The Seattle Conference Theme: Coming Full Circle

Peter Vorderer, ICA President-Elect, U of Mannheim

Each ICA conference starts and ends with a special event — usually a panel, a roundtable discussion, or an individual presentation or talk. In Seattle, we’ll have roundtable discussions at both the beginning and the conclusion of our conference. Both will be devoted to our theme, “Communication and the Good Life,” given that it has received an incredible amount of attention from our members and attracted numerous contributions that will be presented throughout the conference. Today, especially as the digitalization of our societies has led us to use mobile media almost all the time (and nearly everywhere), new technologies seem to have a more profound and potentially longer lasting impact on the quality of our lives than ever before. I do not want to imply that this impact is solely “good” or “bad” (i.e., that is only enhances or compromises our happiness and well-being); rather, I believe that it has the potential to do both, and at the same time. We will take up this question in our opening plenary on Thursday, 22 May, at 6 p.m. in a roundtable discussion with Rich Ling (IT U of Copenhagen/Telenor), Miriam Meckel (U of St. Gallen), Mary Beth Oliver (Pennsylvania State U), and Hua “Helen” Wang (U of Buffalo, SUNY) (see the March newsletter: http://www.icahdq.org/MembersNewsletter/MAR14.asp ), at which point we will also point you to the various panels and presentations that will focus on these issues in the days to follow.

On the last day of the conference — 26 May, at 13:30 — I’d like to reflect on what this conference has contributed to answering the question of how contemporary communication interfaces with our understanding of “the good life,” concluding with another question that naturally follows from such a discussion: Where do we go from here? For this closing plenary, I have again invited a number of outstanding...
colleagues (plus somebody looking at this topic from outside academia) who are perfectly suited to address this topic. First, we’ll have Nicole Ellison (U of Michigan), who has shaped the field and the research on the use of social network sites like very few others in our discipline. Nicole has spent a lot of time thinking about the ambivalent character of new technologies and the opportunities that arise from them, and she will be able to offer unique insight on future directions for communication research. Then there is Jon Nussbaum (Penn State U), who has contributed a very substantial research agenda on aging and is therefore the best person I can think of to look at “the good life” from a developmental perspective. As Jon will also be the theme chair for next year’s ICA conference in Puerto Rico — which Amy Jordan (U of Pennsylvania) has already begun to plan — he will be able to helpfully connect the two conferences, as well.

A rather different perspective will be taken by Stacey Spiegel, a Canadian new media artist who has successfully developed and established specific media environments that allow users to take part in fundamentally new experiences by using new technologies. One of his more recent examples is the rock ‘n’ roll museum (“Rockheim”) in Trondheim, Norway, where visitors are embedded in an immersive new media world and, through this process, learn about the history of rock music. While Stacey has a rather optimistic view of the potential for new technology to enhance our lives, I myself have become more pessimistic over the past years, particularly in light of our (and the next) generation’s frequent and almost obsessive use of online media in practically every social situation, everywhere and anytime. This is why I’d rather like to weigh in on the final question of the conference instead of moderating a discussion about it. The roundtable will therefore be chaired by Diana Rieger (U of Cologne), who is an expert in media psychology, particularly in regard to entertainment and its potential to provide relaxation and recovery for today’s media users. I do hope that many of you will be able to stay in town through the end of this year’s conference, as this closing plenary promises to offer provocative insights about what new media and technology could mean for the quality of our lives.

Women in Sports Media and the ICA Lecture Series

John Paul Gutierrez, ICA Communications Director

On 7 March, with the support of George Washington U, ICA hosted its 2nd public lecture. Lead by Marie Hardin (Penn State U) ICA members took a deep look within the sports world when it came to media coverage and media representation of women.

Members Andy Billings (U of Alabama) and Erin Whiteside (U of Tennessee), along with Hardin, presented their research on how much airtime women’s sports receive, how Title IX has changed the landscape of women in sport, and how women are represented on the sports desk. After this panel presented their research, Neena Chaudry, National Women’s Law Center and Christine Brennan, Sports Columnist, USA Today, joined them on stage to discuss the real world implications.

The program was engaging and insightful, and the audience, a mixture of industry professionals, students, and ICA members, had thoughtful insights during the Q&A portion.
What is more important is that ICA research was able to get into the hands of people in the industry, producers and editors working on the sports desk.

The whole program was filmed and speaks for itself. At an hour and half long, the presentations and discussion are extremely interesting, especially the current representational numbers for the Olympic games. You can watch the program below:

The next lecture will take place in Chicago, titled "Human Augmentics, CAVE2, and the Future of Communication Technology," tentatively scheduled for 2014 November. **Steve Jones, ICA Fellow (U of Illinois, Chicago),** will guide the audience from the research on Human Augmentics and how it is benefitting children with asthma and getting them to take their medicine, to entering the hybrid reality environment of CAVE2, and how its programs are helping the medical field.

More lectures are in the works, one in Germany in 2015, but we are always looking for interesting topics that the public or policy makers need to hear.

