

Journalism Studies Division Business Meeting (ICA 2017)

Minutes from the business meeting at the 2017 annual convention of ICA, San Diego, USA
26 May 2017

1. Opening

Chair Henrik Örnebring opens the annual business meeting of the Journalism Studies Division.

2. ICA Board Meeting highlights

- ICA to do away with mid-year Board Meeting (move to Thursday preceding the conference instead)
- Annals of the ICA now live
- New Interest Group on Activism, Communication and Social Justice
- 3 042 registered participants at the San Diego conference (The Fukuoka conference 2016 had 2 394 preregistrations, and was one of the largest conferences ever)
Update: Official attendance was 3 367
- Future conference sites: Prague (2018), Washington D.C. (2019), Gold Coast, Australia (2020), Denver (2021), Europe TBD (2022), Toronto (2023). Future conferences will be scheduled around Memorial Day.

Preview: ICA 2018 annual conference in Prague will be held from **24-28 May 2018**. Patricia Moy dropped by later to inform the meeting about the next year's conference venue and theme ("[Voices](#)").

3. Journalism Studies Division News

Budget: The Division budget comes from membership dues. Most of the budget goes toward the Journalism Studies Division reception and the Division awards.

2017 budget: \$4 165 (down about \$500 from 2016)

- Top 2 student papers: \$350
- Journalism Studies reception: \$4 000
- To add: sponsorship from Sage & Routledge \$1 050

Membership: The Journalism Studies Division has 582 members as of 08/2016 (→ down about 50 from 2015). It is the 4th largest Division of ICA (down from 3rd).

4. Conference paper and panel competitions

Submissions: The Journalism Studies Division received 256 papers (2016: 258) and 24 panel proposals (2016: 20) for the 2017 conference.

Acceptance rate:

- 48% for papers (123)
 - 52% for faculty (96)
 - 38% for students (27)
- 46% for panels (11)

The Division was allotted 35 sessions and 15 poster slots. The number of papers the division can accept depends on the number of slots allocated to the Division by the Association. Since 2017, the Association allocates slots submission based, not division member based.

For the fourth time in a row, the Division had triple blind review. This means we need around 200 reviewers to get through the papers. The actual figures for the 2016/17 review process: 173 reviewers reviewed 5-6 papers on faculty-level, students reviewed 1-3 papers. Many thanks go to all those who signed up to review, and many thanks in advance go to all those who are willing to review for the 2018 conference. If you submit a paper, please consider volunteering for reviews, too.

4. Division news

Positions: Many thanks to outgoing Secretary Helle Sjøvaag! Also, many thanks to outgoing Graduate Student Representative Raul Ferrer Conill, and hello to new Graduate Student Representative Natacha Yazbeck!

New positions:

- A new Vice Chair will be elected in the fall (2 + 2 term: 2 years of Vice Chairing, 2 years of Chairing the Division)
- A new International Liaison Manager will be elected in the fall (2-year term)
- A new Graduate Student Representative will be elected in the fall (1-year term)

More information about these positions will be distributed through the newsletter. Anyone interested in either serving as Vice Chair, International Liaison Manager or Graduate Student Representative, please contact the Division Chair or Vice-Chair.

Facebook Group

The Division has now a Facebook group ("Journalism Studies Division ICA"). If you are not a member yet, you are warmly welcome to join. The group allows for self-initiated pushing of information (such as calls for applicants, calls for papers, etc.), but will not replace the regular newsletters sent out by the Chair. So no worries: If you are not registered on Facebook, you will stay in the loop.

5. Graduate student colloquium preconference

The Graduate student colloquium preconference was organized by Raul Ferrer Conill. It had been organized for the third time, and again was a great success. The Division leadership recommends to continue with this format, and to keep the round table as a part of it. Many thanks to Raul for his outstanding job in fundraising for the colloquium!

The call circulated in fall 2016. The organizers received 29 submissions from 11 countries (9 China, 7 US, 2 Germany, 2 Israel, 2 Norway 2 Kenya, 1 Sweden, 1 Hong Kong, 1 The Netherlands, 1 Denmark, 1 Portugal). Henrik Örnebring, Keren Tenenboim-Weinblatt, Raul Ferrer Conill, and Natacha Yazbeck reviewed all submissions. 17 participants were accepted.

