

Communication and Inequalities in Context

76th Annual ICA Conference
4-8 June 2026
Cape Town, South Africa



International
Communication
Association

THOMAS HANITZSCH

ICA PRESIDENT 2025-2026

A huge congratulations to Thomas Hanitzsch on the successful completion of his term as ICA President! This past year has been a wonderful one, shaped by his dedication and warm leadership. Thank you, Thomas — the ICA community is so grateful for everything you have given to this role. Here's to a truly outstanding year!



76th Annual International Communication Association Conference

Communication and Inequalities in Context



4-8 June 2026
Cape Town, South Africa


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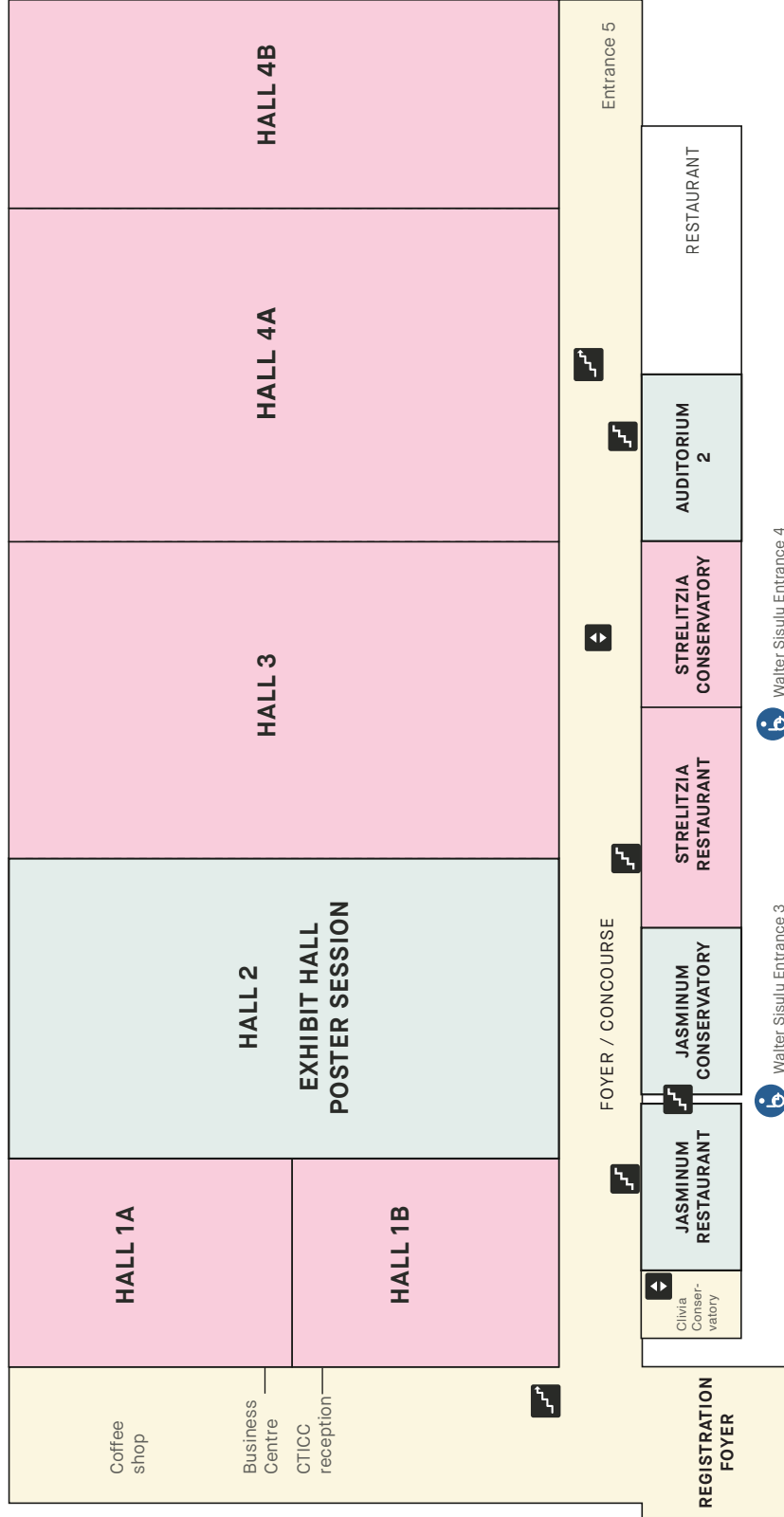
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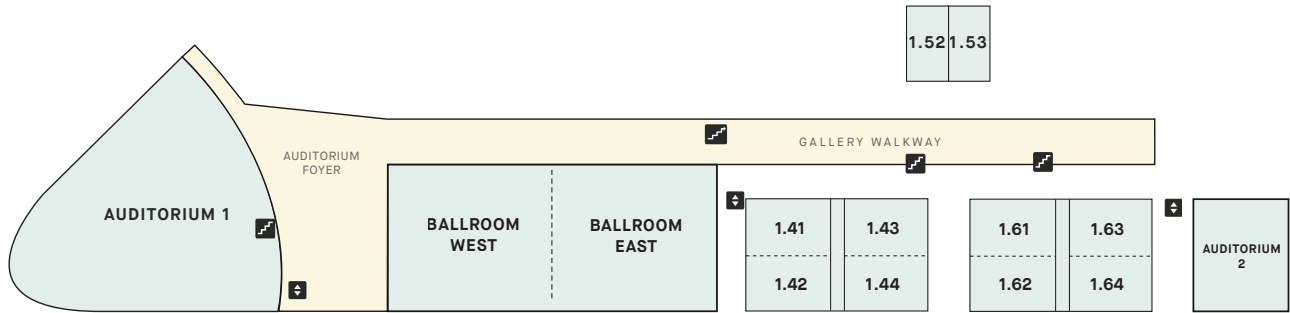
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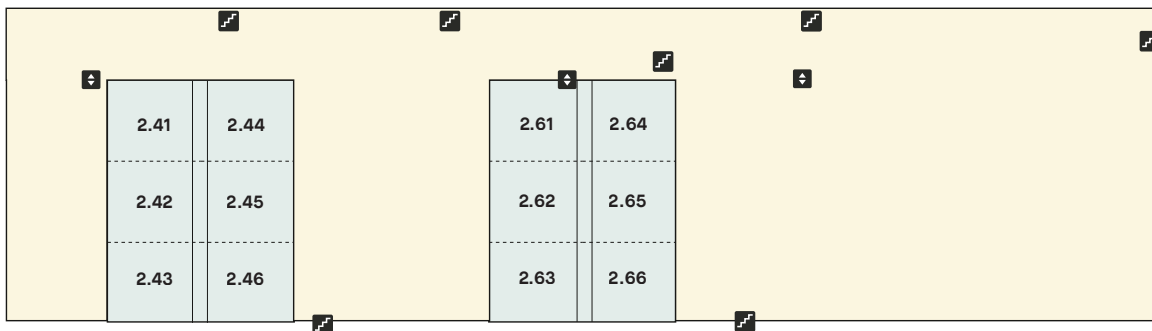