---

**President's Message: Fundamental**

Francois Heinderyckx, ICA President, U libre de Bruxelles (ULB)

A recent article in the *New York Times* (16 March 2014, pp. 1 & 22) was describing how, in the United States, a handful of very rich people were investing massively in scientific research. Unlike some foundations receiving funds that they manage following fairly traditional processes of call for projects, selection, and funding, the initiatives described in the article were much shorter circuits of financing whereby these wealthy personalities decided to invest in very specific research, in a specific domain, often with a precise objective. For those scholars who happen to be active in the corresponding fields, these initiatives are an incredible blessing, and more often than not, the projects do deliver results, sometimes groundbreaking. Outside of the US, with very few exceptions, there is no comparable tradition of philanthropy, of generously endowed trusts and foundations and other forms of massive private investment in research. And so there is no such possibility to compensate the decline of public financing.
And yet, all this generosity is raising a number of serious issues in the dynamics of scientific research. In a context where the public financing of research, along with just about all public spending, is shrinking, the relative importance of private funding is increasing, and with it, the influence of private interests on the agenda of research. The question is not so much whether the agenda set by private interests (companies, groups, or individuals) is better or worse than that set by the public authorities. Such comparison, though intellectually stimulating, would be very hard to establish. Instead, the issue lies with the fact that private investments are overwhelmingly, by essence, oriented towards specific, concrete outcomes, findings that can solve problems; be patented, sold, and disseminated, and make a difference, all that as soon as possible. It is a research agenda that falls within the remit of "applied" or "industrial" research.

To a large extent, this is absolutely fine: Who would complain that private money is massively invested to find a cure for certain diseases, save certain species or find new sources of energy? Yet, by shifting the emphasis and the means towards applied research, we are increasingly weakening "fundamental" or "basic" research, that more oriented towards knowledge creation; theory formation; understanding of all things, real or not; present, past or future; concrete or abstract. No one seriously challenges the importance of fundamental research, if only to nourish and enhance applied research. But in times of crisis, of budgetary restrictions, of urgency, anything that does not bear immediate return on investment is seen as nonessential, a luxury, an illegitimate use of resources. François Englert, a physicist from my university (U Libre de Bruxelles), was recently awarded the Nobel Prize, along with his Scottish colleague Peter Higgs, for fundamental research they essentially did 50 years ago and which, only today, revolutionizes our understanding of the very fabric of the universe and matter. In today's academic context, they would most probably never have the chance to do the research they did then, which seemed so obscure, so far fetched, and which led to so few publications (and correspondingly few citations). "It's difficult to imagine how I would ever have enough peace and quiet in the present sort of climate to do what I did in 1964," Higgs told The Guardian newspaper (6 Dec 2013).

The field of communication is not spared these tensions between fundamental and applied research. All the more so at a time when scholars are increasingly expected to go after external research funding and contracts not only to enhance the prestige of their institution, but also to contribute to its financing. Communication is so central in so many areas nowadays that applied research is never far, and with all the changes induced by the evolution of information and communication technologies, there is no shortage of urgent, important and fascinating applied research to undertake.

However, the creative energy invested in applied research is to for a large part taken away from fundamental research. By the same token, the same rapid pace of change in communication that triggers so much applied research is also causing a compelling need for new or overhauled concepts and theories to help put things in perspective, to help understand the broader picture. Fundamental research is our safeguard against short-term, short-sighted, result-oriented, fast-science. Fundamental research should not have to compete with applied research because one nurtures the other; both forms of research are essentially symbiotic; weakening one inevitably weakens the other.

Just like the Nobel Prize laureates could not have done their game-changing research in the current context, we must ask ourselves: Would the scholars whose concepts and theories are the DNA of our most current research be in a position to provide us with their fundamentals had they be working in today's academia? Are we doing enough to prepare ourselves to challenge, adapt or renew their legacy? Are the new generations of researchers that we nurse
in our doctoral schools trained to take that legacy forward, or do we spend so much resources training them to the latest tools and methods to make them operational that they will lose interest or the capacity to engage significantly in theory? It is our responsibility to keep communication research balanced, to preserve a fair share of fundamental research so as to ensure that communication science will face the challenges and conundrums of the future with the creative talent and wisdom that such task requires. This is fundamental, literally.

---

**Spotlight on Preconferences**

Jennifer Le, ICA Executive Assistant

In each Newsletter leading up to the conference, we will highlight six different preconferences and postconferences that have been planned for Seattle. To learn more information about the other preconferences, visit http://www.icahdq.org/conf/2014/preconferences.asp.

---

**Communication Policy: From Local Ecology to National Agenda**

**This preconference is not held at the Sheraton.**

**Time:** Thursday, 22 May 9:00 – 16:00

**Location:** U of Washington, McMahon Pompeii

**Transportation:** Shuttle Buses set up by ICA

**Cost:** $35 USD (lunch is provided)

Although the Internet continually pushes us toward thinking about communications policy in global and transnational frameworks, much communication policy affecting citizens continues to be formulated at the national level. As the traditional media system declines, national policy is a powerful determinant of whether new local communications ecologies will grow to replace core functions of civic and democratic information, as well as meet a range of basic community information needs in areas such as the extension of access, health, education, economic development, and youth. National policy initiatives can set a framework for addressing local communication needs by conducting research, framing important policy goals, and formulating policy to advance and encourage local alternatives.

This preconference will examine this local-national policy nexus in comparative perspective, including case studies from the US, U.K. and Finland, discussion of how to craft effective national policy agendas, and how to build more effective policy research within the field of communication.

**Contact(s):** Lewis Friedland( lfriedla@wisc.edu )

---

**Liberating Structures: How to Unleash the Potential of Everyone and Transform the Communication**
Dynamics of Any Group

**Time:** Thursday, 22 May 9:00 - 16:00
**Location:** Sheraton Seattle Hotel, Ravena A
**Cost:** $60 USD students/ $100 USD Faculty (participants are on their own for lunch)

You know that your performance would be greatly increased if only you could get everyone around you fully engaged -- but how? Liberating Structures (LS) are novel, practical and no-nonsense methods to help you accomplish this goal with groups of any size. Prepare to be surprised by how profound their impact is given how easy they are to use. Experience how you can immediately use LS to improve your outcomes in research, teaching and group meetings. Come ready to roll up your sleeves with the codevelopers of LS.

