San Juan Happenings: Plenaries that Provide Plenty of Perspective

Amy Jordan, President-Elect, U of Pennsylvania

As conference planner for our meeting in San Juan, I committed myself to two goals for the opening and closing plenaries for our annual meeting. First, I wanted a plenary that would reflect the theme of this year’s conference: “Communication Across the Lifespan.” Second, I wanted a plenary that would recognize and reflect the unique setting of Puerto Rico, and engage with issues that are salient and central to Spanish speakers and Latin American Scholars.

This year’s opening plenary asks: “Do Communication Technologies Define a “Generation”?” We have assembled an amazing panel to explore this question from a variety of perspectives as we consider whether and how communication technologies shape the contours, capacities, and connections of a generation. The powerhouse panel includes Sun Sun Lim (National U of Singapore), Jean Burgess (Queensland U of Technology), Patti Valkenburg (U of Amsterdam), and Zizi Papacharissi (U of Illinois at Chicago). Among other questions, the panelists will consider: Have communication technologies created divergence and convergence across generations? How might the social construction of “generation” enable or constrain cultural participation? Is there analytical profit in associating successive generations of youth with the most prevalent media of their time (e.g., the television generation or the “thumb tribe”)? Is the rise psycho-social and health issues (such as narcissism or attention deficit disorder) associated with media technologies and their affordances? And, in what ways have communication technologies engaged generations in larger causes, political movements, and instantiated “generational moments”? I am delighted that we have such a tremendous line up to open what promises to be a dynamic and engaging conference.

For our closing plenary, we have assembled a panel of academics and professionals who are thinking deeply media’s ability to reflect and shape audiences’ perceptions of reality. The plenary, entitled “Confronting racial and ethnic stereotyping through entertainment television: The case of Latin/o/as in the media”, considers why the industry relies on stereotyping in their content in ways that fit their existing cognitive schemes. Additionally, the conversation will consider the opportunities offered by new media platforms -- such as online-only programming - and examines the popular U.S. television program East Los High as a case study. Representing East Los High are producers Kathleen Bedoya and Carlos Portugal. They are joined by National Public Radio television critic Eric Deggans, and scholar Isabel Molina-Guzmán (U of Massachusetts-Amherst). The panel will be moderated by Mari Castaneda (U of Massachusetts-Amherst). I am certain that after attending the closing plenary, conference attendees will be inspired and invited to find more opportunities to bring academics into dialogue with industry professionals and media critics the way we have with the closing plenary.

Those of you who have attended ICA’s annual meeting before may be surprised to find that in San Juan we do not have mid-day “mini-plenaries.” In their place, each day at various times in the day, is a poster plenary session. These offer a delightful forum to engage with presenters one-on-one, and to catch up with colleagues in an informal setting that offers plenty of time to chat but also food and beverages that represent the cuisine of the local culture. In addition, adding more posters into the program opened up more opportunities for scholars to present their work - something I know the division and interest group program planners appreciated.

I look forward to seeing you in San Juan!
Conference: “What’s New” This Year

Jennifer Le, ICA Executive Assistant

Excursions

It’s been two years since ICA has provided excursions at the annual conference. This year we have four different excursions for those who’d like to explore and experience more of Puerto Rico. There are great options that will allow you to explore the island’s natural beauty and historic charm; from a hike in the rainforest to kayaking at night in the Bioluminescence Bay. If you’d like to learn more about the excursions offered and how to register for them, visit our Excursions page. And, be sure to read Publications Director, Mike West’s article on the excursions.

Registration/Exhibit Hall Times and Location

This year’s registration and exhibit hall hours have changed for the first day only. On Thursday 21 May, the exhibit hall/registration booth will be open from 8:00 until 18:00. Then throughout the conference, we will have the normal operating hours of 9:00 - 17:00 except for Saturday which will end at 18:00. So, for those who will be participating in a preconference, feel free to stop by early or come after and pick up your name badges or programs. A very important note, the exhibit hall this year will not be located in the main hotel. It is in a separate building of the hotel located outside the Gran Salon Los Rosales. We will have signs and posters to help direct everyone to the appropriate space. The exhibit hall location is unique, but it’ll give everyone the opportunity to add steps to meet your Fitbit goals!

Poster Sessions

For the first time ICA’s conference-wide Interactive Poster Session will be located within the exhibit hall. Not only will there be one poster session, there will be three: Friday and Sunday noon poster sessions and one on Saturday at 16:30. Each poster session will be 75 minutes long. If you are participating in one of these three poster sessions, please make note of the correct date and time you are assigned to.

No Bags

On the recommendation of the Sustainability Committee, ICA will not be providing small tote bags this year, and for the foreseeable future. The money that would typically be used for the bags will go towards a rain forest donation in Puerto Rico.

Here in Washington D.C., the ICA staff is working hard to make sure ICA’s 65th Annual Conference will be another memorable year for our members and attendees!

President’s Message: Can Expertise in Communication Make a Difference?

Peter Vorderer, ICA President

In recent years, we have seen the rise of what I consider a profoundly striking (and worrying) social phenomenon: populist movements gaining increasing prominence and influence in a number of countries around the world, particularly in Europe and North America. Some have successfully coalesced into right-wing political parties like the “Front National” (FN) in France or the so-called “Party for Freedom” (PVV) in the Netherlands (to name just two of many). Other movements are more loosely organized, like the “Patriotic Europeans Against the Islamization of the West” (PEGIDA) who rally weekly in the German city of Dresden. In the United States, certain Republican senators have banded together in an effort to manage their own foreign policy by evading and undermining the U.S. president, choosing instead to correspond directly with the leadership in Iran. And the current Hungarian government has very successfully delimitated democratic rights for parts of the population, while exercising more and more control over what is used to be a free media ecosystem.

Again, these are just a few examples of what seems to be a decidedly pervasive feature of our modern political landscape.

Despite the fact that these movements have prospered in very different countries, each with undeniably different political constitutions and histories, they all seem to share a remarkably similar promise-and, concomitantly, they present a similar set of alarming characteristics. For example, these groups claim to defend democracy while in fact questioning the validity of equal human rights for everybody, as well as the rule of law. They promise easy solutions to complex problems by disparaging any kind of expertise, instead proposing a “common-sense” way of thinking and feeling that they position as naturally counter to (and, of course, superior to) the complex and multifaceted processes of policymaking that have traditionally held sway. In the same vein, these movements push back against any kind of established institutions,
particularly the mass media. Reasoned arguments are usually replaced by sentiments; similarly, discourse and dialogue give way to an unswerving adherence to simplistic, yet compelling, moral principles.

To me (who admittedly is neither a political scientist nor a communication scholar who has ever really done research on political communication), this seems to be a phenomenon that calls for the attention and expertise of international communication scholars. Regardless of whether our analyses ultimately support or debunk the claims made by the evangelists of these movements, it strikes me as crucial that our accumulated knowledge be used to shed light on the trends that are affecting the lives of millions across the globe. After all, isn't our discipline the one that is best equipped to weigh in on public communication, on the appeal and the potential impact of certain messages (be they mediated or not), and on the possibilities and limitations of journalism, public discourse, and new technology? Are we not particularly well qualified to address the processing of, for example, instructional or entertaining messages, or the use of propaganda and stereotypes? Doesn't our research place us in a position to offer unique insight on trust as a key discursive variable, and the persuasive implications of various message features, media outlets, and contexts, particularly in view of differing personalities, genders, and social, cultural, or national backgrounds? Why is it, then, that decision-makers regularly draw on the wisdom of lawyers, journalists, and academics who may have subject-specific expertise in some particular, narrow field of study, yet communication scholars rarely appear as key advisors?

The rise of populism is just one trend that's caught my eye in recent months, but I think the issue I outline above is representative of a larger problem: the relative invisibility of communication scholarship in the very realms where it might be most imperative. To be clear, my intention here is not to lament that those in the political arena do not appreciate our worth; instead, my hope is to inspire some reflection on ways in which we might contribute to the process of deliberation and decision-making (and the ways in which we already do). If our voices are indeed being undervalued in the public sphere, is it because communication as an academic discipline is still comparatively young, or is it because we have not yet succeeded in spreading the message about what we actually do? Calhoun (2011) elegantly articulated the importance of our field: "Changes in patterns and media of communication are more and more clearly key dimensions of global change. This field literally studies ways in which the world is made" (p. 1495). If his assessment is right and I believe it is then it seems only natural that communication scholars should play a central role in the formulation, assessment, and critical analysis of the policies that are shaping our lives. I'd love to hear your ideas about how this could happen, or your thoughts on who in our field has already taken up this charge; if you'd like to share your perspective, email me at pvatica@gmail.com. Beyond that, I'd encourage all of us to engage our students, our colleagues, and our departments in a conversation about the ways our expertise can (and does) make a difference.