Many thanks go to the following people who served as respondents: Erik Albaek, Valerie Belair-Gagnon, Mark Deuze, Stephanie Craft, Stephen Cushion, Anders Olof Larsson, Nikki Usher, Seth C. Lewis, Claudia Mellado, Mette Mortensen, Chris Peters, Zvi Reich, Helle Sjøvaag, Steen Steensen, Jesper Strömbäck, Edson Tandoc, and Tim Vos.

Special thanks go to Tara Pixley and Natacha Yazbeck for helping with the organization. Further, Raul updated the preconference website from 2016: Please find more information about and a documentation of the preconference 2017 on <http://ica-phd-colloquium.news>.

Special thanks go to the preconference donors:

- University of Oregon, School of Journalism and Communication
- University of British Columbia Graduate School of Journalism
- Nanyang Technological University
- Karlstad University
- Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism at the University of Oxford
- LMU Munich
- University of Missouri School of Journalism
- Hong Kong Baptist University
- University of Bergen
- Cardiff University
- USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism
- University of Minnesota School of Journalism and Mass Communication
- Boston University College of Communication
- Sage
- Routledge

Raul Ferrer Conill raised approx. \$3 000 to help cover the event.

6. Information and Discussion Items

6.1 Fall elections: The division will elect a new Vice Chair, International Liaison Manager and Student Representative in the fall. Please contact the Chair or the Vice Chair of the current representatives if you are interested or have any questions about the positions.

6.2 Accept submissions of extended abstracts/book chapters for ICA conferences?

Nikki Usher raised this point. She gave some background information on her suggestion: First, she has the impression that the review process is more in favor of 'journal style' submissions, and does not really support book-oriented work. Second and related to that, the ICA deadline is far from the date of the presentation, so that accepted papers for ICA might already have passed the review processes of efficient journals. In such cases, the ICA full paper is already published by the time the paper is presented. Nikki wanted to hear if the division was open for the submission of extended abstracts, to present ideas rather than 'finished work.' She highlighted that preconferences usually decide abstract based and manage to get good quality submissions/presentations, too.

Some "yes!" were heard throughout the room, but also some concerns were raised: Christian Baden remarks that the ICA changed the rules and allocates slots based on the number of submissions (see above). He fears that divisions could start to participate in a race for slots and that this threatens the submissions' and panels' quality. Michael Brügge-mann shares these concerns and warns that accepting abstracts would lead to too many submissions of lower standards in comparison to 'full papers only'. Stephanie Craft reminds of a special session at a previous ICA, which was based on extended abstracts. She said that the session went quite well, but the selection process produced some irritation for the review process in general (e.g., do extended abstracts compete separately or with

the full papers?). Further, Chris Anderson remarks that panel submissions allow for submitting abstracts.

Henrik Örnebring reminds that ultimately, the Program Planner (Vice Chair) has to decide whether or not s/he allows for the submission of extended abstracts. Keren Tenenboim-Weinblatt (2017 Program Planner) mentions that book chapters can be submitted and marked as book chapters, but sees that review criteria may need revision to better fit to this type of submission. Her opinion on the extended abstracts is to keep the full papers since she also sees that this is *the* strength of the ICA conference. Another problem (which would be solvable) is that the review process through All Academic does not fully accommodate abstracts.

Frank Esser suggests taking an online survey that outlines both pros and cons, and serves to collect and aggregate the opinions of the division members. Thankfully, he volunteered to set up this online survey.

6.3 ICA Journalism Studies Encyclopedia Project

Tim Vos and Folker Hanusch will serve as Editors in Chief for the official journalism studies encyclopedia of the International Communication Association: *International Encyclopedia of Journalism Studies* (Wiley-Blackwell). The inspiration stems from the ICA Encyclopedia published in the 1990ies. The project serves to reflect the intellectual diversity and vitality of the Division in terms of approaches, countries of origin, gender, etc. It will contain important concepts in the field. Annika Sehl (Oxford U, UK), Margaretha Geertsema-Sligh (Butler U, USA), and Dimitra Dimitrakopoulou (Aristotle U, GR) will serve as Associate Editors.