**Contacts:** Helen Wang (hwang23@buffalo.edu )

Cultural Politics of Protest – Confronting Social Justice and Inequality in Communication Studies

**This preconference is not held at the Sheraton.**

**Time:** Thursday, 22 May 9:00 - 16:30
**Location:** U of Washington, Husky Union Building 250

**Transportation:** Shuttle Buses Set-up by ICA
**Cost:** $75 USD (lunch is provided)

The 1999 WTO protests in Seattle - also known as ‘The Battle of Seattle’ - was the largest and one of the most important public demonstrations in U.S. modern history. The protest became a critical intervention exposing the inner workings of neoliberal capitalism and the inequality it produces globally. Inspired by this moment, this pre-conference imagines what a similar politics of protest and solidarity might look like for the social and cultural movements of the 21st century.

**Contact(s):** Miyase Christensen (miyase.christensen@ims.su.se)

Data and Discrimination: Converting Critical Concerns to Productive Inquiry

**Time:** Thursday, 22 May 9:00 - 16:30
**Location:** Sheraton Seattle Hotel, Kirkland
**Cost:** $50 USD (participants will be on their own for lunch)

In this preconference, scholars will explore the nature and consequences of discrimination that occurs when corporations and governments collect, store, transmit, share, and analyze information about consumers and citizens. Participants will present new ways to identify and differentiate forms of data-based discrimination, spanning historical, methodological, moral, and ethical issues that will inform a critical perspective on computational, algorithmic, and aggregative processes governing public and private decision making today.

Website: [http://oti.newamerica.net/events/2014/05/22/data-and-discrimination](http://oti.newamerica.net/events/2014/05/22/data-and-discrimination)

**Contact(s):** Seeta Gangadharan (seeta.gangadharan@gmail.com)
Communication Science – Evolution, Biology, and Brains
2.0 Innovation in Theory and Methods

Time: Thursday, 22 May 9:00 - 17:00
Location: Sheraton Seattle Hotel, Willow B
Cost: $35 USD Undergraduate Students, $95 USD Faculty, $85 USD Post-docs & independent researchers (lunch is provided)

This preconference will again bring together scholars who are working across sub-fields of communication studies using evolutionary theory, neuroscience and other biological measures to address core questions in communication studies. Last year we had record turnout, and we have expanded the capacity this year to accommodate more participants. We welcome high quality submissions that focus on the core themes of the preconference:
http://www.medianeuroscience.org/ica_pre_conference_2014

Contact(s): Emily Falk (emilybfalk@gmail.com), Rene Weber (renew@comm.ucsb.edu)

“Media and Religion”: Betwixt and Between

Time: Thursday, 22 May 9:00 – 17:00
Location: U of Washington, Room 334 at the Husky Union
Building from 8:30 - 5 PM & Room 337 at the HUB from 1 PM - 5 PM
Cost: $75 USD (lunch is not provided)

This preconference seeks to bring into conversation a variety of approaches common within the study of media, religion and culture, in order to showcase the diverse perspectives scholars of Communication have taken in the study of this interrelationship. The goal of the preconference is to spotlight current scholarly methods within media and religion studies in order to highlight key theoretical concepts and problems - both for those working in the field, and for those who wish to gain first-hand insight into this area of Communication research. Through papers, panel presentations and shared conversation amongst participants this event aims is to draw scholarly attention to the relationship between media, religion and culture in its multiple intersections.

Contact(s): Heidi Campbell (heidic@tamu.edu)

How Do I Get to be a Journal Reviewer?

Jake Harwood, U of Arizona

Some of you may have been inspired by the recent articles on reviewing to actually do some reviewing. After all, peer reviewing is one of the linchpins of a successful academic enterprise—if peer review doesn’t operate as intended then our scientific literature is seriously compromised. You should want to be involved in that process. How do you get to be a
reviewer? It’s easy: An e-mail appears in your inbox from an editor asking you if you are willing to review an article for his/her journal. This article addresses how the editor decides to send that e-mail to you and how you can increase the chances of that happening.

Before we go there, however, let me ask you this question: Are you sure? Are you going to spend a serious amount of time reading an article, and providing detailed and constructive feedback to the author? Are you going to double-check that what you’re saying is sensible and not just a function of skimming the article? Can you resist the temptation of snark? Can you step away from thinking that everyone should be doing research just like yours and instead confront the article on its own terms? You know it doesn’t pay well (or at all!), right? OK… read on!

All editors work differently, but most editors I know use some combination of the following, and so you can get on their radar in complementary ways:

A. Scholarship
- Editors use the reference list of a submitted article: If the authors have done a half-decent job, then their reference list is a goldmine of potential reviewers (although they may have strategically omitted certain names...)
- Editors use academic databases: The editor may go to Google Scholar, Comm and Mass Media Complete, PsychInfo (etc.), and search for key terms from the submitted article. So—if you want to review, doing good research and publishing programmatic work that’s going to get cited is a pretty good route. Of course, this takes years. You can also create a google scholar profile (or similar) and look for other ways to enhance the visibility of the work you have done. Make a webpage, even a crappy one. Make sure your department webpage lists your details correctly.

B. ICA Resources
- Editors use the ICA member database: Did you know that ICA has a member database? It contains all sorts of information about members (but not as much as the NSA database), and includes information on whether you are willing to review. You will be more likely to get on editors’ radar if you update your member profile in the ICA database. Make sure that it lists you as willing to review, and that your specialty areas are listed accurately and in ways that will reflect editors’ keyword searches. It’s easy to do: Go to the ICA main page, log in, click on the “resources” tab, and click on "Update my profile."

C. Networks
- Editors use their personal knowledge of the field and their personal networks: Editors will have good networks in specific areas of the field, and they will use them. In areas they don’t know, they will go to the small number of people they do know for advice.