---

**More Than Sun and Rum: The Incredible Communicative Richness of Puerto Rico**

Luis E. Hestres, UT-San Antonio

I remember my excitement when I learned that the 2015 ICA conference would be held in Puerto Rico. Not only would I get to see friends and family well before my annual Christmas trip, but also to brag a bit to my colleagues about my country. "Yes, I did in fact grow up here. Why, thank you very much. Yes I am proud. I agree—you must come back."

I wager many of our colleagues—especially those from places that have been battered recently by historic snowstorms and frigid temperatures—have been consulting travel books and websites for months, giddily planning their all-too-short stays in the Island of Enchantment. And while I definitely plan to brag about our beaches, restaurants, and historic landmarks as if I were personally responsible for them, I also wish to draw attention to other aspects of the island that make it a fascinating—and sometimes frustrating—place to live.

I’ll start from my own research specialty: political communication and activism, especially online. Puerto Rico’s history as a former Spanish colony that now belongs to the United States has yielded a vibrant but sharply divided political culture revolving around the island’s relationship with the US. Should Puerto Rico become the 51st state? Remain a self-governing “commonwealth” subject to Congress’ plenary powers? Should it become a sovereign nation? Or instead become some hybrid of these alternatives? As you can imagine, there are important implications to how we answer these questions, should we ever get around to it.

I grew up hearing passionate discussions about Puerto Rican politics that often involved highly polarizing rhetoric and stark framing of the stakes involved in elections. Statehood partisans were breezily labeled vende-patrias, meaning they were selling out our motherland and culture. Commonwealth supporters were accused of having a “colonized mentality,” or worse, of trying to “bring the republic in through the kitchen,” implying they were closet independence partisans (independentistas). Actual independentistas, meanwhile, were accused of (gasp!) being socialists—some of whom were and still are, in all fairness or wanting to jeopardize all the economic development achieved under US rule and let Puerto Rico become an impoverished Latin American republic. Most of this passionate and polarizing rhetoric is still employed today.

But Puerto Rican politics aren’t all division and discord; sometimes, broad swaths of the public can overcome ideological and partisan lines to work together for a common purpose. Two
highly successful examples come to mind: the 1999-2003 campaign to shut down a US Navy training facility in the island-municipality of Vieques, and the more recent campaign to eliminate accidental deaths and injuries from “celebratory” gun firings during New Year’s Eve. From the 1940s to May 2003, the Navy maintained an important training facility in Vieques. Discontent over the Navy’s negative impact on Vieques’ environment, quality of life, and economic prospects was mostly confined to residents of “the baby island” (la isla nena) until the 1999 accidental death of a civilian security guard at the Navy facility, caused by wayward bombs during a training exercise, triggered a widespread social movement pushing for the Navy’s withdrawal from Vieques. Activists were able to hold this movement together and expand it into a transnational campaign partly through smart communication strategies. By framing the campaign as one of “peace for Vieques,” and thus not alienating supporters of a close relationship with the US, they attracted and maintained broad public support for their ultimate goal. In a pre-social media era, they also used email lists and websites extensively to share information, coordinate strategies, and publicize their efforts.

The more recent “not one more bullet in the air” (ni una bala más al aire) campaign, which involves the government, media outlets, non-governmental organizations, and broad segments of the public, has been a successful multi-sector response to a symptom of a broader problem for which so far there’s no easy solution: drug trafficking.

Puerto Rico serves as a major drug traffic gateway from Central and South America to the US, but a significant portion of those drugs stay in the island, along with all the related problems: addiction, violence, and illegal firearm ownership, among others. The island has fairly strict gun laws by US standards, but illegal gun ownership is rampant and often tied to the drug trade. Unfortunately, some individuals choose to fire these guns into the air on New Year’s Eve—a practice that has caused numerous injuries, and even some deaths, from errant bullets. In the late 2000s, deaths from these “celebratory” gun firings (including at least one small child) triggered a massive backlash among the public and catalyzed a widespread push to make it socially unacceptable to fire guns into the air. The result: a sharp decline in gun firings, along with equally sharp reductions of injuries and fatalities from errant bullets. Since the campaign’s start, many New Year’s Eves have passed with no deaths and very few injuries—a triumph of effective public health communication and social marketing.

These are just a few examples of Puerto Rico’s communicative richness, and I haven’t even scratched the surface. The endless mutations of “Spanglish” that emerge seemingly every day; the critical role that popular cultural production plays in politics, and vice versa; how Puerto Ricans navigate the interpersonal and group communication issues arising from constant migration to and from the mainland; Puerto Rico’s influence in Hispanic-American media enterprises; and so on. I could go on and on, and if you catch me at the right bar, egged on by some warm sun and rum, I probably will.

A View from the Inside

Holli Seitz, U of Pennsylvania

As a research fellow and conference planning assistant to ICA President-Elect Amy Jordan, I recently had the pleasure of being involved in the annual conference programming meeting at ICA headquarters. Over the span of three days, a blank conference grid is filled with panels, plenaries, meetings, and receptions, and each decision is made with the needs of the membership in mind. I feel lucky to have been given this inside view of ICA so early in my career, and I want to share some of the observations that I’ve made throughout the process:

* The people make the organization. It takes a tremendous number of people, at many levels of involvement, to assemble the annual conference and keep the organization running: scholars submitting excellent work; reviewers sorting through submissions; Division and Interest Group Chairs and Co-Chairs working to creatively program papers into panels and interactive paper sessions; the ICA Executive Committee; the conference planning team (including the conference planner, the amazing Dr. Jordan); and the incredibly competent professional ICA staff. Being on the inside has given me an appreciation for the many moving parts that must be coordinated and the level of care and attention to detail (down to protecting you from mosquito-borne diseases) that go into every aspect of conference planning.

* Our work is diverse but connected. As an early-career scholar, the view from the inside has given me an appreciation for the depth and breadth of scholarship that is represented in the organization and at the annual conference. With so much diversity of thought, it seems amazing that it can be categorized into 26 divisions and interest groups. On the one hand, that doesn’t seem to be enough. On the other hand, as I skimmed the titles and abstracts of the papers being presented at this year’s conference, I saw how interrelated the work is. It seems that the divisions and interest groups, though highly necessary from an organizational perspective, are false walls between areas of interest. For example, as a health communication researcher, I saw exciting and innovative health communication research appearing across the program and in unexpected divisions. If you’ve previously found yourself in a conference rut, don’t be afraid to look outside of your usual division or interest group to find others studying your topic from a different perspective.

* Despite our diversity, trends emerge. As each year’s program comes together, it gives us an opportunity to see trends that emerge within the realm of communication research. Just for fun, we created a word cloud using session and paper titles from the conference program to give you a sneak peak at what you can expect for May’s conference. As you can imagine, “communication” is central to our work, but the word “media” looms largest, as much of our work...
examines communication that relates to media. (Even today's interpersonal communication is often mediated in some way.) The role of web-based media and communication is further emphasized by the prominence of words like "social," "online," and "digital," but the appearance of "news" hints at the continued importance of traditional media (even if news can now refer to television, radio, print, and Internet). To be fair, my interpretation is clouded (pun absolutely intended) by my own biases and perspective, so take a look and see how our word cloud relates to your work.

While the conference planning process is fascinating to watch, it's just one of the many tasks that is happening behind the scenes of the annual conference. If you missed it last month, be sure to see Amy's column on the member and conference attendee survey that we developed and fielded last fall and this month's column on the exciting plenary sessions planned for Puerto Rico. If you took the survey or are one of the many scholars contributing to the success of our upcoming annual conference, we thank you. ICA wouldn't be what it is today without your time and intellectual contributions. I hope you've enjoyed seeing ICA through my eyes and are excited about San Juan!

Make Time for Excursions That Navigate the Best of San Juan and Environs

Mike West, ICA Director of Publications

A crucial part of the planning for the ICA Conference is an itinerary of excursions that allow members to make the most of our host city. If you're going to undertake the time and expense of airfare, accommodations, and presentation in a different part of the world every year, we want you to have the opportunity to experience those parts of the world and are happy to provide some of those opportunities.

San Juan, Puerto Rico, is no exception. The 500-year-old city is packed with relics of its history, and of the many cultures whose mixture forms the nucleus of Puerto Rican culture. Within and outside of the city, there is much to discover. ICA has put together four excursion packages during the 65th ICA Conference that you can purchase along with your conference preregistration. One of these, the Old San Juan Historical Walking Tour with Shopping (Thursday, 21 May or Saturday, 23 May at 8:45 a.m.), has more or less been described in the last two issues of the Newsletter ("Old San Juan Captures Puerto Rico's Capital at its Most Iconic"). January/February 2015; Old San Juan Offers Modern Attractions to Complement Its Historical Importance", March 2015), to which we invite you to turn back for greater detail. For some detail about the other three Puerto Rican destinations, read on.