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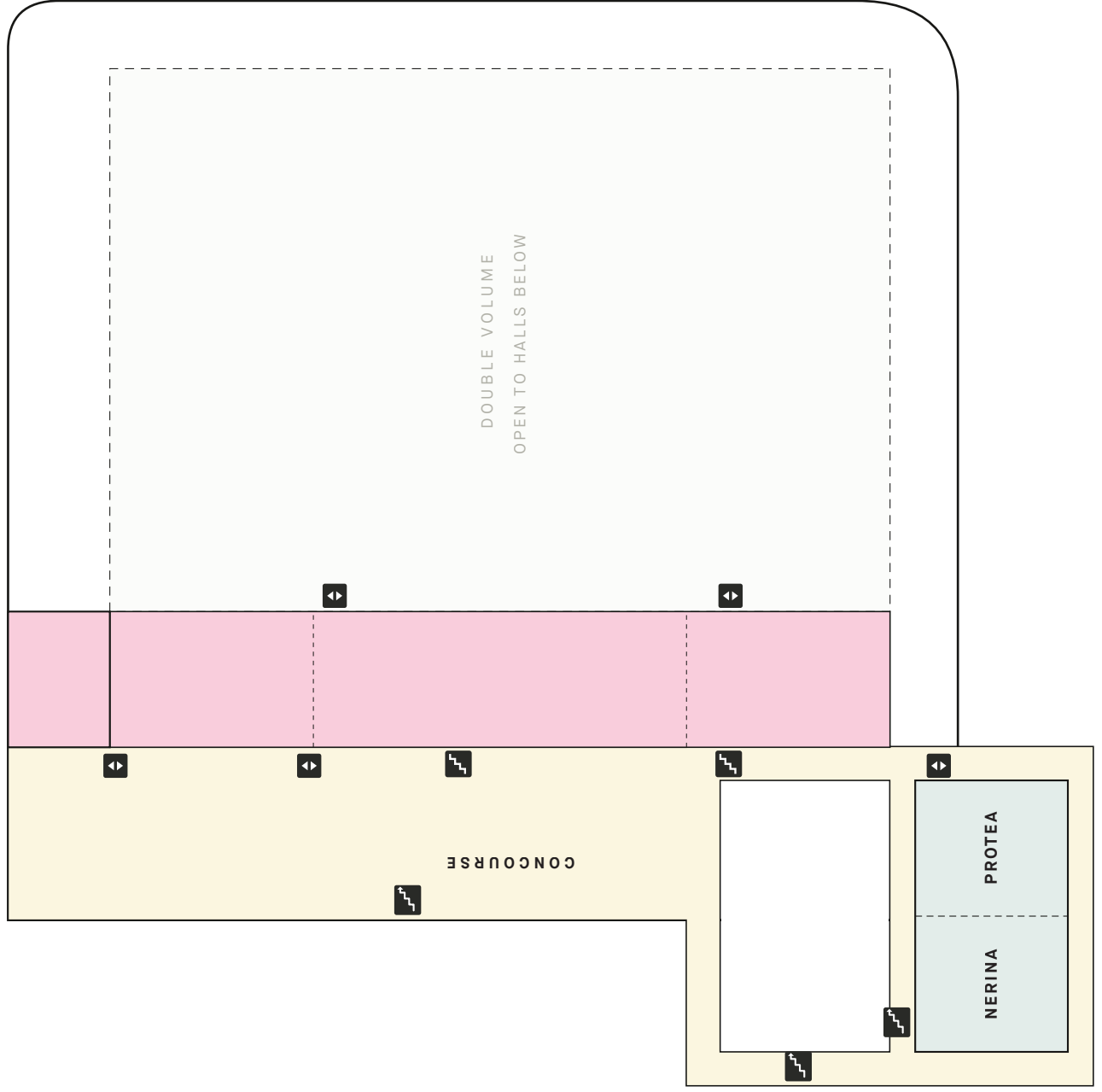
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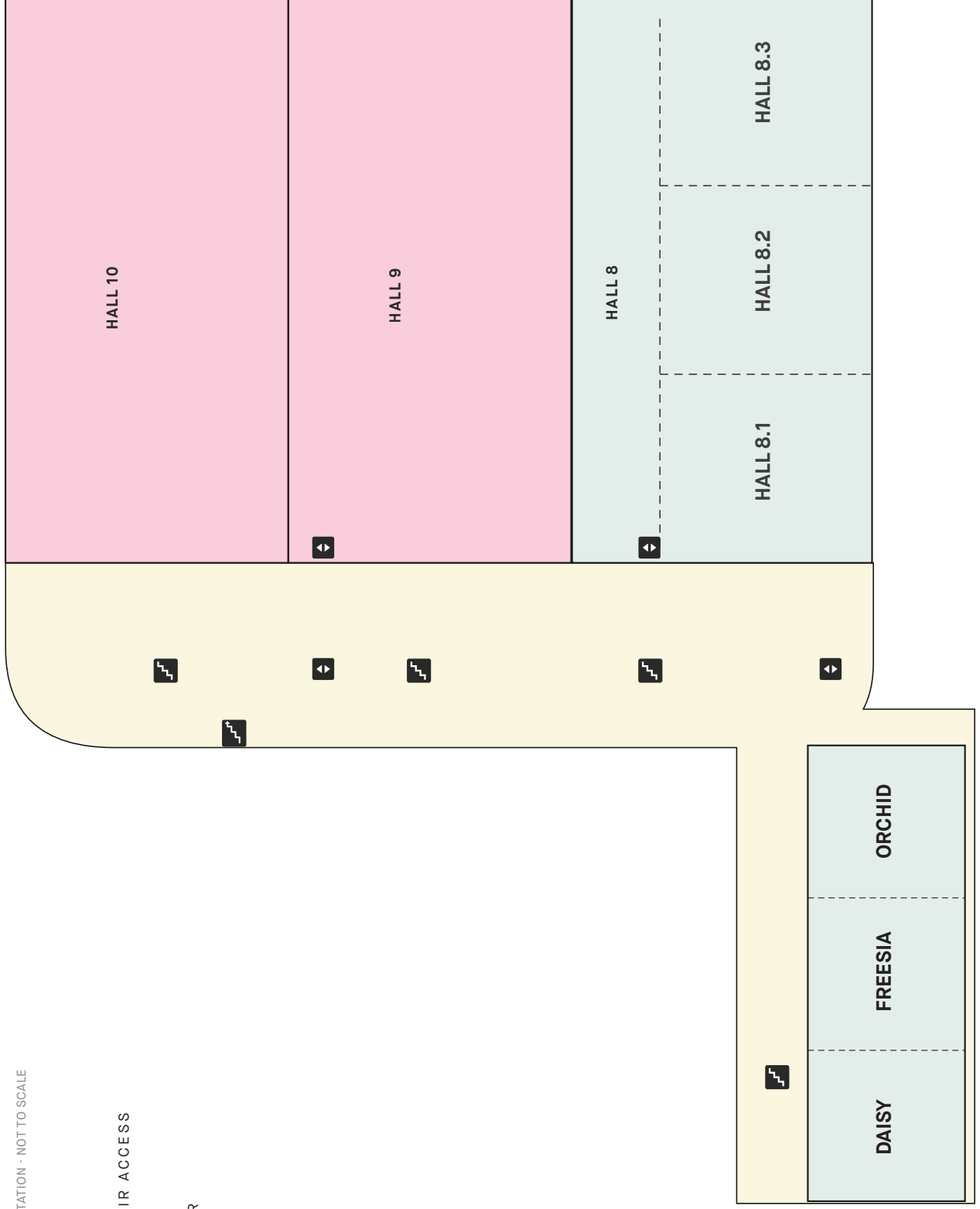
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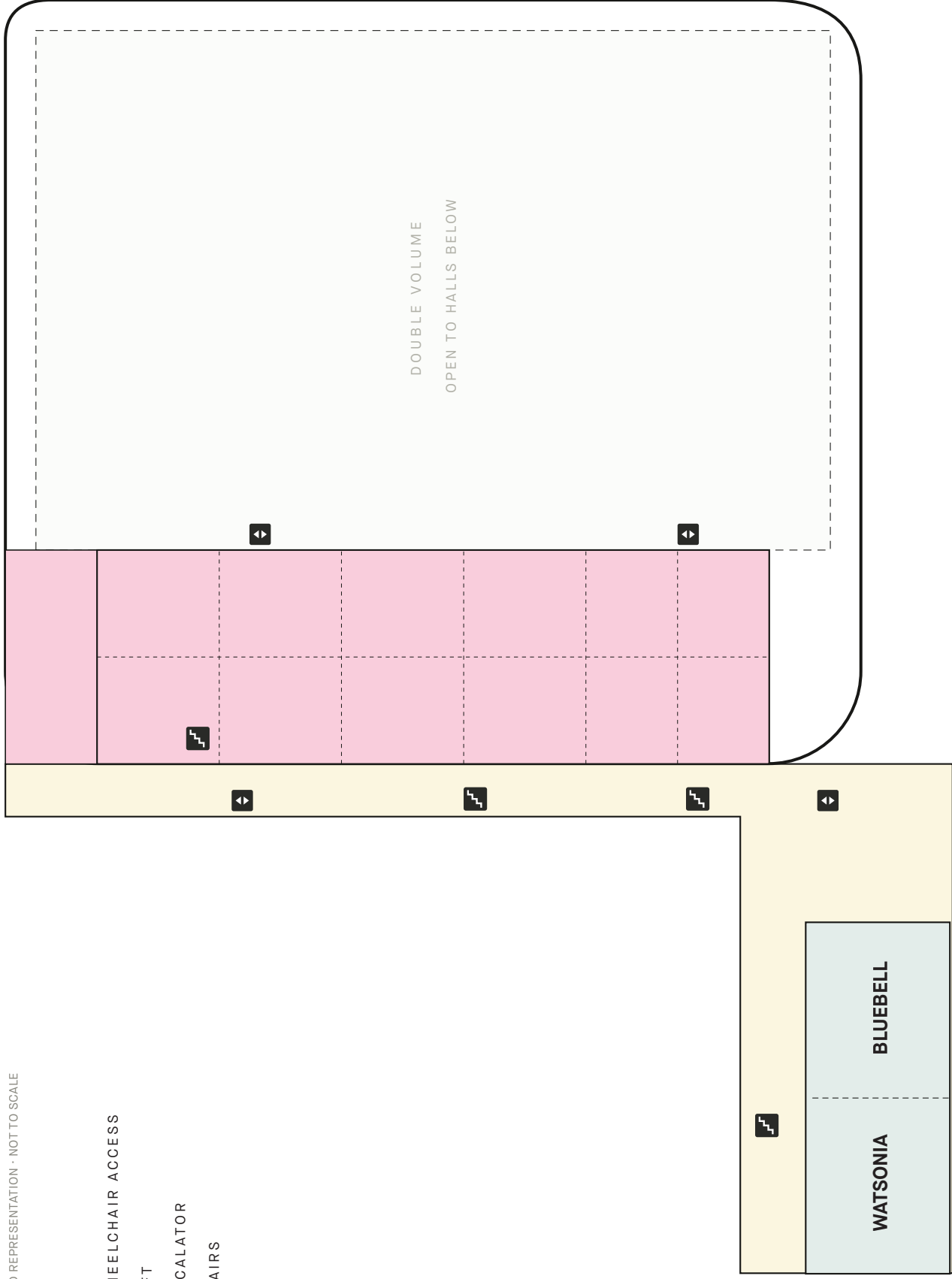