I hate to say this, but a certain degree of targeted networking will help here, of course. If you get yourself into editors’ networks , they’re more likely to think of you for a particular paper. Even better, build on your existing connections: your PhD advisor and other senior people you know in your specialty area may get too many solicitations to review. Assuming they view you as competent, they will be delighted to respond to some of those solicitations by recommending the editor send it to you instead. So drop those folks an email and tell them that you are excited to do some peer reviewing in areas X and Y. Other ways to increase your visibility include active participation in discussion lists, online forums, and Facebook groups focused on your specific research areas. Being helpful there will help you demonstrate your expertise. But don’t get carried away… posting on listservs won’t get you tenure.

D. Experience
Editors use previous reviewers who have done good work

To return to my starting place… the best way to increase your chances of reviewing is to do your work conscientiously and on time when you do get to write a review. Quality and prompt reviewers get repeat business—which is a blessing and a curse! I enjoy reviewing and have learned more from doing it than from many other things I’ve done; I wish the same for you.

Updates from Member Services

Sam Luna, ICA Membership Director

The ICA Student Board Representatives have created a Graduate Student Group website for early career scholars. The site includes a list of past newsletter articles written by student representative and a page dedicated to student opportunities. This page includes calls for fellowships, PhD programs and other programs specifically targeting early career scholars. Anne Kaun (Sodertorn U) and Rahul Mitra (Wayne State U), current Student Board Representative spearheaded the effort.

Conference registrations are coming in at a brisk pace, surpassing the Boston conference, the second largest in ICA history (next to London’s, which drew over 2,800 scholars)! Over 1,300 people have registered for the conference so far. At this pace, the Seattle conference is certain to be one of the largest. Amazingly, the conference hotel and three overflow hotels have sold out. If you are looking for a room, go to this Click here to search for other hotels in the area.

Interestingly, the number of people selecting the mobile app over the printed program has risen this year. In fact, the two choices are running neck and neck with a difference of only 30 selections. Each year, the number of people selecting the app over the printed version has steadily gone up. This is the third time the app is available as an alternative to print. Features in the mobile app make the choice very appealing. Features include messaging, personal scheduling, an attendees list, universal search, and real time notifications. By selecting the app, you help ICA move closer to being a green organization. Another opportunity to help, this year we will provide bins by the exit doors to leave unwanted conference bags and name badge holders.

Once again, ICA is offering the London Theme Book, Challenging Communication Research, at a discounted prepublication price. The price will be available during pre-registration. The book is edited by Leah Lievrouw (U of California, Los Angeles). Read more about the theme book at http://www.icahdq.org/pubs/themesessions.asp. Previous theme books are also available on that page.

Lastly, the 2013 Annual Report is also available online. It is available at no cost. Read reports prepared for the Board by the Executive Committee and Division chairs, and reports on all of our journals.
Student Column: Graduate Student Publishing, Part 3: Collaborative Research

Rahul Mitra, ICA Student Board Member, Wayne State U

In previous ICA newsletter columns, I broached the importance of beginning to publish in peer-reviewed outlets while still a graduate student, and undertaking detailed research before selecting a publication outlet for your work. This month, I continue the series on publishing as a graduate student by talking about collaborative research. Namely: when, why, how, and with whom should you collaborate with on a research project for publication?

When should you collaborate?

There’s really no “fixed” time per se, nor even a “best before” date, for engaging in collaborative research. You might collaborate with a classmate (or more) for the final paper for a course, and you could then extend this paper to a full-fledged manuscript for conference and publication presentation after the class is done. Or, you might team up with your academic adviser or some other faculty member on a project that s/he is looking for additional people to help with. Be on the look-out for formal announcements (via email or notes tacked on the department bulletin board) to join a research team, as well as informal communication at get-togethers with students and faculty.

Why should you collaborate?

Collaborating on a research project makes sense if you are dealing with a complex project that would benefit from many hands on deck, or if you have an ambitious research design in mind. For example, conducting 8 focus groups of 7 people each is hard for a single graduate student researcher, given the ongoing demands of coursework. But, for a research team of 4 people, this translates to only 2 focus groups per person; you can also share the load of analyzing the data and writing your findings up. Another important reason to work in a research team, is when different team members bring different topical or methodological expertise, or even access to particular research sites, than you alone might not possess. Finally, working in a research team with a faculty member (or more) is an excellent idea, if you want to check out how s/he works, or you would like him/her to consider you for an advisee, or simply because you admire his/her prior work and want to be associated with him/her. Pragmatically speaking, working in a research team is usually a good thing on your CV when you’re on the job market, because it indicates that you can work effectively with people; getting a publication (or two!) out of this team effort is even better, because it shows you are both a “people person” and productive.

How should you collaborate?
Knowing your role and capabilities in the research team is perhaps the most important to figure out, while working collaboratively. Each member of the research team has a role to play—in fact, you may have multiple roles (e.g., literature review person and data analyzer), or these roles might change as the project progresses—and you should ensure that everyone knows what their roles are. Various groups evolve different ways of being productive; for some, a truly “head-less” or democratic model might work best, whereas for others, a leader emerges to keep the entire group on track. Keep in mind that, as your manuscript is submitted to an outlet, and you hear back from the editor regarding revisions (either to the same outlet or a different one), this model (and the leadership position) is likely to transform since team members will also be working on other projects (hello, dissertation!). For each version of the manuscript submitted, clarify among yourselves the order of author credit, to avoid confusion and bad blood when (hopefully: if) that version is finally accepted. Finally, given that you will likely be working on solo research at the same time as this group project, you might well feel tempted to focus more on that rather than the team one. Should this prove true, and you are in charge of a crucial part of the collaborative project that you cannot spend much time on at the moment, then talk to your research team to ensure that someone else can step in to handle the task till you become available again. If you do not anticipate being able to devote any further time to the collaborative project, then be honest with yourself and the team, and gracefully bow out of the project, so that the others can forge ahead without wasting valuable time.