El Yunque, about 40 minutes' drive east of San Juan, is a National Forest located near the northeastern tip of the island. It is the only tropical rainforest in the United States National Forest System. It's not an enormous one—just 28,000 acres (11,500 hectares). But it's a rainforest of extraordinary biodiversity, thanks to the 100 billion gallos of rainfall it receives every year. Among the thousands of indigenous plants are 150 species of ferns and 240 species of trees; among the latter are 23 that are found only in El Yunque.

The animal life in El Yunque, too, is exotic and rare. There are no large wild animals, but hundreds of smaller species. Among these are the endangered Puerto Rican parrot, in several varieties, and coqui—a tiny, inch-long species of frog that cannot be found anywhere else on Earth.

One section of El Yunque, known as the "Dwarf Forest," is located at the highest point of its mountainous elevation. It receives the highest amount of wind and rainfall, resulting in soil so wet that few forms of vegetation can find purchase there. What does grow is often twisted, dwarfed, and otherwise stunted, resulting in one of the strangest and most beautiful environments imaginable.

ICA's excursion to El Yunque features a 90-minute hike on the U.S. Forest Service trails that run through the rainforest. There are two touring times: Thursday, 21 May and Sunday, 24 May, both departing at 8:45. $75.

The northeasternmost corner of the island of Puerto Rico is a small, U-shaped formation that's
formed by the Bahía de las Cabezas ("Headlands Bay"). The western and eastern flanks of the bay are the locations of the other two ICA excursions.

On the western flank is Cabeza Chiquita, a tiny phalanx that protrudes into the bay. Thursday 21 May and Saturday 23 May, ICA will offer a Hidden Beach Kayak and Snorkel Tour at Cabeza Chiquita. Or adjacent to it, as the case may be—at a small, hidden beach, to which you will kayak from Cabeza Chiquita. (Since it's a hidden beach, there's no way to tell you more about its location in a Newsletter article; however, the west side of the bay is heavily forested, with plenty of small nooks cut out of the forestation along the shoreline; even the Governor of Puerto Rico has a private beach there.)

Once you’ve arrived, you can simply relax on the beach, where beach chairs and canopies will be provided (along with refreshments); walk the beach with a tour guide; or, for the adventurous, a snorkel tour on a protected reef (headed by a Master Diver). The four-hour trip begins at 1:00 p.m. (13:00) on both Thursday and Saturday. $120.

The eastern flank of the bay is largely occupied by the Las Cabezas de San Juan Nature Reserve, at its center is a lagoon, Laguna Grande. It holds what is, by night, one of the great natural wonders of the world: the famous Bioluminescent Bay, whose waters emit a soft, otherworldly blue-green glow in the dark. There are three such "bio bays" in Puerto Rico; their waters are populated by single-celled organisms called dinoflagellates (similar to plankton), which glow as a defense mechanism that scares away predators. And on this sunset excursion, you will kayak right into the illuminated water.

You begin just below the nature reserve, in Croabas Bay, taking a seat in a kayak (two to a boat). You will travel, single file-following a tour guide- across the bay, then up a very narrow river through a forest of mangroves. It’s about 45 minutes from the start of the ride to arrival in the Laguna Grande. Note that the trip is timed so that when you arrive, it is very, very dark outside. You are not permitted to swim in the water; any large-scale disturbance like that will kill the bioluminescence. That said, you will get wet. Dress and prepare accordingly. The Bioluminescent Bay tour leaves at 5:30 p.m. (17:30) Friday and Saturday, 22 and 23 May. $105.

Happy excursing!

Spotlight on Preconferences

In each Newsletter leading up to the conference, we will highlight different preconferences and postconferences that have been planned for San Juan, Puerto Rico. To learn more information about the other preconferences, visit http://www.icahdq.org/conf/2015/preconferences.asp

Organizational Communication Division Doctoral Consortium: Your Academic Career in a Globalized World

Division Affiliation: Organizational Communication Division
Time: Thursday, 21 May 8:30 - 17:00
Location: Caribe Hilton, Las Olas
Cost: $50 USD (lunch not included, will be off-site)

This Doctoral Consortium focuses on the theme "Your Academic Career in Globalizing World". Faculty mentors with strong international profiles will critically reflect on the international character of the academic world, and discuss differences and similarities between different countries in terms of structures, requirements, cultures and habits in the academic world with advanced doctoral students. These issues will be related to students’ current research projects, as well as to their future careers in international academia.

Contact: Bart van den Hooff, b.j.vanden.hooff@vu.nl

Discussion, Dialogue, Discourse: Meanings and Methods

Division Affiliation: Public Relations Division, Organizational Communication Division
Time: Thursday, 21 May 9:00 - 15:00
Location: Caribe Hilton, Maguey
Cost: $100 USD (lunch included)

Discussion, dialogue, and discourse have long been regarded as important concepts across a range of communication-related disciplines such as public relations, organizational communication, computer-mediated communication, journalism and political communication. These concepts are becoming even more significant with the increasing use of social media and other forms of online communication by organizations and their publics/stakeholders/citizens. The online environment has provided a unique milieu for the conduct of discussion, dialogue, and discourse, but it has also focused attention on the inconsistent use of these labels, the significance of the differences between the concepts, and the gaps between normative theory and pragmatic action. The aim of this preconference is to bring together participants from a wide variety of communication-related disciplines and to discuss theoretical and empirical contributions that add to the understanding of discussion, dialogue, and discourse with particular emphasis on the translation of these concepts into the online space.

Contact: Uta Russmann, uta.russmann@fh-wien.ac.at
Journalism Studies Graduate Student Colloquium

**This preconference is not held at the Caribe Hilton**

Division Affiliation: Journalism Studies Division
Time: Thursday, 21 May 9:00 - 16:00
Location: Condado Plaza Hilton, Boardroom I & Boardroom II
Cost: $30 USD (lunch is not included)

The Journalism Studies Graduate Student Colloquium is part of the Division's commitment to academic mentorship. The Colloquium brings together PhD students and leading experts in the field. Young scholars will have the opportunity to present their research and get project-specific feedback from experienced international scholars. In addition, the Colloquium will feature topics related to professional development such as publishing in international journals and career strategies.

Contact: Thomas Hanitzsch, thomas.hanitzsch@ifkw.lmu.de

Communication Science: Evolution, Biology, and Brains Across the Lifespan - Innovation in Theory and Methods

Division: Communication and Technology Division, Health Communication Division, Information Systems Division, Interpersonal Communication Division, Mass Communication Division
Time: Thursday, 21 May 9:00 - 16:30
Location: Caribe Hilton, Flamingo B
Cost: $75 student; $125 post PhD (lunch included)

Building on the momentum from the past two years, this pre-conference will bring together scholars who are working across sub-fields of communication studies and use evolutionary theory, biological explanations as well as neuroscience and other biological measures to address core questions in communication studies. Most importantly, the preconference participants will share new data and ideas and discuss a vision for how communication studies can best leverage such new theorizing and study paradigms.

Contact: conference@medianeuroscience.org

Administrative v. Critical Research: Implications for Contemporary Information Policy Studies

Division Affiliation: Communication Law and Policy Division
Time: Thursday, 21 May 9:00 - 17:00
Location: Caribe Hilton, Conference Room 7
Cost: $0.00 USD (lunch included)

A preconference in which the relevance of the distinction between "administrative" and "critical" scholarship in light of Paul Lazarsfeld's seminal piece "Remarks on Administrative and Critical Communication Research" will be tested when applied to today's information society and the research questions contemporary information policy raises. Authors presenting at the preconference will be invited to submit their completed papers for review in a special issue of the Journal of Information Policy (http://www.jip-online.org) to be published in 2016 highlighting the 75th anniversary of Lazarfeld's essay.

Contact: Amit Schejter, schejter@gmail.com

Bringing Together Social and Semantic Networks in Communication Research

Division Affiliation: Communication and Technology Division, Mass Communication Division, Political Communication Division
Time: Thursday, 21 May 9:00 - 17:00
Location: Caribe Hilton, Conference Room 3/4/5
Cost: $60 student; $100 faculty (lunch not included)

Communication processes include patterns of both social relations and semantic content which can often be fruitfully conceptualized as networks. Network researchers have developed a whole bouquet of powerful and scalable tools and methods to the analysis of discourse texts and communicative interactions, and first inroads are being cut toward the joint analysis of social and semantic network data. This preconference connects network analytic methodology with important developments in communication research and shows how network methods can be used to provide novel insights in communication patterns and contents.

Contact: Christian Baden, c.baden@mail.huji.ac.il
In each Newsletter leading up to the conference, we will highlight different BlueSky Workshops that will be occurring in San Juan, Puerto Rico. To learn more information about the other BlueSky Workshops, visit http://www.icahdq.org/conf/2015/blueskyworkshops.asp.