Henrik Örnebring points to the fact that Tim Vos and Folker Hanusch are editing the official ICA Encyclopedia while he is editing a friendly competitor: *The Journalism Studies Encyclopedia* published by Oxford University Press.

6.4 Ethical considerations of social media use during ICA conferences

Since more and more colleagues use Twitter at conferences, the dissemination of content of others (e.g., pictures of slides, phrases used by presenters, etc.) becomes a topic the Association needs to converse about. Thus, the ICA set up a task force chaired by Lee Humphreys (CAT). The task force gave the following recommendations at the ICA Board Meeting 2017, and the board will discuss these more thoroughly at the 2018 meeting:

- Presenters could inform their audience about their position beforehand
- A checkbox could be added to the submission process so that a “shareable” presentation can be marked in the program (e.g. by a Twitter bird next to the title)
- Divisions/IGs could decide to opt-in or opt-out of shareability (individuals could then include an icon on each slide regarding their shareability status, if deviating from Division/IG standard)
- Chairs could check in with presenters before the sessions regarding their shareability and make a statement about it at the start of the session.

6.5 Report on Review Satisfaction Survey

Key results of the survey were presented by Tanja Aitamurto on behalf of the Review Satisfaction Survey Committee (consisting of Tanja Aitamurto, Peter Van Aelst, and Fen Lin).

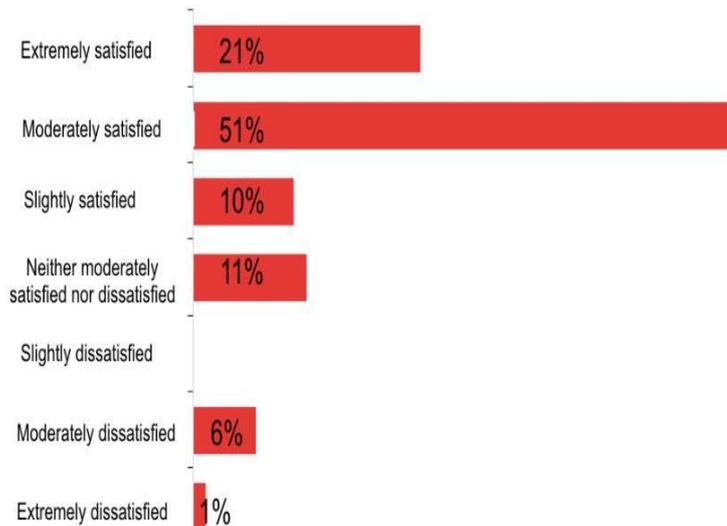
Summary:

- 103 responses (27% response rate, n=385)

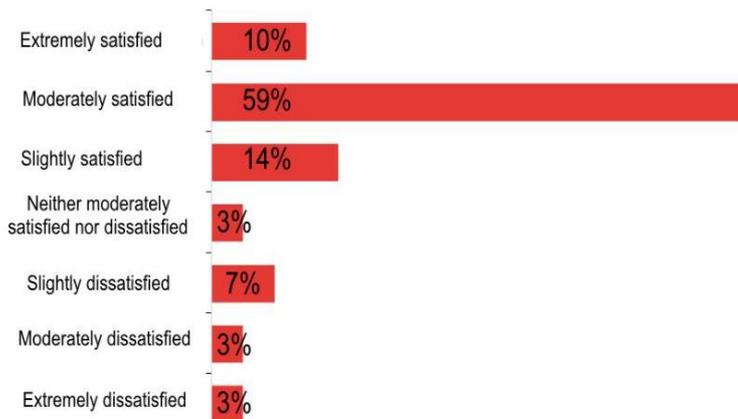
- Results: Satisfaction with the review system is high (80%), but there is room for improvement. Many ideas to improve the system were proposed.