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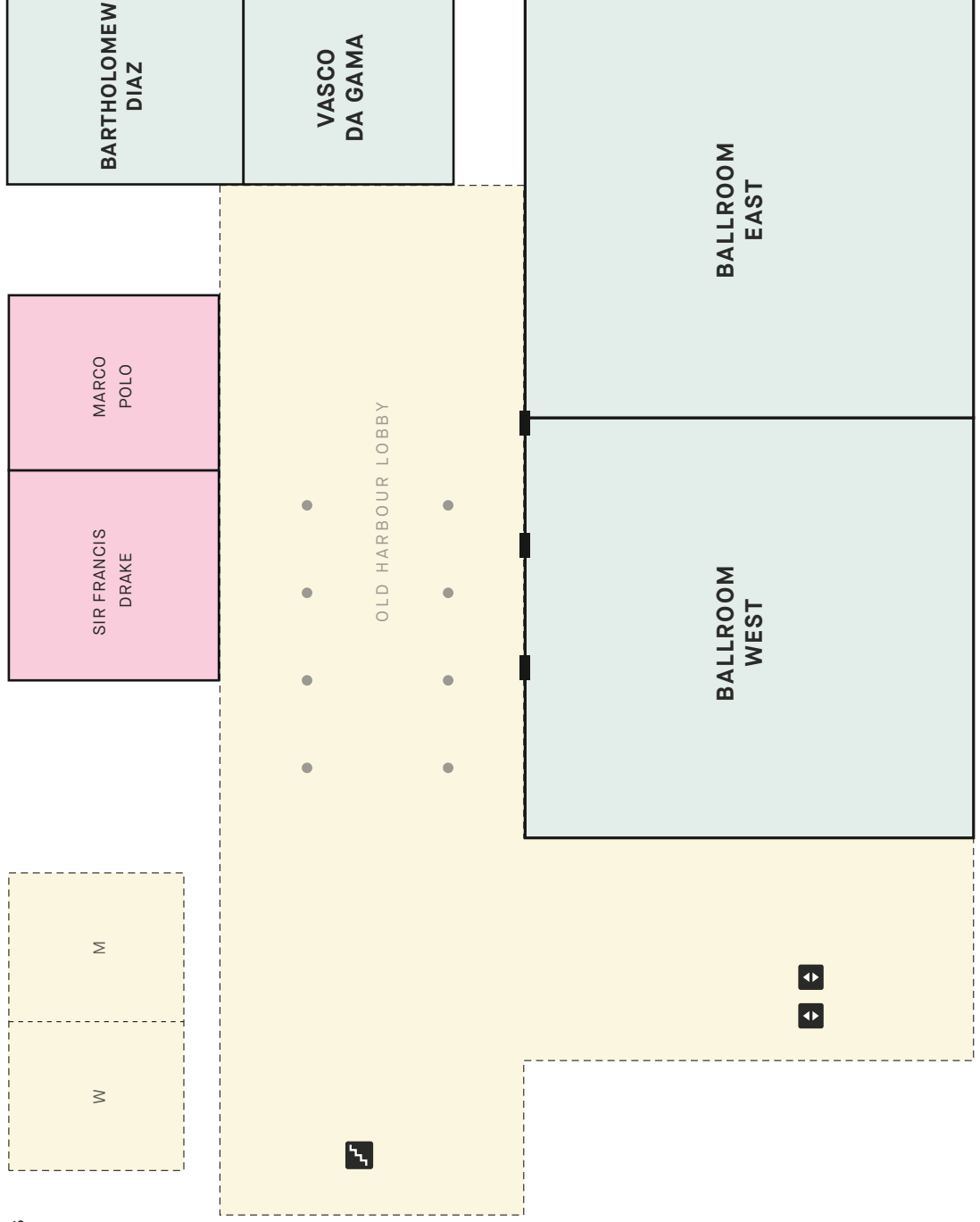
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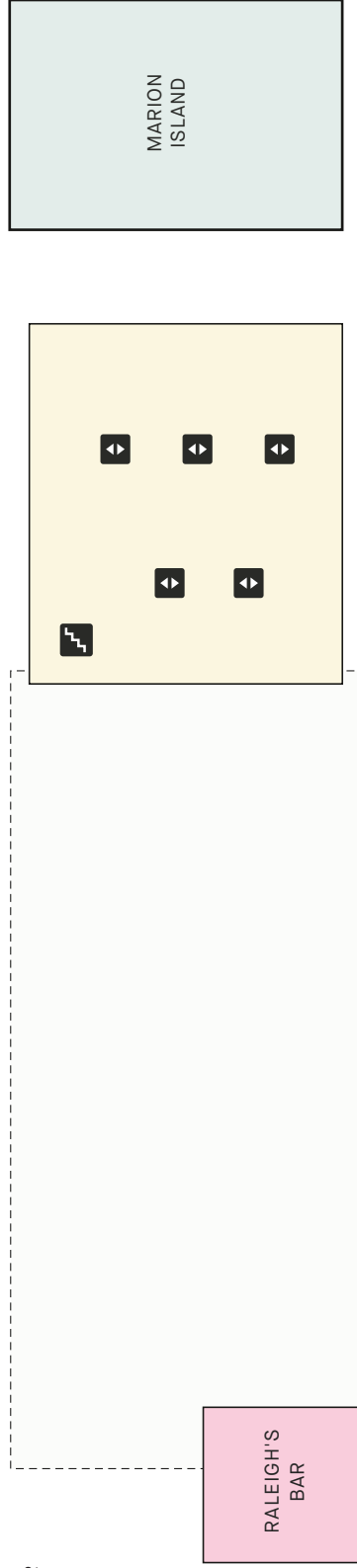
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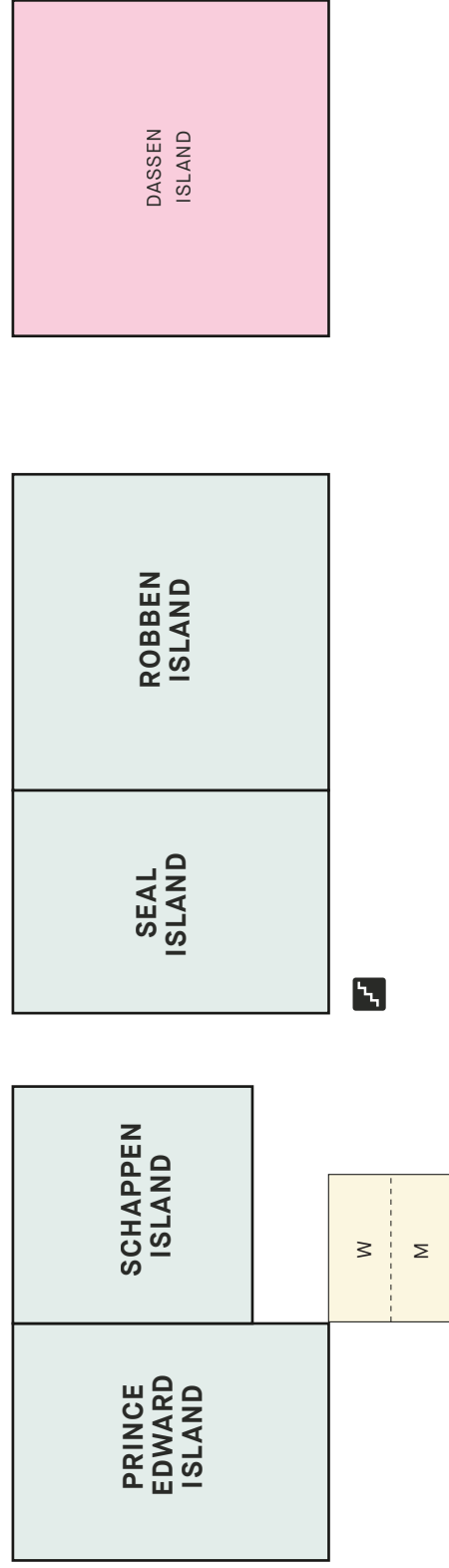