(Re)Developing the Intergroup Communication Course
Organizers: Jordan Soliz, U of Nebraska - Lincoln
Time: Friday, 22 May 10:30 - 11:45
Location: Caribe Hilton, Boardroom 2
Speakers: Jordan Soliz, U of Nebraska - Lincoln; Janice Raup-Krieger, U of Florida

The schedule of the workshop will revolve around these objectives and include informal presentation of materials and discussion. There will also be an opportunity to discuss other relevant issues relevant to intergroup pedagogy and identify methods for continued collaboration and sharing of materials. The session is open to those who have taught an intergroup communication course previously as well as those who are developing a course for the first time or will be doing so in the future. You do not need to be a member of the Intergroup Communication Interest Group to participate in this session. If you would like to participate, please notify Dr. Jordan Soliz at jsoliz2@unl.edu by 31 March. If participants have developed a course previously, we invite you to submit a syllabus for your course(s) including readings and at least one sample assignment or course activity you are prepared to discuss. Please submit these materials by 31 March. If you cannot attend but would still be interested in sharing your materials, please feel free to submit materials. Any inquiries should be submitted to the session organizers. A final schedule for the workshop will be available by May 1st so participants can plan accordingly.

"Workshop is open to additional participants, but participants must sign up for or apply to be a part of the workshop in advance of the conference.

Beyond Human: Developing Human-Machine Communication Research
Organizers: Andrea L. Guzman, U of Illinois - Chicago; Steve Jones, U of Illinois - Chicago; David J. Gunke, Northern Illinois U
Time: Sunday, 24 May 13:30 - 14:45
Location: Caribe Hilton, Boardroom 2
Speakers: Andrea L. Guzman, U of Illinois - Chicago; Steve Jones, U of Illinois - Chicago; David J. Gunke, Northern Illinois U

The purpose of this workshop then is two--fold: to bring Human--Machine Communication scholars together to discuss critical questions regarding this area of study and to raise the salience of this research within Communication. One of the most pressing questions we will address is "What is Human--Machine Communication?" and whether the term "Human--Machine Communication" itself is the best way to describe this area of research. Indeed at the heart of this matter is how we can establish that our object of study qualifies as communication and, as such, should be afforded credence within the study of Communication. Next, we will engage in a discussion of what participants perceive to be the most pressing questions and challenges regarding this area of research. Finally, we also will collaboratively discuss and weigh the formation of a Human--Machine Communication interest group in ICA.

The workshop is facilitated by scholars representing varying interests in Human--Machine Communication: Andrea L. Guzman is a PhD Candidate at the U of Illinois--Chicago where her research focuses on cultural and individual perceptions of digital entities; Steve Jones is UIC Distinguished Professor of Communication, Research Associate in the UIC Electronic Visualization Laboratory, Adjunct Professor of Computer Science, and Adjunct Research Professor in the Institute of Communications Research at the U of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; David J. Gunke is Presidential Teaching Professor of Communication Studies at Northern Illinois U where he teaches courses in web design and programming, information and communication technology, and cyberculture.

"Workshop is open to any conference participant, with no prior registration needed.

Conceptualizing Framing in Political Communication
Organizers: Kate Dunsmore, Fairleigh Dickinson U
Time: Monday, 25 May 12:00 - 13:45
Location: Caribe Hilton, Boardroom 2
Speakers: Kate Dunsmore, Fairleigh Dickinson U; Andrea Hickerson, Rochester Institute of Technology

Framing research in political communication has largely been focused on discovering and explicating media effects utilizing quantitative methods. However, there has been a recognition that a constructionist approach permits conceptualization of questions in addition to those related to media effects. Among those attempting to integrate a constructionist conceptualization are Pan and Kosicki, 1993; Simon and Jerit, 2007; and Van Gorp, 2007. This work points to the possibilities of constructionist conceptualization.

There are many specific methods deriving from a constructionist approach. This BlueSky workshop proposes to focus on the advantages of analyzing the structural features of discourse itself. This workshop is intended to foster connections between the fields of discourse analysis and political communication, making each more accessible to the other.

"Workshop is open to any conference participant, with no prior registration needed."
While academic institutions have used immersive virtual reality for communication research for years, the opportunity to study its effects in a commercial setting is new. Immersive virtual reality technology is becoming more accessible to the public, infiltrating homes, schools, and entertainment venues. For example, tens of millions of people own a Microsoft Kinect, a device for video game consoles that uses a person's body movements to control a virtual character. Further, Facebook spent two billion dollars to purchase Oculus VR, a company that created the Rift, a lightweight immersive virtual reality headset, which continues to gain popularity and drive the development of competing platforms.

Immersive virtual reality technology places people directly into a virtual environment while blocking out the outside world, creating intense, vivid, and personal experiences. Portability, connectivity, and the increased ability to track naturalistic body movements will revolutionize virtual reality as a medium for everyday use, creating experiences that map mediated sensory feedback to real-world actions. In turn, having a relatively inexpensive high-presence platform widely available will drive the development of new uses. Increased access to this technology suggests that the effects of virtual reality will not be limited to one demographic, but will cover the human life span.

Consumer electronics immersive virtual reality devices such as the Oculus Rift can be both the subject of research and the platform for research design. What are the advantages and pitfalls of each approach, and what are their theoretical underpinnings?

*Workshop is open to any conference participant, with no prior registration needed.

### Convergent Media Policy - Rethinking Regulation for Multimedia Platform

Organizers: Terry Flew, Queensland U of Technology  
Time: Saturday, 23 May 13:30 - 14:45  
Location: Caribe Hilton, Boardroom 1  
Speakers: **Terry Flew**, Queensland U of Technology; **Peng Hwa Ang**, Nanyang Technological U; **Amit Schejter**, Ben-Gurion U; **Manuel Puppis**, U of Fribourg; **Sandra Braman**, U of Wisconsin - Milwaukee; **Seamus Simpson**, U of Salford

This workshop will invite comparative analysis of the institutional dynamics of national policy responses to media convergence and global digital networks. Observing how historical divisions between media industries, platforms, devices, and forms of content are blurring with 21st century convergent social media, the project nonetheless presumes that while media flows themselves may be increasingly global, or at least enabled by globally networked information and communication technologies (ICTs), the policy responses are primarily national. The rise of supranational international agencies and agreements influences the practices of nation-states, and the global nature of the media/ICT corporations involved challenges long established patterns of engagement with national media, but the path-dependent institutional frameworks that inform national media policies remain central to shaping legal, policy and regulatory responses. 17 participants have thus far been confirmed, from ten countries in Asia, Europe, North America, Australia and the Middle East. Three more participants may attend subject to final arrangements.

*Workshop is open to additional participants, but participants must sign up for or apply to be a part of the workshop in advance of the conference.

### Cuba, Normalization, and Communication Research

Organizers: Monroe Price, U of Pennsylvania  
Date: Monday, 25 May 10:30 - 11:45  
Location: Caribe Hilton, Boardroom 2  

This BlueSky workshop focuses on ways in which the move to normalization affects scholarly research possibilities on media and communications. Already, there has been a rich history of such scholarship, and the workshop will seek ways of presenting that work as a basis for future possibilities. Not only is there the question of understanding the past half century better, there is the possibility of capturing the moment of change. In this respect, Cuba presents an extraordinary site for research in all fields of communications studies.

### Ethnographers of Communication Joining Theoretical Conversations Outside Their Subfield

Organizers: David Boromisza-Habashi, U of Colorado - Boulder; Leah Sprain, U of Colorado  
Date: Sunday, 24 May 15:00 - 16:15  
Location: Caribe Hilton, Boardroom 2  
Speakers: **David Boromisza-Habashi**, U of Colorado - Boulder; **Leah Sprain**, U of Colorado Boulder; **Donal Carbaugh**, U of Massachusetts; **Patricia Covarrubias**, U of New Mexico; **Evelyn Ho**, U of San Francisco; **Chaim Noy**, U of South Florida

This Blue Sky Workshop is designed to provide scholars familiar with EC an opportunity to explore such challenges, and to identify best practices for joining theoretical conversations "outside" EC. In particular, the session chairs wish to invite communication scholars who either work in the EC tradition, or have drawn upon that tradition to enrich their theorizing, to respond to the following questions: What counts as "successful" theoretical engagement between EC and other traditions of communication research? Why do such engagements...
sometimes fail or remain unproductive? What are best practices for turning EC-based theorizing into theoretical contributions “outside” EC? The session chairs hope that this conversation will be especially beneficial for junior scholars wishing to position themselves as participants of theoretical conversations and debates throughout the communication field.

*Workshop is open to any conference participant, with no prior registration needed.