With whom should you collaborate?

Collaborative research is great with people who can contribute a new perspective, theory, or other expertise to the project that you alone lacked. It is also a good idea with faculty members whose work you admire, as I noted earlier. When working with peers, although interpersonal chemistry is useful, be sure to take into account their work ethic and style as well. If you are not careful, you might enter into a collaboration with friends you like and whose work you admire, but after sometime realize that their “system” of work is entirely at odds with yours. For instance, they might be very flexible about group deadlines, whereas you design detailed spreadsheets for every step of the project! Opposites do attract at times, both in research and love, but you should ensure that this is not a case of divergent poles pushing the research team asunder. Finally, other people you should collaborate with include those who possess grant writing and obtaining expertise, and those from disciplines other than communication, in case your research project has an interdisciplinary bent.

These are just a few basic thoughts on collaborative research, and I will be glad to hear about your experiences to further explore this important aspect of graduate student publication. As we head toward the annual ICA conference in May 2014, and you gear up to meet various scholars—both established and emerging—through the amazing reception and other events we have organized for you, I hope you keep in mind the promises of collaborative research.
This article includes new postings with the latest ICA member news, as well as updates on outside conferences and publications. All ICA members are encouraged to submit their latest professional news for inclusion in the Newsletter by emailing jle@icahdq.org.

Announcing the publication of "Researching Interpersonal Relationships: Qualitative Methods, Studies, and Analysis" by Jimmie Manning, Department of Communication at Northern Illinois U and Adrianne Kunkel, Department of Communication Studies at the U of Kansas and published by Sage.

This accessible book explores and demonstrates methodological tools used to guide qualitative relationships research, especially studies of interpersonal communication. Researching Interpersonal Relationships introduces both classic and cutting-edge methodological approaches for qualitative inquiry and analysis, including opening chapters with accessible overviews of interpretive theory and research design. Additional chapters feature a detailed overview of a specific method and analytical tool and are illustrated by original research studies from leading scholars in the field, each in a different interpersonal context. Post-study interviews with the researchers are also provided to allow new and experienced researchers a better understanding of how qualitative research approaches can expand and solidify understandings of personal relationships. This scholarly book is the first of its kind written especially for relationship researchers about qualitative research, and it makes a welcome addition to advanced undergraduate and graduate student classrooms as well as any serious qualitative relationship researcher's bookshelf. For more information visit http://www.sagepub.com/books.nav

ICA Fellow Don Ellis has published "Three Discursive Dilemmas for Israeli Religious Settlers" in Discourse Studies, 2014, pages 1-5. The paper examines three discursive dilemmas that must be resolved by religious settlers in order to normalize their presence in contested territory. A copy is available at: http://peaceandconflictpolitics.com/.

Click on: articles and things of interest and then click on Settler Discourse in Discourse Studies.

---

**Division News**

**Communication and Technology**

**Mobile on the Move**

James Danowski, Vice Chair

Mobile “telephony,” an arcane industry term, yet more encompassing than the term “mobile phone,” has been often heralded as the most transformative communication technology yet seen. (As this is a newsletter piece, I am taking license not to provide scholarly citations.) Mobile communication research (Mobile) appears to increasingly vertically stretch the furthest
from macro to micro levels of analysis, and to horizontally bridge more and more diverse human domains and spaces than other areas of communication research. Speaking only autoethnographically, Mobile has the greatest power among other research areas to spawn metaphors. Its greatest such agency to date is in extracting from the deepest layers of memory the Beatles 1967 release, “When I’m 64” with the indelible lyrical refrain: “Will you still need me, will you still feed me, when I’m 64?” This song snippet popped up and played repeated in me, as I analyzed for this newsletter piece the content of 103 titles of Mobile papers presented across all of ICA’s 64th annual conference sessions, including preconferences and the main conference.

Imagine ICA asking some time ago the question, “Will you still feed me, will you still need me, when I’m 64?” Biased by the focus for this newsletter essay, I thought that among various research areas, Mobile has become fastest to answer the question. “Yes, ICA! Mobile feeds you, and feeds you very well. Yes, Mobile needs you more than ever, even though you are 64! Over your continually extending lifespan, you have grown larger, more global, more substantively and methodologically diversified. That is one of the key reasons I now feed you more than any other, yet I need you more, too.” That is how the Mobile data talked to me, so to speak, in answering ICA’s question.

These thoughts emerged when interpreting Figure 1. The largest word group includes the word “mobile,” as one would expect from the selection of only titles containing that concept. That word has the highest betweenness centrality in the entire network, again, not surprisingly. This means that more often than any other word, “mobile” lies more frequently on the shortest paths between all pairs of words. It is in the center of the strong hub/spoke pattern you can observe in Figure 1, with no rim around it. More concepts radiate out from it and into it. It is less a dim glower (broadcaster) of information and more a beamer etching unique paths through the network in parallel, a sort of over-the-top laser Gatling gun. “Mobile” connects more words that would otherwise not be connected. It is the word with the most radial “ego” network. In social network analysis (SNA not SNS) betweenness centrality is among the most frequently studied concepts. The scope of findings is too broad to describe in detail here, but the mountain range contains upthrusts at various levels such as: nodes with greater betweenness centrality do more bridging of diverse reaches of the larger network; do more brokering and less bonding; are more information-oriented and less emotional; have a larger rhetorical repertoire (more chameleon-like communicators); more frequently use the word “you” relative to “I;” have more influence; more power; more resilience; more agency; more quick to identify message trends and their associations across the network; have speedier reaction time; have greater intelligence/intelligence gathering/forecasting accuracy/risk management/crisis management; are more innovative; use more metaphors; more abstract terms; more … This list could go on.

