

2017 ICA Annual Elections

POSITION: Student Board Member

Candidate: Thomas J Billard, University of Southern California (USA)

I am standing for election as a student member of the ICA board. I am currently a doctoral student in the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Southern California, and have been an ICA member since 2015. I am an active member of both the Political Communication Division and the LGBTQ Studies Interest Group.

Although I have not yet held an elected position within ICA, I have sought to be as engaged in administrative affairs as possible. In the last few years I have served as a conference reviewer for the Political Communication, LGBTQ Studies, Popular Communication, and Visual Communication Divisions/Interest Groups, and served as a manuscript reviewer for Communication, Culture, & Critique. Outside of ICA, I currently serve on the nominating committee for the Political Communication Division of the American Political Science Association and on the planning committee of the Trans*Studies conference. As such, I am familiar with the administrative processes of a large academic association.

As a scholar of transgender politics, I view my work—and the work of the communication field as a whole—as playing an important activist role. Particularly in the current political climate, it is important that we make our work useful and available to activists and justice-oriented causes. Thus, if I am elected to this post, I will work on developing programs to connect ICA members—especially our young scholars—with opportunities to connect with activist networks and amplify our research's social/political impact. I will also dedicate myself to increasing our global scope, promoting the research agendas and activism-oriented projects of student members from our underrepresented areas.

POSITION: Student Board Member

Candidate: Sarah Cho, University of Massachusetts (USA)

My name is Sarah Cho, a PhD student at the Department of Communication, University of Massachusetts Amherst, and I am submitting my name for consideration to become a Student Board Member of the International Communication Association (ICA) beginning in 2018.

I am an active member of the Language & Social Interaction Division and have been serving as its Student & Early Career representative since 2016. During my time with ICA, I have greatly benefitted from other student members and junior and senior scholars. I have not only been inspired by their endless passion for research but have also appreciated ICA's noble mission, which includes a value of diversity and support for student members. As both an international graduate student and a transnational scholar, I would like to contribute to this community. I believe I am qualified for the position of Student Board Member, assisting young scholars at the local and global levels, in annual conferences, and in their daily academic lives.

I am willing and interested in contributing my time and efforts to ICA as a Student Board Member and in helping early career members actively engage with the ICA community.

Thank you for your consideration.

POSITION: Student Board Member

Candidate: Jacob T. Fisher, University of California, Santa Barbara (USA)

My name is Jacob T. Fisher. I am writing this statement to express my interest in being considered for the position of Student Board Member for the International Communication Association. I am a Ph.D. student in the Department of Communication at the University of California, Santa Barbara and researcher in the Media Neuroscience Lab. I am also a trainee of the National Science Foundation-funded International Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT) program at UCSB in Network Science and Big Data. As a communication researcher, my work integrates theoretical and methodological knowledge from media psychology, cognitive science, computational social science, and graph theory in order to better understand the complex dynamics of cognitive control and distraction that underlie our interactions with technology in learning, work, and everyday life. I look forward to the possibility of serving the International Communication Association as a student board member.

I believe that my training in network science and big data methodology, as well as in brain imaging and psychophysiological research, will assist me in providing a forward-facing perspective on exciting future directions for communication research and scholarship. As communication and media technology advances at a dizzying pace, it is paramount that communication researchers continue to do what we do best: engage in theoretically sound research with a focus on methodological rigor and

real-world applicability. I, and many of my colleagues, are more excited than ever about the future of communication research and scholarship. The International Communication Association serves as a global catalyst and platform for the sharing of innovative communication research. I would be honored to serve as a student voice within the organization.

POSITION: Student Board Member

Candidate: Rico Neumann, University of Washington (USA)

My name is Rico Neumann. Having participated in ICA conferences as part of my Master's program (and beyond) over the past 6 years, I came to realize that my involvement in ICA was a key motivator for continuing my academic career and pursuing a Ph.D. in my field of study, political communication.

My academic journey began at the University of Leipzig, Germany, where I studied public relations, business, and American Studies, followed by a Fulbright exchange year and subsequent M.A. in political communication at the University of Arizona. After working with faculty and students at the UN-Mandated University for Peace in Costa Rica on projects in the area of international development and human rights, I returned to graduate studies and joined the Ph.D. program in communication at the University of Washington in 2015. My research interests center on public opinion and political discourse, with emphasis on immigration and intergroup contact. My academic works have appeared in journals such as International Journal of Communication, International Communication Gazette, and Communication Monographs.

My engagement with ICA has focused largely on presenting my own research and interacting with wonderful colleagues from around the world. Recently, I have been exploring ways to get more involved in ICA-related activities beyond research and more oriented towards leadership tasks in an area that suits my background and interests. As such, I hope to be able to contribute to the association's future, particularly from the perspective of young scholars who might face decisions similar to my own. I envision the role of the Student Board Member as one that is not only administrative-organizational but has the potential to create positive impact for graduate students and young scholars in terms of guidance, mentoring, and connecting people and ideas around the globe.

POSITION: Student Board Member

Candidate: Lucas Youngvorst, University of Minnesota (USA)

Hello! My name is Lucas Youngvorst and I am a 3rd-year Ph.D. candidate at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. I am excited at the prospect of serving as a student member on the ICA board, and believe I have a lot to offer this position. I have been an ICA member for the past 3 years, where I have presented (or will present at the upcoming conference) seven papers within four Divisions. This highlights my active role as an ICA member, as well as my versatility. I believe this will benefit me greatly as a member of the ICA board because I understand the needs and interests of several divisions. This will allow me to effectively act as a student representative, ensuring my ability to speak on behalf of various divisions, and therefore members, within the association. My intent within this role is to be an extremely engaged student member of the board, working as a point-person between members of the association and the board. I plan to meet with division representatives, and student leaders in particular, to assess concerns throughout the association. I will then synthesize any needs that are gathered through these meetings into core themes, and address them with the board in ways that benefit all divisions. I also plan to hold monthly "office hours" via Skype, which provides a personal and productive way for ICA members to make their voices heard. I am confident in my ability to serve as a student representative on the ICA board, and hope to work with each of you in the future to ensure ICA remains a fun, accessible, and prestigious organization.

If you have any questions for me personally, feel free to contact me via e-mail at young982@umn.edu. Thanks, and have a great day!