### Further Internationalizing ICA

**Organizers:** Jack Linchuan Qiu, Chinese U - Hong Kong  
**Date:** Friday, 22 May 13:30 - 14:45  
**Location:** Caribe Hilton, Boardroom 2  
**Speakers:** Peng Hwa Ang, Nanyang Technological U (ICA President-Elect-Select); David Boromisza-Habashi, U of Colorado Boulder (International Liaison, Language and Social Interaction Division); Aswin Punathambekar, U of Michigan (International Liaison, Popular Communication Division); Silvio Waisbord, George Washington U (Editor, Journal of Communication); Peter Vorderer, U of Mannheim (ICA President)

Following the 2014 bylaw change, ICA has assigned new roles to the Regional Board Members-at-Large; most divisions and interest groups have selected their International Liaisons. A new system of internationalization is taking shape with the goal of further enhancing ICA’s global impact. But what exactly does internationalization mean – for ICA, for the divisions and interest groups, and for the scholarship of ICA members? What is more important – geographical diversity, epistemological pluralism, collaboration across sub-fields of research? How to measure it? What is to be done, by whom, under what specific organizational structures? This Blue Sky Workshop shall address these key questions and open up space for more in-depth discussion among ICA leadership, the newly appointed international liaisons, and all colleagues sharing an interest in further internationalizing ICA.

*Workshop is open to any conference participant, with no prior registration needed.

### Networked China: Exploring Digital Media and Civic Engagement

**Organizers:** Wenhong Chen, U of Texas - Austin; Stephen D. Reese, U of Texas - Austin  
**Date:** Monday, 25 May 10:30 - 11:45  
**Location:** Caribe Hilton, Boardroom 1

This Blue Sky Workshop encourages the 20 participants to discuss and collaborate on new theories, methods, and data to capture the transformative power and the limitations of digital media technologies in the Chinese societies and beyond. The workshop will offer a venue of building and maintaining a scholarly network. The 75-minute workshop will be organized in three parts. Interested participants should contact the co-chairs and submit a 500-word thematic statement addressing one of the following topics:

* Theories: How will the literature on digital media and China benefit from theories such as social networks, social movement, social changes, globalization and transnationalism, which are central in sociology, political science, and other sister disciplines? What are the unique strengths and contributions of communication and media studies to this literature? What are the underlying institutional, social, and psychological mechanisms that underlie the implications and contradictions of digital media and technologies for civic engagement in China and Chinese societies?

* Methods and data: How can we integrate different methods and data from qualitative fieldwork to quantitative survey to big data, in order to advance this literature? How does mobile communication change the dynamics? What research tools shall we equip ourselves as well as our students with?

* Future research and collaboration: What are the most promising venues of future research and collaboration?

### ICA Nordic Regional Conference

**CALL FOR EXTENDED ABSTRACTS**

The 2015 International Communication Association Nordic Regional Conference will take place 11-13 October 2015 at the Copenhagen Business School. The theme, **Responsible Communication and Governance**, reflects the communication field's and the Nordic region's research expertise in areas such as corporate social responsibility, sustainability, governance, and communication. The conference is sponsored by:

* Copenhagen Business School's (CBS) Dept. of Intercultural Communication and Management (ICM)  
* Nordicom (Nordic Information Centre for Media and Communication Research)  
* University of Southern Denmark
General theme: Responsible Communication and Governance

The goal of the ICA Regional Conference is to stimulate reflection on and discussion about how responsibility is organized and communicated across a variety of contexts and settings, including social, political, intercultural, corporate, health, and interpersonal communication, amongst other contexts. In particular, the conference focuses on how responsibility emerges in communication, how it shapes and is shaped by social and organizational practices, and how it develops as a social and political ideal at the intersection between governance, talk, and action.

The theme reflects the communication field’s ongoing commitment to examine, critique and shape the shifting roles and responsibilities that we face in regional and global contexts. We welcome extended abstracts for paper and panel submissions that discuss how responsibility is informed and shaped by communication and governance practices either within a particular context or setting (e.g., an organization, the media, a country, a political party) or as it plays out in various processes such as:

- Meaning and sense making
- Talk and action
- Policy making
- Power and control
- Materiality
- Transnational movements
- Sustainability and Corporate Social Responsibility
- Internet policies and infrastructures
- Freedom of information and privacy
- Crowdsourcing and open access to information
- Grassroots organizing
- Environmental sustainability
- Engaged scholarship

Keynote speakers will be:

- Professor Linda Putnam, U of California, Santa Barbara
- Professor Lilie Chouliaraki, London School of Economics
- Professor Mette Morsing, Copenhagen Business School.

Eligibility:

You do not need to be an ICA member to submit an abstract for the conference.

Extended Abstract Submission:

- **Abstracts**: Abstracts will be subject to masked competitive review. Authors’ names and affiliations should be submitted in a separate document with full contact information. Extended Abstracts should not exceed 1,200 words, excluding references, tables, figures, and/or appendices.
- **Panel Submissions**: We will also consider proposals for full panel sessions; in this case please include a brief panel description along with three paper abstracts. Authors’ names and full contact information should be included in the panel submission. Panel proposals should not exceed 1,200 words, excluding title page with contact information, references, tables, figures, and/or appendices.
- **Research Escalator** Papers: Research Escalator Papers are in an extended panel session, which provides an opportunity for less experienced researchers to discuss and get feedback from more veteran scholars about a paper-in-progress (with the goal of making the paper ready for submission to a conference or journal). Those interested in the Research Escalator session should submit an extended abstract (2-3 double-spaced pages, plus references); if accepted, participants are expected to send the full paper to the scholar(s) assigned to their paper no later than 6 weeks before the convention. Anyone can submit an abstract for the Research Escalator session; however, we especially encourage graduate students and/or people inexperienced with the journal publishing process to submit. On the first page of the extended abstract, please make a note: CONSIDER FOR RESEARCH ESCALATOR SESSION. Please contact Sanne Frandsen (sf.ikl@cbs.dk) for additional information.
- **Submission**: Please send abstracts attached as a .doc, .docx, or pdf file to icanordic2015@cbs.dk . The deadline for submissions is **1 May 2015**.
- **Abstract Decision Notifications**: Decision notification will occur by 1 June 2015. If your paper is accepted for presentation at the 2015 ICA Nordic Regional Conference in Copenhagen, you will be notified and must then register for the conference and pay the conference fee. Payment of the conference fee confirms your intent to participate in this ICA Regional Conference. Submission of your abstract does not enroll you as an ICA member, or automatically register you for the conference itself.

Conference Language and Equipment for Presentations:

Conference presentations will be in English. Audiovisual equipment for presentations will be provided.
Location:
Copenhagen Business School campus. All events, with the exception of one dinner will occur on campus (http://www.cbs.dk/en/about-cbs/contact/maps). Hotel, transportation, and local attraction information is available on the website.

Schedule:
The conference will begin Sunday, 11 October at 15:00 and end with lunch on Tuesday, 13 October. A more detailed schedule will be posted on the website as soon as the submissions are finalized.

Registration Costs:
Registration: DKK 2,500 (approx. EUR 330)
Student registration: DKK 1,500 (approx. EUR 200)
The registration fees include all breakfasts, lunches, receptions, and special dinner at Carlsberg including beer menu with other beverages available.
This event is organized by the Department of Intercultural Communication and Management, in cooperation with the International Communication Association and regional and international co-organizers and co-sponsors listed on the website.

For further information please contact:
Robyn Remke
rr.ikl@cbs.dk

Student Column: Events in San Juan
Anne Kaun, Sodertorn U

In only a couple of weeks we will enjoy each other's company in the Caribbean sun. Although a lot of great events will probably keep us inside for most of the time…

This year's conference promises to be a great event in general, but for early career scholars in particular. In this newsletter we have tried to gather some of the events that are specifically addressing questions and concerns of graduate students and early career scholars. Besides a number of preconferences such as the one on visual methods and the PhD workshop on Public Relations and Strategic Communication, there are numerous interesting offers throughout the conference. Besides all the great events organized by the divisions - many of them in collaboration with our early career representatives - there are three events that we as graduate student board members have been involved in. For the first time we have organized with the help of President-Elect Amy Jordan a BlueSky Session that is dedicated to the question of what happens after graduation and how to decide between an academic or non-academic career. We are happy to have a great line-up of panelists sharing their views and ideas on career paths in and outside the university with you (details below). Furthermore we invite all new members and graduate students to join us for the orientation meeting where you get the chance to interact with former, current and to-be presidents, board members and us as student representatives (new member orientation meeting details below). Last but not least we hope that you will join us for the legendary graduate student reception and hang-out in a relaxed atmosphere. We thank all our sponsors for the generous support of the reception:

Department for Media and Communication Studies at Sodertorn U, Department of Media Studies at Stockholm U, Center for Global Communication Studies at Annenberg School for Communication, FSMK (Swedish Media and Communication Association), Media and Communication Studies at Karlstad U, CELSA - Paris Sorbonne U, School of Media and Communication at Temple U, School of Communication at Northwestern U, School of Communication at U of Colorado Boulder

We will keep you posted about latest news and events during the conference in our facebook group https://www.facebook.com/groups/386119558234727/

Events
ICA Annual Member Meeting and New Member/Graduate Student Orientation
Fri, May 22, 10:30 to 11:45, Caribe Hilton, San Cristobal Ballroom A
This session is designed to provide opportunity for all members to raise issues regarding the association. It is your opportunity to interact with the Executive Committee and help shape the association and its future direction. You will also gain an overview of ICA, the conference, and opportunities for participation.
ALL MEMBERS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.
Refreshments will be provided.

