ICA Media Industry Studies (MIS) Interest Group
MIS Business Meeting - Saturday 29 May 2021, via TheLink

Updates from the MIS leadership team

ICA21 programming
- 2020 was a year of great turbulence for all MISIG members: we negotiated a global pandemic, remote working, and diverse professional and personal challenges. Given these circumstances, we were impressed by the turnout for this year's virtual conference. The quality of submissions was very high, and competition was correspondingly intense. We are especially grateful to our reviewers (all 90 of them) who volunteered their time and expertise for the benefit of their MIS colleagues around the world. It was inspiring to see this constructive collegiality offered in what was a very difficult time for most MIS members.
- The number of MIS submissions (papers and extended abstracts) for ICA21 was 73. This is down slightly from last year. We received 1 panel submission, compared to 6 last year.
- MIS submissions accounted for around 1% of total ICA21 submissions.
- MIS submissions came from scholars in 14 different countries. Roughly half of the submissions (41) were from US-based scholars; the next most-represented nations were China (8), Germany (5), Australia (4), Taiwan (3), and Canada (3).

Top papers and reviewer
- MIS Top Paper awards recognise the most highly-ranked papers based on reviewer scores. We also recognise a Top Reviewer who went above and beyond to deliver outstanding feedback to colleagues. This year’s winners were:
  - **Top faculty paper**: “The Role of Business Models in Social Media Strategies” -- Annika Sehl, Universität der Bundeswehr München; Alessio Cornia, Dublin City U
  - **Top student papers**: “The Labor of Search Quality Rating: Making Algorithms More Human or Humans More Algorithmic?” -- Colten Meisner, Cornell U; Brooke Duffy, Cornell U; Malte Ziewitz, Cornell U; “Digital distribution and shifting power relations in the Nigerian Film Industry” -- Godwin Simon, Queensland U of Technology
  - **Top extended abstract**: “Streaming Books: Kindle Unlimited Impact on Authors” -- Christine Larson, U of Colorado, USA
  - **Top reviewer**: Caitlin Petre, Rutgers University, USA
- Congratulations all! While we can’t offer the customary plaque and round of applause, we hope to celebrate your success at our next IRL business meeting.

MIS future plans and initiatives
- Our interest group finances are healthy, with funds sitting at around $7000 (higher than normal due to the lack of IRL conference receptions, and associated costs, over the last two years). This presents an opportunity to develop some new initiatives,
including interest group prizes (we have discussed an MIS Book Award), stipends for emerging scholars, and an early-career scholar event. Given the pandemic’s many uncertainties, we have deferred these decisions until after ICA21 -- but we welcome feedback from members about what options you see as most valuable for our interest group and its members.

- Our internationalisation liaison Ju Oak Kim analysed the geography of 2021 submissions and identified areas for future growth. An internationalisation planning meeting was held in late 2020. We worked to embed an international lens into all aspects of MIS programming for ICA21, including paper groupings and panel themes.

Officeholder elections
- Aske Kammer will take over as Conference Planner for ICA22, and will rotate to Chair in May 2022. Aske will also kindly serve as Acting Chair when Ramon goes on family leave for a few months later this year (thank you Aske!)
- Several roles will be up for election this year, including Vice-Chair. You’ll hear more in due course from ICA central. Feel free to get in touch with the current officeholders if you’d like more info on what being an officeholder for MIS involves.

TheLink
- All present and future communications from MIS to members will now be sent via TheLink, ICA’s official message board. This means no more emails from us – just Link posts (which generate an email notification to all active users).
- Our tireless ICAMIS Secretary Christine Larson has transitioned our previous email newsletter format over to TheLink, and future updates will now take the form of Link posts. Thank you, Christine!
- We encourage the MIS community to jump on board and join some of the existing conversations taking place there. Please feel free to post job ads, crowdsource ideas, start conversations, etc. You’re also welcome to reach out to Christine, Ramon or Aske if you’d like us to post anything there on your behalf.

Updates from around the ICA community
- Our colleagues in the Popular Media and Communication division have launched a new journal, Communication and The Public
- MIS congratulates all the new ICA fellows being inducted this year. While we can’t pre-empt the official announcement, at least one of these scholars is a foundational figure within the field of media industry research and will be well known to MIS members. Congratulations!
- MIS has successfully shepherded Fellow nominations in the past and is keen to continue this -- so get in touch if you would like to nominate an outstanding scholar in our field.

ICA22 conference planning
- ICA’s plan – at this very early stage – is to hold a hybrid conference in Paris next year, with IRL components for those able to attend. A number of different hybrid models are being considered by the ICA staff, who welcome feedback on this topic (email Laura Sawyer). Given the many uncertainties of our present situation, this
plan is provisional and will no doubt evolve over the coming months in line with Covid realities.

- We understand the Gold Coast and Denver conference venues have been rebooked for 2024 and 2025 respectively.

**Other business**

- MIS members are welcome to raise any other matters for discussion in TheLink.

Thanks to all MIS members for their collegiality and collaboration in a most unusual year, and we hope to see you all – both virtually and in real life – at ICA22.

*MIS leadership team:*
Ramon Lobato (Chair)
Aske Kammer (Vice-Chair)
Christine Larson (Secretary)
Jade Ju-Oak Kim (Internationalisation Liaison)
Dan Andrew (Early Career Representative)