix, Arizona, May 22-26.
- Theme "Communication and Community".
- New format: Each division and interest group will feature on double-session. (Ideas how to fill this session for the GSIG are welcome).
- New rule: Each author may only appear on a maximum of 5 submissions (fullpapers, panels). Acting as a chair or respondent not included.
- Ideas about speakers that may be invited to talk about immigration issues, human rights, and communication are welcome.
- This year's virtual conference seemed a success; many comments on online papers. Access to virtual conference was difficult due to restricted online access in hotel, unclear login data. Will be continued next year.
- Upcoming locations: Phoenix- 2012, London- 2013, Seattle- 2014, San Juan Puerto Rico- 2015, Fukuoka, Japan- 2016

TOP 2 Approval of 2010 minutes of last year's business meeting

- Minutes were approved.

TOP 3 Chair's Report (reported by Dmitri Williams)

- Facts about GSIG at this year's ICA: The interest group received 72 paper and 8 panel submissions for the Boston conference, an increase of 27 total submissions over last year. Despite the increase in submissions, fewer meeting slots were provided this year (7 meeting slots, plus a virtual session). The GSIG was able to program 31 papers, 2 panels, and 5 posters for an acceptance rate of 47.5%. Thanks go to all the paper reviewers for their excellent work.

- o Four top-paper awards were granted.
- o GSIG was singled out for innovative approach in virtual session (stand-alone live video broadcast, slides + chat).
- GISG at Phoenix and other future ICA conferences
 - o More high-density panels are likely to cover the increase in submissions
 - o Any ideas about inviting organizations, interest groups, etc. related to video games and based in Phoenix are welcome.

TOP 4 New business

- GSIG preconference at Phoenix
 - o Discussion of potential ideas for a preconference that may take place next year in Phoenix. Suggestions included:
 - § Lessons learnt about video games in past GSIG research, general video games research
 - § “Best practices” of video game research
 - § Celebrating the 5th anniversary of GSIG
 - § Present video game research to a broader public
 - § Exploring and learning from video game design (workshop)
 - § Links to other divisions: Gaming and children, gaming and advertisement
 - o Ratan, Tanes, Bouwman, and Wohn volunteered in further discussing and specifying plans for a preconference together with the GSIG chairs.
- Nomination of GSIG secretary
 - o Two nominees were suggested for the position: Rabindra (Robby) Ratan, USC (moving to Michigan St.) and Joyce Neys (Erasmus University Rotterdam).
 - o Other nominations may be suggested via email to Dmitri Williams by June 10 (dcwillia@usc.edu).
 - o Election takes place end of June 2011.
- Membership for division status
 - o Currently around 195.
 - o GSIG needs 200 (for two years) to get division status.

- New positions

- o Dmitri Williams will be new chair of the GSIG, James Ivory was elected as new vice-chair. Many thanks go to past chair John Sherry for his excellent job in leading the GSIG through the past years!

Top 5 Business “from the floor”

- Some papers covering games research were submitted to other divisions at this year’s ICA, this may reduce visibility of GSIG

- o People that presented game research this year in other divisions may be contacted.

- o Topic may be addressed at ICA’s general business meeting.

- o Online submission should feature a checkbox indicating an author’s preferred second division in case a re-shuffling of the program takes place.

- Unlike planned, the GSIG did not feature a sticker for the badge on this year’s ICA conference. It is planned for next year. James (Ivory) appreciates suggestions for students that may design such a sticker.

- It is suggested to increase the communication with GSIG members in the time between ICA conferences. Members should stay informed about the activities of other GSIG members. For this purpose, Twitter, Facebook, and other online tools may be used. Contents, however, should not duplicate the GSIG listserv. This job may be carried out by the secretary. It is planned to formalize this task. Nick (Bouwman) volunteered to assist the new secretary in setting up appropriate online tools.

- Reviewers did a good job evaluating conference submission in the past; however, they are encouraged to write down more information in their reviews. Jim (Ivory) checks if the instructions for reviewers at the online submission site may be further improved

(e.g., "comments are optional" --> "it would be helpful to add additional comments").

- In addition, the evaluation criteria will be explicitly mentioned at the time of submission.