ICA Graduate Student Reception
Fri, May 22, 20:00 to 22:00, Caribe Hilton, Atlantico Bar and Grill

BlueSky Workshop: What Else Is There? - Career Paths In and Outside Academia
Sun, May 24, 16:30 to 17:45, Caribe Hilton, Boardroom 2
In times of tightening job markets for PhD’s, early-career scholars are increasingly considering career paths outside the university. Often these alternative paths are not discussed in PhD
programs. This blue sky workshop gathers scholars with experiences both within and outside academia and presents their hands-on views on pro and cons of alternative career paths. The BlueSky Workshop is designed particularly for graduate students and early-career scholars that are exploring new possibilities for their future careers. Panelists: Silvio Waisboard, Seeta Pai (Common Sense Media), Jill Hopke (U of Wisconsin-Madison) Chairs: Paola Sartoretto (Karlstad U), Francois Allard-Huver (Paris Sorbonne U - CELSA), Anne Kaun

Anne Kaun(Soderorn U)

**Divisions and Interest Groups Early Career Scholars Events**

**PhD Workshop Public Relations and Strategic Communication**

*Time: Thursday, 21 May 9:00 - 12:30 (half-day) Location: Canbe Hilton*

Organizer(s): Jennifer Bartlett

Bree Devin

Sponsor(s): Queensland U of Technology's School of Advertising, Marketing, and Public Relations

Description: This half day workshop is relevant for Public Relations and Strategic Communication PhD students at different stages of their dissertation process. The aim of the workshop is to provide doctoral students with an opportunity to present and discuss their dissertation research in a constructive atmosphere. Students receive feedback and advice on their projects, theoretical frameworks, methodologies and research designs from senior scholars and other students, who review the proposals.

Contact: Jennifer Bartlett, j.bartlett@qut.edu.au, Bree Devin, bree.devin@qut.edu.au

**Young Scholars Preconference on Visual Methods**

Young Scholars Preconference on Visual Methods ( http://www.visualmethods.net ) on 21 May 2015 at the U del Turabo in Caguas. While it is an initiative that originated in the Visual Communication Studies Division, the event is explicitly open for young scholars from all divisions and interest groups and aims to bring together early career researchers who deal with visual methods in their research projects and respectively experienced senior scholars.

---

**Call for Papers**

**Call for Nominations**

**Editor for Communication Yearbook**

The ICA Publications Committee is soliciting nominations for the editor of the Communication Yearbook (CY). Self-nominations are welcome. The appointment is for four years and begins in August/September, 2015.

Communication Yearbook will be published in four issues per year, with a rapid online publication model, and bound together as a final volume at the end of the year. Each volume will publish state-of-the-art essays and synthesis of scholarship. A new section to be developed by the future editor with the support of the ICA Board of Directors will include topical review essays of significant publications in the field.

It is both highly international and interdisciplinary in scope, with authors and chapters representing the broad global interests of the International Communication Association. The new editor of Communication Yearbook enjoys the opportunity to help shape the future of this important publication outlet, which will transition more formally into a journal format for Communication Yearbook 41-44 (2016-2019) enjoying the full electronic editorial support of a publisher.

A complete nomination package includes a letter of application from the candidate which should include a mission statement for the editorship; the candidate's vitae; 2-3 letters of support from published scholars familiar with the candidate's work, experience and suitability for the task of journal editing; and a letter of institutional support from the candidate's home institution. Responsibilities are detailed in the ICA Publication Manual: www.icahdq.org/pubs/Publication_Manual.pdf

**www.icahdq.org/pubs/Publication_Manual.pdf**

Editors of ICA publications should reflect and seek to enhance the diversity of the Association in terms of their interest areas, gender, ethnicity, and national origin.

Please send your nomination package at your earliest convenience to Michael Haley, ICA Executive Director (mhaley@icahdq.org) Review of packets will begin on 1 April 2015, and continue until the position is filled.

---

**MEDIA ASIA**

**Call for Papers for a Special Issue**

**Hate Speech, Offendedness and Freedom of Expression Abstracts due 31 March 2015**

Final papers due 30 June 2015

Editor: Cherian George (Hong Kong Baptist U)

The giving and taking of offence has emerged as one of the most challenging communication issues facing societies around the world. It raises a number of philosophical, moral, legal and policy questions - with debates on the ground sometimes degenerating into violent conflict. The Charlie Hebdo murders and their aftermath was one case that grabbed headlines. But while that incident had some exceptional features, the underlying tensions it exposed were not unique to it. Across Asia, societies have been grappling with similar dynamics and dilemmas. Among them: how to grow freedom of expression within limits; the protection of minorities from discrimination and hatred; the tensions between dominant cultural norms and minority rights; debates about ground rules for discourse in a diverse society; and the exploitation of religious, ethnic and national indignation as a political weapon.

We invite contributions to a special issue of Media Asia that will address these or related questions. The theme is framed in a way that captures the double-sided nature of offence: we would like to examine not just the giving of offence (hate propaganda), but also the strategic taking of offence (contributing to a culture of offendedness). Papers can address either side of the offence equation, or both. They can adopt any theoretical and disciplinary perspective and research methodology. In keeping with the journal's scope, papers should have a geographical focus that is at least partly Asian; comparative studies are welcome.

Authors are encouraged to submit an abstract by March 31 to get the editor's feedback regarding whether that the topic and approach fall within the
And last but not least, we have awarded the Ramona Cuellar Ríos Memorial Travel Grant to Lukasz Szluczyk.

The top student papers are:

- Dustin Goltz
- Andre Cavalcante

We had a tied for both our Top Faculty and Top Student Paper awards. The top faculty papers are:

- May 23, 10:30-11:45am in San Cristobal Ballroom G (Caribe Hilton). We are particularly excited by the international scope and range of methods, theories, and topics presented in the papers.

The LGBTQ Interest group is happy to announce our awards for the 2015 conference. All award recipients will receive their cash awards at the Business Meeting on Saturday, May 23. For more information or to join the Game Studies Interest Group, contact Nicholas Bowman at Nicholas.Bowman@mail.wvu.edu.

The Game Studies Interest Group is comprised of graduate students and faculty who are researching all aspects of digital and video games and their impact on people's perceptions of gaming, or the ways in which people decide to be "good" or "bad" in video games.

Members of the Game Studies Interest Group invite everyone to our Research & Demo Booth at the annual conference in Puerto Rico! We will have video games on display for people to play, and we will have researchers presenting small posters in the vendor area.

With PC games and home video games generating more revenue every year than Hollywood, the cultural impact of this medium cannot be overstated. This is your chance to see what all the fuss is about. Try some of the hottest - and most talked-about - games on the market today. Talk with digital and video games researchers about some of the most controversial areas of games research, including "all that sex and violence." But you will also have the opportunity to chat with graduate students and faculty members about some of the areas of games research that do not necessarily make the media headlines, including research into cyber bullying, the impacts of winning and losing on people's perceptions of gaming, or the ways in which people decide to be "good" or "bad" in video games.

The Game Studies Interest Group is hosting the Research & Demo Booth on Friday, Saturday and Sunday (May 22-24) of the conference. Stop by our booth in the vendor area, play some games, and chat about the research.

For more information or to join the Game Studies Interest Group, contact Nick Bowman, Associate Professor of Communication Studies at West Virginia U and Vice-Chair of GSIG, at Nicholas.Bowman@mail.wvu.edu.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Interest Group

The LGBTQ Interest group is happy to announce our awards for the 2015 conference. All award recipients will receive their cash awards at the Business Meeting on Saturday, May 23. For more information or to join the Game Studies Interest Group, contact Nick Bowman, Associate Professor of Communication Studies at West Virginia U and Vice-Chair of GSIG, at Nicholas.Bowman@mail.wvu.edu.

The style guide and submission details can be found at journal.mediaasia.info.

For questions regarding this special issue, please contact the editor:

Cherian George
Hong Kong Baptist U
cherian@hkbu.edu.hk

---

Dyadic Data Analysis Workshop

13-17 July 2015
Michigan State U

The workshop will focus on analyses for data in which both members of a dyad are measured on the same set of variables. Topics to be addressed include the measurement of nonindependence, the Actor-Partner Interdependence Model, the analysis of distinguishable and indistinguishable dyads, and the analysis of over-time dyadic data (e.g., dyadic growth curve models). The software package used in the workshop will be SPSS. Although the workshop does not require any prior knowledge or experience with multilevel modeling, participants are expected to have a working knowledge of multiple regression and analysis of variance, as well as SPSS. Please see the website for more specific information and a link to the workshop registration: http://psychology.msu.edu/Workshops_Courses/dda.aspx.