A more detailed look at the answers by items:

- Item: *“How satisfied are you with the paper review system at JS Div?”*



- Item: *“How satisfied are you with the panel review system at JS Div?”*



- Main problems with reviews:
 - The reviewers do not provide sufficient justification for their scores (“Strongly agree” to “Somewhat agree”: 62%)
 - The reviews lack constructive suggestions for improving the paper (59%)
 - There are too many papers for each reviewer to review (46%)
 - Variation of review quality (“lottery”): “Quality is quite diverse; some reviews are extensive and elaborated, others are rather brief (one word or sentence only).”
- Ideas for improvement:
 - Acknowledging the reviewers who write outstanding reviews (88%), e.g. “Best Reviewer Award”
 - Publishing instructions for writing good reviews (84%)
 - Asking for a commitment from paper submitters to reviewing papers (81%)

[NB: This will gradually be implemented by ICA centrally]

- Having faculty and senior researchers mentor students with reviewing (79%), e.g. similar to [CHI](#)
- “Reviewer review:” Assess quality of reviewers systemically or sporadically to guarantee justifications for the scores?
- Institute a minimum word count for review?
- Improve paper/reviewer matching [NB: This is already being done*]
- Manage expectations? → conference reviews cannot be as comprehensive as journal reviews

*Keren Tenenboim-Weinblatt and Christian Baden developed an algorithm that helps matching reviewers to papers. This algorithm was applied for the matching in 2016, and will be available to help future program planners, too.

Matt Carlson wonders how to implement a “best reviewer” award.

Keren Tenenboim-Weinblatt feels that the program planner would have a good sense for making nominations. The process could be a combination of nominations and the program planner’s information/impression.

Henrik Örnebring informs that the full report on the survey will be available soon. In sum, respondents made some very good suggestions for improvements.

7. Division Awards

7.1 Gene Burd Outstanding Dissertation in Journalism Studies Award

The Outstanding Dissertation Award goes to

Rachel Mourão, University of Texas at Austin: “From Mass to Elite Protests: How Journalists Covered the 2013 and 2015 Demonstrations in Brazil”

“The reviewers found the dissertation to be sophisticated and nuanced in its analysis of the changing journalism landscape. Dr. Mourão's work was supervised by Stephen D. Reese at the The University of Texas at Austin. Her dissertation uses a media sociology approach to untangle how multiple influences shaped journalistic coverage of two waves of protests in Brazil. In 2013, small demonstrations against bus fares evolved into a series of large protests expressing generalized dissatisfaction with conditions in the country. Following the reelection of center-leftist Dilma Rousseff, another wave of protests returned in 2015, this time with a clear agenda: the removal of the President. Communication research has long examined the ‘protest paradigm,’ a pattern of news coverage that legitimized social movements. The study departs from an understanding of protest coverage as paradigmatic towards a more complex view of the relationship between protesters and the press. The analysis helps elucidate the conditions under which the protest paradigm fails and how favorable coverage can occur. The experience of Brazil shows that when an elite opposition supports protests, journalistic norms and routines validate demonstrations, regardless of journalists’ own attitudes.”

The award worth \$1 000 USD is sponsored by the Urban Communication Foundation and was presented by Committee Chair Adrienne Russell. As committee members served David Domingo, Folker Hanusch, Francis Lee, Mervi Pantti, and Sue Robinson

An honorary mention goes to the 2017 finalist

Rodrigo Zamith, University of Minnesota: “Editorial Judgment in an Age of Data: How Audience Analytics and Metrics are Influencing the Placement of News Products”

“[A] theoretically sophisticated exploration of the extent to which audience analytics—i.e., digital metrics that track the preferences of users based on click behaviors—appear to affect news content.”

7.2 Wolfgang Donsbach Outstanding Journal Article of the Year

The Outstanding Journal Article award goes to

Matt Carlson, St Louis University: Metajournalistic discourse and the meanings of journalism: Definitional control, boundary work, and legitimation. *Communication Theory*, 26(4), 349-368 (2016).

- *“This article makes a highly significant contribution to journalism studies on a theoretical level by providing a framework for analyzing and understanding metajournalistic discourses in relation to its role in the definitions, boundary control and legitimization of journalism in society. The paper is lucidly written, drawing on a wide range of literature making a substantial contribution to how we can understand journalism. Most importantly, it emphasizes how this model can be applied in the study of journalism over time and space, thus making it universally applicable.”*
- *“Compelling and exceptionally well-written article outlining of key concepts for studying metajournalistic discourses and the authority of journalism, and setting out a new research agenda – set to make a significant contribution to scholarship.”*
- *“Integrates diverse literatures in journalism studies beautifully, around a nicely explicated original concept of metajournalistic discourse, which persuasively justifies the field’s focus on meanings of journalism.”*

The award was presented by Committee Chair Karin Wahl-Jorgensen.