In more concrete terms, because “mobile” has this high centrality position, despite the fact that by choosing only papers with mobile-phone-related titles, I stacked the deck, the hypothesis
this suggests is that these papers cut across more -- and more different -- divisions and preconferences. With no time to test that hypothesis, I have now only qualitative observations based on manually searching, copying and pasting the titles from the online conference program to create the text file for automated network analysis. That was a quicker way to proceed with such a tiny (yet so important) corpus than automating the extractions from the conference program, or from many conference programs over time, with more contextual data included. Nevertheless, the literature leads one to expect support for this hypothesis with minimally-biased data.

The next largest groups one sees in Figure 1 mainly deal more with specific topics. Accordingly, they have interlocking rather than radial links, reflecting the greater conceptual cohesion and concreteness that comes with domain or context-specific research. Largest among this type of group is the one concerned with mobile phones and mobilization of political protests in China. This is both contextually and substantively more specific than the content revealed in the largest group’s radial pattern. The next largest group concerns mobile phones and digital divides. Following that is a group focused on mobile phones and communication on social network sites. The remaining six groups are isolated concept bigrams linked with mobile.

Coming back to the “When I’m 64” question about the feeding relationships between ICA and Mobile, the results suggest the hypothesis that indeed, Mobile is feeding ICA, probably more than any other research area. The diverse cuisine satisfies different tastes in different divisions and preconferences. Some of the dishes are ethnic specialties appealing to established conceptual cultures in specific divisions, while other dishes are previously unseen fusion foods. Another hypothesis is that Mobile chefs’ skills and food stocks, for a yet unknown time cycle, will increase in numbers, diversity, quality, freshness, tastiness, and healthiness for nourishing ICA.

Regarding ICA’s query, “Mobile, will you still need me?” consider that over the past 64 years ICA has become more global, more conceptually and methodologically diversified, as well increasing the number of divisions organized on different premises with different missions. It has increased membership size, the number of papers submitted, the numbers of sessions, the length of conferences, and the number of regional conferences. Most spontaneously and quickly, ICA has recently seen a bottom-up surge in the number of preconferences. These are more crowd-sourced, swarming, flash phenomena than the main conference. Given these dimensions of growth over its past 64 years, Mobile needs ICA as its best vehicle for its autonomous mobility needs. Mobile needs ICA’s diverse venues for accepting its scholars’ more multi-level, multi-contextual, multi-methodological, and multi-metaphor-generating nature. ICA gives Mobile room to move across divisional bounds. Finally, thanks for the memories, John Lennon.

Environmental Communication

With the ICA conference in Seattle just two months away, we wanted to share the list of all ECIG sessions as well as our two co-sponsored sessions, with Political Communication and Journalism Studies divisions, respectively (see below).

Thanks to the generosity of the U of Illinois, Chicago, the U of Koblenz-Landau as well as the Porter School of Environmental Studies at Tel Aviv U we will be able to host a sponsored breakfast/reception followed by our business meeting on Saturday, May 24. Since space is limited you must RSVP to save a spot for this event. In order to do so, please email our secretary, Janel Schuh (schuh@usc.edu) with “RSVP for the ECIG breakfast” on the subject line.
We are still looking for sponsors for this event so if your school or department can help us with funding and is looking for free publicity please contact Merav Katz-Kimchi (mkatzkim@gmail.com).

We're looking forward to meeting together in Seattle. Remember, if you haven't already done so; please make sure to register for the conference on ICA website: http://www.icaahdq.org/shopping/

ECIG Sessions:

2. Climate Change in the News: Regional, National, and International Perspectives // Paper Session -- Sat May 24 2014, 13:30 to 14:45 Place: Seattle Sheraton, Juniper
3. Critiques of Environmental Discourse and Ideology // Paper Session -- Sun May 25 2014, 15:00 to 16:15 Place: Seattle Sheraton, Greenwood
6. Public Attitudes and Responses to Environmental Messages // Paper Session -- Fri May 23 2014, 10:30 to 11:45 Place: Seattle Sheraton, Leschi
7. Public Understanding of Climate Change: From Misperceptions to Engagement // Paper Session -- Fri May 23 2014, 09:00 to 10:15 Place: Seattle Sheraton, Leschi
8. Risk Models and Communities at Risk: From Climate Change to Asbestos // Paper Session -- Sun May 25 2014, 13:30 to 14:45 Place: Seattle Sheraton, Kirkland
9. Environmental Communication Interactive Poster Session // Interactive Paper Session -- Sat May 24 2014, 16:30 to 17:45 Place: Seattle Sheraton, Metropolitan Ballroom

A session of Political Communication that we co-sponsor:
Political Communication and the Environment: Framing, Activism, Polarization, and Hyperlinking -- Sat, May 24, 12:00 to 13:15, Seattle Sheraton, Cedar A

A session of Journalism Studies that we co-sponsor:
Between Science and the Public: Studies in Science Journalism -- Fri, May 23, 9:00 to 10:15, Seattle Sheraton, Willow A

Just a reminder, we will be having an election on September 2014 for a new Vice Chair and Secretary of the ECIG who will begin working in June 2015. We will need an elections coordinator and nominations for both positions. We will talk more about this at our business meeting Sat, May 24, 9:00 to 10:15, Seattle Sheraton, Jefferson B. See you all there.

Please congratulate the authors of the Top Papers for the Environmental Communication Interest Group for both faculty and students. We also gave $150 of travel funding to two students (see below).