---

Environmental Communication Division

The Environmental Communication Division is gearing up for an exciting annual conference. Some ECD events on the schedule include:

1. An Environmental Communication Division extended session "Climate Change Communication: Testing Messages and Media Effects," which will be sponsored by George Mason University's Center for Climate Change Communication.

2. The Environmental Communication Division's Breakfast Reception Mix n' Mingle with ECD members with new books out. The light breakfast will include vegan offerings and will feature authors Lucy Atkinson (U of Texas at Austin), Myiase Christensen (Stockholm U, Sweden), Nayla Fawzi (Ludwig-Maximilians-U München), Carrie P. Freeman (Georgia State U), John D. Peters (The U of Iowa), Emily Plev (Western Oregon U), and Brian G. Southwell (RTI International).

3. ECD will also offer a gathering for graduate students focusing on job searching in the 21st century. Please join ECD Student Representative Jill Hopke (U of Wisconsin-Madison) and Chair Richard Doherty (U of Leeds) for an informal discussion about searching for a position when your focus is EC and strategies for pitching yourself across sub-fields. We will meet by the pool or the beach with a cool drink and chat about strategies for positions in different areas of the world. Watch your email and check around the conference zone for signs for when and where we will meet.

4. The ECD is also pleased to announce the top faculty and student paper and poster award winners. Faculty: Paige Brown (Louisiana State U), Zeynep Altinai and Amy Reynolds (LSU), "Best Practices in Environmental Communication: A Case Study of Louisiana's Coastal Crisis"; Merav Katz-Kimchi (School of Sustainability, IDC) and Lucy Atkinson (U of Texas at Austin), "Social media and climate action: A case study of Greenpeace's online mobilization campaigns targeting global brands"; Student: Lisa Leombruni (NOVA / WGBH Boston), "How You Talk About Climate Change Matters: A Communication Network Perspective on Skepticism and Belief Strength"; Marijn Meijers (ASCoR, U of Amsterdam), "Paradoxical Effects of Green Communication Frames"; Kathleen de Onis (Indiana U), "Notes from the Field: Living with Colonialism and Environmental Injustice in Puerto Rico"; Poster: Hang Lu (Cornell U), "Linking Sadness Appeal with Gain and Hope Appeal with Loss: Communicating a Novel Marine Disease."

---

Division & Interest Group News

Environmental Communication Division

The Environmental Communication Division is gearing up for an exciting annual conference. Some ECD events on the schedule include:

1. An Environmental Communication Division extended session "Climate Change Communication: Testing Messages and Media Effects," which will be sponsored by George Mason University's Center for Climate Change Communication.

2. The Environmental Communication Division's Breakfast Reception Mix n' Mingle with ECD members with new books out. The light breakfast will include vegan offerings and will feature authors Lucy Atkinson (U of Texas at Austin), Myiase Christensen (Stockholm U, Sweden), Nayla Fawzi (Ludwig-Maximilians-U München), Carrie P. Freeman (Georgia State U), John D. Peters (The U of Iowa), Emily Plev (Western Oregon U), and Brian G. Southwell (RTI International).

3. ECD will also offer a gathering for graduate students focusing on job searching in the 21st century. Please join ECD Student Representative Jill Hopke (U of Wisconsin-Madison) and Chair Richard Doherty (U of Leeds) for an informal discussion about searching for a position when your focus is EC and strategies for pitching yourself across sub-fields. We will meet by the pool or the beach with a cool drink and chat about strategies for positions in different areas of the world. Watch your email and check around the conference zone for signs for when and where we will meet.

4. The ECD is also pleased to announce the top faculty and student paper and poster award winners. Faculty: Paige Brown (Louisiana State U), Zeynep Altinai and Amy Reynolds (LSU), "Best Practices in Environmental Communication: A Case Study of Louisiana's Coastal Crisis"; Merav Katz-Kimchi (School of Sustainability, IDC) and Lucy Atkinson (U of Texas at Austin), "Social media and climate action: A case study of Greenpeace's online mobilization campaigns targeting global brands"; Student: Lisa Leombruni (NOVA / WGBH Boston), "How You Talk About Climate Change Matters: A Communication Network Perspective on Skepticism and Belief Strength"; Marijn Meijers (ASCoR, U of Amsterdam), "Paradoxical Effects of Green Communication Frames"; Kathleen de Onis (Indiana U), "Notes from the Field: Living with Colonialism and Environmental Injustice in Puerto Rico"; Poster: Hang Lu (Cornell U), "Linking Sadness Appeal with Gain and Hope Appeal with Loss: Communicating a Novel Marine Disease."

---

Game Studies Interest Group

Members of the Game Studies Interest Group invite everyone to our Research & Demo Booth at the annual conference in Puerto Rico! We will have video games on display for people to play, and we will have researchers presenting small posters in the vendor area.

With PC games and home video games generating more revenue every year than Hollywood, the cultural impact of this medium cannot be overstated. This is your chance to see what all the fuss is about. Try some of the hottest - and most talked-about - games on the market today. Talk with digital and video games researchers about some of the most controversial areas of games research, including "all that sex and violence." But you will also have the opportunity to chat with graduate students and faculty members about some of the areas of games research that do not necessarily make the media headlines, including research into cyber bullying, the impacts of winning and losing on people's perceptions of gaming, or the ways in which people decide to be "good" or "bad" in video games.

The Game Studies Interest Group is hosting the Research & Demo Booth on Friday, Saturday and Sunday (May 22-24) of the conference. Stop by our booth in the vendor area, play some games, and chat about the research.

The Game Studies Interest Group is comprised of graduate students and faculty who are researching all aspects of digital and video games and their impact on communication around the world. We conduct research in a variety of methods and disciplines, and we look forward to sharing our work with you.

For more information or to join the Game Studies Interest Group, contact Nick Bowman, Associate Professor of Communication Studies at West Virginia U and Vice-Chair of GSIG, at Nicholas.Bowman@mail.wvu.edu.

Laugh, Love, and Live: A Call for Papers on Humor, Love, and Life in Digital and Video Games

The International Conference on Digital Games (ICDG) is calling for papers on the topics of humor, love, and life in digital and video games. The conference will be held in Shanghai, China, on October 23-25, 2015. The theme of the conference is "Laugh, Love, and Live: A Call for Papers on Humor, Love, and Life in Digital and Video Games." Authors are invited to submit papers on any aspect of humor, love, and life in digital and video games, including but not limited to:

- Humor in digital and video games
- Love in digital and video games
- Life in digital and video games
- The relationship between humor, love, and life in digital and video games

Submissions should be original and not previously published or submitted for publication elsewhere. The deadline for submission is July 1, 2015.

For more information, please visit the conference website at www.icdg.org.

---

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Interest Group

The LGBTQ Interest group is happy to announce our awards for the 2015 conference. All award recipients will receive their cash awards at the Business Meeting on Saturday, May 23, 10:30-11:45am in San Cristobal Ballroom G (Caribe Hilton). We are particularly excited by the international scope and range of methods, theories, and topics represented by these award winning papers (and the rest of our San Juan Program).

Our Top Interactive Paper Award goes to Bradley Bond (U of San Diego) and Andrea Figueroa-Caballero (UC Santa Barbara) for their paper "The relationship between computer-mediated communication, identity, and well-being among lesbian, gay, and bisexual adolescents"

Andrew Curtin (DePaul U) for his paper "Suicide prevention in digital games: A review of the literature""; Student: Lauren Farley (DePaul U) for "The role of gender in digital games"; Poster: Hang Lu (Cornell U), "Linking Sadness Appeal with Gain and Hope Appeal with Loss: Communicating a Novel Marine Disease."

The top student papers are:

- Noam Gal (Hebrew U) for "Identity in Crisis: The Dialectics of Social Identity and Conflict in LGBT Social-Change Activity"
- Lukasz Szluczyk (Antwerp) for "The Hyperlinked Identities of LGBTQ Websites: Towards a Qualitative Hyperlink Analysis"

And last but not least, we have awarded the Ramona Cuellar Ríos Memorial Travel Grant to Joe Hatfield (Syracuse U).
Randall (Randy) Paul Harrison, former professor of Communication at Michigan State U, former adjunct professor and research psychologist at the U of California Medical Center San Francisco, International Communication Association Fellow, first chair of ICA's Information Systems Division, candidate for ICA president, and author or editor of several books and dozens of cartoons, died September 18, 2012, in San Francisco, CA. He was 89.

Harrison was born February 3, 1929, in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. He earned his bachelor's degree from the U of Wisconsin-Madison, where he was an artist and chairman of the editorial board of the student newspaper The Daily Cardinal. Harrison completed his doctoral work in Communication at MSU. Malcolm S. MacLean Jr. advised Harrison's 1964 doctoral dissertation, Pictic Analysis: Toward a Vocabulary and Syntax for the Pictorial Code; with Research on Facial Communication. This dissertation foreshadows Harrison's scholarly interest in nonverbal communication and his professional interest in cartooning.