As committee members served Laura Ahva, Cherian George, Folker Hanusch, and Claudia Mellado

An honorary mention goes to the 2017 finalist

Julia Lück, Antal Wozniak, & Hartmut Wessler, University of Mannheim: Networks of coproduction: How journalists and environmental NGOs create common interpretations of the UN climate change conferences. *The International Journal of Press/Politics*, 21(1), 25-47 (2016).

- *“Systematic analysis of the relationship between journalism and PR that recognizes that neither of these fields are monolithic, and that multiple dynamics co-exist between them.”*
- *“An excellent paper that deals with the interrelations between journalists and communication practitioners from environmental NGOs. It contributes in particular to transnational media studies and to our understanding of some key determinants for the formation of journalist-NGO networks. The empirical basis is an impressive 78 in-depth interviews. “*
- *“Extensive interview-based study which, through careful and systematic analysis, sheds light on the relationship between journalism and PR practitioners in the context of the COP meetings, but also provides broader insights into this relationship of value to the field.”*

The committee received 7 nominations, representing 6 journals: *Communication Theory*, *Digital Journalism*, *International Journal of Press/Politics*, *Journalism*, *Journalism Studies*, *New Media & Society*

7.3 Top 3 Student Paper Award Winners

The awards go to

Yigal Godler, Ben Gurion University of the Negev: “The birth of facts in the news.”

Kirsten Van Camp, University of Antwerp: “Issue-specific newsworthiness: The impact of individual specialization and party issue ownership on news coverage of MPs.”

Raul Ferrer Conill, Karlstad University: “The datafication of newswork: The use of metrics and gamification to motivate journalists.”

7.4 Top 3 Faculty Paper Award Winners

The awards go to

Marc Ziegele & Oliver Quiring, Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz: “The Discussion Value of Online News: How News Story Characteristics Affect the Deliberative Quality of User Discussions in SNS Comment Sections.”

Lei Guo & Chris Vargo, University of Colorado – Boulder: “Global Agenda Setting: A Big Data Analysis of International News Flow.”

Claudia Mellado, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso & **Arjen van Dalen**, University of Southern Denmark: “The Changes in Journalistic Role Performances in a Transitional Democracy Explained. A Cross-Longitudinal Study of Chilean Journalism between 1990 and 2011.”

7.5 Top Poster Award

Selected based on paper reviewer scores:

Soomin Seo, Temple University: “Covering the Hermit Regime: A Comparison of North Korea Coverage at the AP and NK News.”

7.6 IJPP Book Award

The “International Journal of Press/Politics” Book Award goes to

Katrin Voltmer, University of Leeds: “The Media in Transitional Democracies” (Polity 2013).

“Katrin Voltmer’s 2013 book The Media in Transitional Democracies won the 2017 International Journal of Press/Politics book award for its truly comprehensive synthesis of comparative politics, political communication, and journalism studies research on transitional democracies from across the world, and an original and important argument about how media and politics develop in path-dependent ways depending on previous regime types, based on

a systematic overview of existing research that covers a broad set of case countries from all over the world."

The award was presented by Committee Chair Rasmus Kleis Nielsen (IJPP editor).
As committee members served JSD Chair Henrik Örnebring and PCD Chair Peter van Aelst

7.7 Journalism Studies Division book award

The Journalism Studies Division book award goes to
C. W. Anderson, City University of New York: "Rebuilding the News: Metropolitan Journalism in the Digital Age" (Temple University Press 2013).

"The book was awarded not only for tracking an important issue with impeccable timing but for its original framing, nuanced grasp of theory, skillful ethnography and elegant writing. The committee was delighted to recognize Chris Anderson with its first Best Book Award in Journalism Studies."

The award was presented by Committee Chair Barbie Zelizer.
As committee members served Thomas Hanitzsch, Chris Peters, and David Ryfe

In total, 7 books had been nominated.

Congratulations to all award winners!

Business meeting close.

Munich, 09 June 2017
Nina Springer
Secretary