The faculty Top Paper awards go to:
Zheng Janet Yang, U at Buffalo, State U of New York
“In Public Understanding of Climate Change: From Misperceptions to Engagement” Sun, May 25 2014, 13:30 to 14:45, Seattle Sheraton, Kirkland *change made*

Anke Wonneberger, U of Amsterdam
“In Environmental Campaigns: Effects, Rhetoric, and Mobilization”
Sat, May 24, 10:30 to 11:45, Seattle Sheraton, Jefferson B

Carrie Freeman, Georgia State U
“In Critiques of Environmental Discourse and Ideology Sun”
May 25, 15:00 to 16:15, Seattle Sheraton, Greenwood

The student Top Paper awards go to:
Collin Syfert, U of Washington
“How Naked People and Polar Bears Made Climate Change Newsworthy in Environmental Campaigns: Effects, Rhetoric, and Mobilization”
Sat, May 24, 10:30 to 11:45, Seattle Sheraton, Jefferson B

Julia Metag, U of Zurich
Mon, May 26, 9:00 to 10:15, Seattle Sheraton, Leschi

Travel Awards go to:
David A. Maile, U of New Mexico
“A Magical Kingdom? Disney Aulani Resort Discourses of Indigenous Hawaiian Ecocultures in Critiques of Environmental Discourse and Ideology”
Sun, May 25, 15:00 to 16:15, Seattle Sheraton, Greenwood

Margaret Markham Siebert, U of New Mexico
“Transgenic Salmon and the Future of Food: A Comparative Discourse Analysis of the Public, the Policy, and the Producers in Public Attitudes and Responses to Environmental Messages”
Fri, May 23, 10:30 to 11:45, Seattle Sheraton, Leschi

Ethnicity and Race in Communication

The annual ICA conference is fast approaching! The division will kick off with pre-conference events on Thursday, May 22. A full list of the pre-conference panels can be found on the division’s website http://ericdivision.wordpress.com/2012-events/seattle-2014-conference/.

In addition, the division will host 15 panels, roundtables, and interactive poster sessions at the Seattle Conference. Closer to the start of the conference, the division will distribute a list of all of the events. We look forward to seeing you at our events.

Please send your news, announcements and blog entries to our division co-secretaries Alfred Martin alfredmartin@austin.utexas.edu and Florencia Enghel florencia.enganh@kau.se. Please visit the division's website for information in general: http://ericdivision.wordpress.com/.

News From Members

McFarland Press published ERIC member Christine Lohmeier's (U of Munich) book Cuban Americans and the Miami Media in January. The book contributes to debates on diasporic identities and transnational communication by providing an analysis of the Cuban American community and its relationship to Miami-based English- and Spanish-language media. Based on extensive ethnographic data, Lohmeier demonstrates how different media have been used, produced and influenced by segments of the Cuban American community in Miami.

Join the ICA Game Studies Pre-Conference to the 64th International Communication Association (ICA) Annual Conference

**Beyond the Pixels: A Look at Digital Games**

**Seattle, WA, USA**

**22 May 2014**

Digital games are an integral aspect of many lives – they’re in social networks, they’re on mobile phones, and they are, as ever, on television and computer screens. Their influence is not limited to the screens or the devices in which they exist, but can be experienced well beyond their original digital footprint.

The goal of the 2014 pre-conference, "Beyond the Pixels," is to take it one step further and encourage scholars to think outside the box. This pre-conference will be a space to think about the marks that digital games are making on our world. Panels offer a wide range of perspectives, including considerations of the influence of specific elements of the game design itself and the wider impact of games on our lives.

The ICA Game Studies Pre-Conference has a tradition of rich discussion and interactive panels, and this is no exception. There will be opportunities to network and really get to know members of the special interest group prior to the conference beginning.

Pre-conference topics include but are not restricted to:
- Game design choices and their implications
- Game elements such as avatar, sound, and user interface
- Critical games
- A variety of game research methods

Push the boundaries. Go beyond the pixels.

Further information on the pre-conference can be found at: http://icagames.org

Registration is $50; Register on the ICA main conference at www.icahq.org.

---

**Organizational Communication Division**

The Organizational Communication Division has a strong program planned for this year’s conference. In keeping with the “Good Life” theme of ICA’s annual meeting, we have a number of very “good” panels and other special events. Let me highlight each day’s schedule.

Friday, May 23 has four regular panels ranging from topics like crisis and leadership to diversity and technology. The day will be highlighted by our Top Paper panel at 3:00pm, followed immediately by the division’s business meeting at 4:30 (both in the Sheraton Willow B). We will have an offsite division reception right after that at a location still being finalized (but near the hotel). All members are especially encouraged to attend these afternoon events. We’ll also be recognizing new members at our business meeting and reception (note: the new
member breakfast is being cancelled due to cost considerations.

Saturday’s schedule is highlighted by our popular research escalator session, which runs from 10:30-1:15. Not only will the authors of the 40 submissions and the 20 faculty mentors be in attendance, but this is open to all who would benefit from talking about strategies to escalate our research and improve our writing. Contact Jenn Gibbs (Rutgers U) or Bart van den Hooff (VU U Amsterdam) for more information. We’ve got paper panels about network and teams on each side of the escalator and at 4:30 that afternoon is an ICA reception for the interactive displays (including 7 scholarly submissions from our division).

Sunday kicks off at 9am with two back to back panels called B.E.S.T. (they’re not “Good,” they’re “BEST”). These are Brief, Entertaining Scholarly Talks. In this new format for our division, each participant will give a 4-5 minute, high-energy, technology-enhanced presentation designed to excite the audience about the research. After the presentations, B.E.S.T. presenters will divide into three breakout groups and meet with audience members to more deeply engage issues raised by that subset of presenters. Respondents will guide the breakout discussions (in addition to providing each paper author with written feedback about their work). Several other great panels are scheduled for Sunday afternoon as well.