Harrison made considerable contributions to communication through his studies of nonverbal communication. Erwin (En) Bettinghaus summarized Harrison's contribution to the discipline: "He was one of the very first communication scholars to do systematic research into nonverbal aspects of human communication." Mark Knapp echoed Bettinghaus's view of Harrison's influence on the discipline: "There were a lot of things converging in the late 60s and early 70s that led to an expanding interest in nonverbal communication, and Randy was on the front lines." Aliba Cohen, a graduate student of Harrison's at MSU, attributed his own interest in nonverbal communication to one of Harrison's seminars. Charles Berger, who as a graduate student took Harrison's message systems analysis seminar at MSU, said Harrison's seminar was far ahead of its time: "Randy understood the key role that facial expressions play in the communication process," an understanding that permeated Harrison's scholarly work and professional cartooning. One product of his nonverbal expertise was Nonverbal Interaction (1963), a volume Harrison co-edited with John M. Wiemann; it was favorably reviewed in Behavioural Psychotherapy in 1964. Because of his expertise in nonverbal communication he was invited to teach at Stanford.

Member News & Updates

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 e-mailing Jennifer Le at jle@icahdq.org.

Ted Zorn, Massey U, has been appointed Deputy Vice-Chancellor at his institution. He will continue to serve as Pro Vice-Chancellor and Dean of the Massey Business School.

Randall P. Harrison by Edward L. Fink and Amanda L. Irions, U of Maryland

Randall (Randy) Paul Harrison, former professor of Communication at Michigan State U, former adjunct professor and research psychologist at the U of California Medical Center San Francisco, International Communication Association Fellow, first chair of ICA's Information Systems Division, candidate for ICA president, and author or editor of several books and dozens of cartoons, died September 18, 2012, in San Francisco, CA. He was 89.

Harrison was born February 3, 1929, in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. He earned his bachelor's degree from the U of Wisconsin-Madison, where he was an artist and chairman of the editorial board of the student newspaper The Daily Cardinal. Harrison completed his doctoral work in Communication at MSU. Malcolm S. MacLean Jr. advised Harrison's 1964 doctoral dissertation, Pictic Analysis: Toward a Vocabulary and Syntax for the Pictorial Code; with Research on Facial Communication. This dissertation foreshadows Harrison's scholarly interest in nonverbal communication and his professional interest in cartooning.

Harrison made considerable contributions to communication through his studies of nonverbal communication. Erwin (En) Bettinghaus summarized Harrison's contribution to the discipline: "He was one of the very first communication scholars to do systematic research into nonverbal aspects of human communication." Mark Knapp echoed Bettinghaus's view of Harrison's influence on the discipline: "There were a lot of things converging in the late 60s and early 70s that led to an expanding interest in nonverbal communication, and Randy was on the front lines." Aliba Cohen, a graduate student of Harrison's at MSU, attributed his own interest in nonverbal communication to one of Harrison's seminars. Charles Berger, who as a graduate student took Harrison's message systems analysis seminar at MSU, said Harrison's seminar was far ahead of its time: "Randy understood the key role that facial expressions play in the communication process," an understanding that permeated Harrison's scholarly work and professional cartooning. One product of his nonverbal expertise was Nonverbal Interaction (1963), a volume Harrison co-edited with John M. Wiemann; it was favorably reviewed in Behavioural Psychotherapy in 1964. Because of his expertise in nonverbal communication he was invited to teach at Stanford.
His nonverbal research was applied to the mass media: Randy conducted two studies concerning the effect of television violence on aggression in children, and did additional research on the effects of television in South Africa, Israel, Australia, and Micronesia. Randy was particularly noted for the practice and study of the cartoonist’s art. This dual interest resulted in his authoring The Cartoon: Communication to the Quick (1981), which was favorably reviewed by American Humor in 1982. The reviewer noted that Harrison provided “a fortuitous mixture” of communication models and historical and sociological analysis; Harrison was said to give the study of cartoons a seriousness that had been missing in previous work. The reviewer went on to say that “[other] approaches [to the study of cartoons] were often ‘heavy’ and jargon-laden, but this one manages to be clear, readable, and unmystified without unduly oversimplifying the process of decoding and of understanding [cartoons] as communication.”

One of Harrison’s last positions was as a professor and student at the U of San Francisco’s Fromm Institute for Lifelong Learning. Harrison was remembered by students and faculty as an adept lecturer. But Harrison was perhaps most widely known for the cartoons that appeared in the Fromm Institute’s newsletter. Harrison’s cartoons dealt with topics familiar to Fromm Institute students such as self-image, aging, and downsizing their possessions and lives after children leave the house. A cartoon from the January 2010 edition of the Fromm Institute’s newsletter gently tackles memory loss. Harrison reframed this sensitive and scary issue for readers by presenting it as an opportunity for having "lots of room in your head for new learning."

Randy Harrison will be missed as a teacher, as a scholar, as a cartoonist, and as a friend. Akiba Cohen still looks fondly at a portrait of Albert Einstein that Harrison painted in honor of Akiba and Esther (Ettie) Cohen’s successful dissertation defense; they defended their dissertations in different departments on the same day in 1973. Mark Knapp recalled Harrison’s generosity of spirit: “[At conferences], he always seemed to be more interested in what you were doing than advertising what he was doing.” In 2012, the Fromm Institute’s Executive Director Robert Fordham aptly remembered Harrison, "the Professor of Cartooning," as clever, creative, gentle, and generous. He was a mentor and a mensch.

Edward L. Fink: elf@umd.edu
Amanda L. Irions: airions@umd.edu

Mapping BRICS Media

Edited by Kaarle Nordenstreng (U of Tampere) and Daya Kishan Thussu (U of Westminster)

Mapping BRICS Media is the first comprehensive and comparative study of the emerging media landscape in the world’s most dynamic markets. This pioneering collection focuses on one of the key topics in contemporary international relations - the emergence of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa). The volume brings together distinguished scholars from the BRICS nations to assess the effects of the exponential growth in media in some of the world’s fastest growing major economies and examine how the emergence will impact on global media and communication. Transnational in scope, the book focuses on significant and yet hitherto largely ignored developments in the globalization of media. By interrogating the relationship between the inter-BRICS media and media practices and perceptions, this volume provides an accessible and critical guide to the complex debates about the impact of the ‘rise of the rest’ on the media globe.

Table of contents

Introduction: Contextualizing the BRICS Media Daya Kishan Thussu and Kaarle Nordenstreng

Part I: Debates and Concepts
BRICS as a New Constellation in International Relations?
Jyrki Käkönen
How Coherent is the BRICS Grouping?
Colin Sparks
The BRICS Formation in Reshaping Global Communication: Possibilities and Challenges
Yuezhi Zhao

The BRICS as Emerging Cultural and Media Powers
Joseph Straubhaar

Part II: Media Systems and Landscapes
Brazil: Patrimonialism and Media Democratization
Raquel Paiva, Muniz Sodré and Leonardo Custodio
Russia: Post-Soviet, Post-Modern and Post-Empire Media
Elena Vartanova
India: Multiple Media Explosions
Savyasaachi Jain
China: Power Dynamics Across Four Historical Stages
Zhengrong Hu, Peixi Xu and Deqiang Ji
South Africa: A Free Media Still in the Making
Viola Candice Milton and Pieter J. Fourie

Part III: Comparative Perspectives
BRICS Journalists in Global Research
Svetlana Pasti, Jyotika Ramaprasad and Musawenkosi Ndlovu
Intra-BRICS Media Exchange
Herman Wasserman, Fernando Oliveira Paulino, Dmitry Strovsky and Jukka Pietiläinen
Digital BRICS: Building a NWICO 2.0?
Daya Kishan Thussu

About the Editors
Kaarle Nordenstreng is Professor Emeritus of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Tampere, Finland. He is author or editor of over 30 books in English, most recently Communication Theories in a Multicultural World (coedited with Clifford Christians, 2014).

Daya Kishan Thussu is Professor of International Communication at the University of Westminster in London. Author or editor of 16 books, most recently Communicating India's Soft Power: Buddha to Bollywood (2013), he is the Managing Editor of the journal Global Media and Communication.

Endorsements
'This ground-breaking anthology has managed to delineate what is to date the most comprehensive and crystal clear topography of the oft-neglected media and culture in the BRICS nations.' - Shi Anbin, Tsinghua University, China

'The BRICS countries are the new actors in the global economy that fundamentally challenge the existing world order and its power relations … This timely and comprehensive study is a key contribution to the exploration and understanding of crucial shifts in the global communication landscape.' - Cees Hamelink, Professor Emeritus, University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

'Will the rapidly growing communications systems of the BRICS embark on strategies of alternative development … or, will they abandon their own rich histories of struggle for social justice … to … profit from the existing institutions of global exploitation? A profound intervention, Nordenstreng and Thussu's collection helps us toward an answer.' Dan Schiller, Professor Emeritus, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA

For more information visit: www.routledge.com/9781138026254