The convention wraps up Monday. We have panels about tensions and social media use, studying agency in our field, emerging paradigms/directions in our field. For more information about these panels and specific papers/presenters for each, search the division schedule at https://convention2.allacademic.com/one/ica/ica14/.

Hope to see you in Seattle for what promise to be a very “good” convention!

Call for Papers

Journal of Communication Call for Submissions: Special Issue on “Misinformation: Prevalence, Consequence, and Remedy”

Guest co-editors: Brian Southwell (RTI International) and Emily Thorson (George Washington U)

The prevalence of misinformation challenges a wide range of communication professionals, including public health staff, government election officials, public relations workers, and journalists. The broadcast and advertisement of inaccurate information poses vexing problems for society, organizations, and scholars. Increasingly, government officials and those concerned about the possibilities for widespread public engagement with misinformation are interested in research on remedies. Communication research can answer this call in service to public policy. Moreover, scholars in different subareas, e.g., health communication researchers and political communication investigators, can open useful dialog through shared focus on the dilemma of misinformation. To do so, we need new work on misinformation measurement and new empirical results to help us develop theory in this vein.

In light of these needs, Brian Southwell and Emily Thorson will coedit a special issue of the Journal of Communication and invite submissions of manuscripts. They also welcome
indication of interest in reviewing submissions. Please contact Southwell at bsouthwell@rti.org with any initial questions or comments. Manuscripts are due by 1 October 2014, and accompanying cover letters should explicitly indicate submission for the Misinformation special issue. Manuscripts must conform to all JOC guidelines, including the use of APA 6th edition format and a limit of 35 pages total manuscript length. The guest editors are especially interested in papers that explicitly consider the depiction of information at odds with facts accepted by a third party, e.g., false claims of prescription drug benefit in an advertisement as assessed by the Food and Drug Administration. Authors should submit manuscripts through http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/jcom .

The 2015-2016 Fulbright Core U.S. Scholar Program competition is now open!

The Fulbright Scholar Program offers teaching, research or combination teaching/research awards in more than 125 countries for the 2015-2016 academic year. Opportunities are available for college and university faculty and administrators as well as for professionals, artists, journalists, scientists, lawyers, independent scholars and many others. Of the 583 awards being offered this year, there are over 64 awards available in the field of Communications. Moreover, there are 371 All Discipline awards that welcome teaching and/or research proposals in any area of study, including interdisciplinary projects. These awards are offered in various regions around the world.

In order to meet the changing needs of academia and develop new options to accommodate better the interests and commitments of today’s scholars, the program has introduced several innovations to the 2015-2016 program, including: Fulbright Flex Awards, Fulbright Postdoctoral/Early Career Awards, Salary Stipend Supplements, and Teaching English as a Foreign Language Awards. Interested faculty and professionals are encouraged to learn more about these opportunities, and hundreds of others, by visiting the Catalog of Awards. The application deadline for most awards is 1 August 2014. U.S. citizenship is required. For other eligibility requirements and detailed award descriptions visit our website at http://www.cies.org/us_scholars/us_awards/ or contact us at scholars@iie.org .

Available Positions and Other Advertising

KU LEUVEN, BELGIUM
Institute for Media Studies and School for Mass Communication Research
6 Faculty Members (tenure-track, associate/professor)

We invite applications for 6 faculty members (tenure-track, associate professor, professor or full professor):

1. Digital Humanities – Human Media Interaction
2. Film & Television Studies
3. ICT & Human-centered Design
4. Journalism Studies
5. Media and Social Change (Mass Communication)
Communication Science at KU Leuven, Belgium, organizes Bachelor and Master programmes of Communication Science and is involved in the Master's programmes of Business Communication and Journalism. The research activities in the field of Communication Science take place in the School for Mass Communication Research and the Institute for Media Studies. Communication Science at KU Leuven, which consists of about 70 researchers, continuously aims at keeping up its outstanding international reputation.

For more information about these positions, including duties and preferred qualifications, please visit https://licts.kuleuven.be/apps/jobsite/domein/9016/9000 On that website, the vacancies will appear between February 14, 2014 and March 13, 2014. Applications will be exclusively accepted online until March 13, 2014. Depending on your experience and qualifications, the position will be filled at one of the levels of the Senior Academic Staff (tenure-track professor, associate professor, professor, full professor). The KU Leuven pursues a policy of equal opportunity and diversity.

The selection interviews will take place in April, 2014.

---

**RADBOUD UNIVERSITY, NIJMEGEN, THE NETHERLANDS**

**Faculty of Social Sciences**

**Full Professor of Communication Science, News and Information Transfer**

Radboud University invites applications for a full professor (0.8-1.0 fte). As Professor of News and Information Transfer, your main responsibility will be to consolidate the domain of mediated news and information transfer in research and in teaching. Positioned within the program of Communication Science, this domain focuses on the production and content and, particularly, the reception of news and information. The leading question is how government, news organizations and other institutions can inform citizens in today’s media environment where information is around us, everywhere and all the time, and where the role of media users (e.g. individuals, organizations) and their social networks is increasingly important.

Communication Science is part of the Faculty of Social Sciences, which is one of the largest faculties at Radboud University. The faculty’s ambition is to become one of the top social science institutes in Europe, providing high-quality research and study programs that rank among the best in the Netherlands.

This position concerns a temporary experimental chair with regular appointment for the duration of five years with the possibility of tenure as a permanent chair after five years. For more information on the vacancy and on the application procedure, please visit our website (http://www.ru.nl/vacatures/details/details_vacature_0?recid=530057).

Application deadline: 17 April 2014
Globalization and Development Communication
Master of Science