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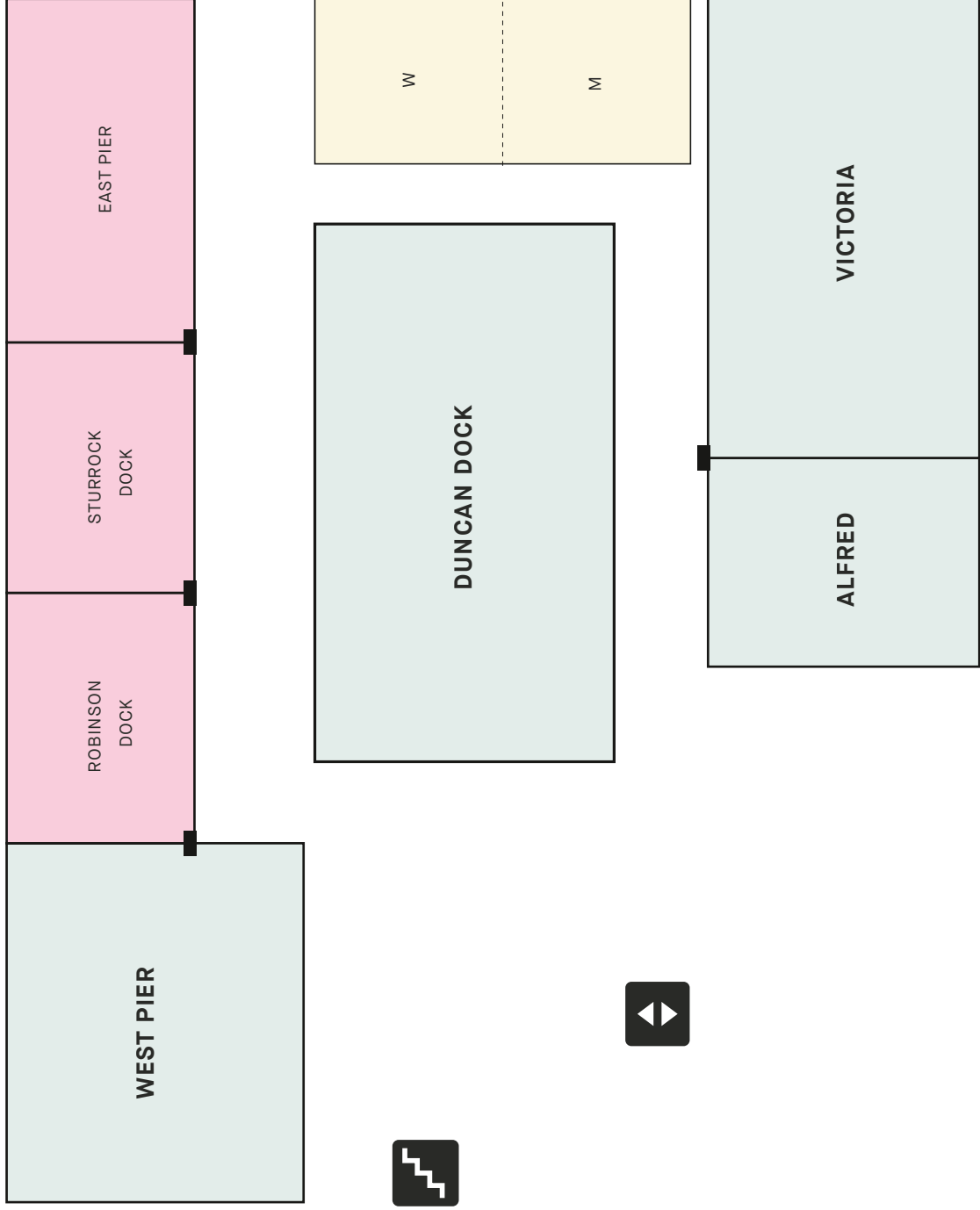
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76th Annual ICA Conference - City University of Hong Kong Reception

TIME / DATE

Date: 5 June 2026 (Friday)

Time: 19:30

VENUE / LOCATION

Venue: Meeting Room 1.6, Level 1,
Cape Town International
Convention Center 1

See You at Booth 5!



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Children, Adolescents, and the Media

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Communication History

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Computational Methods

Environmental Communication

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Find out more
about our research



Welcome to the 76th Annual ICA Conference from ICA

Welcome to the 76th Annual Conference of the International Communication Association! We have over 2,900 in-person attendees and an additional 50+ participants tuning in from remote locations around the globe (plus 11 regional hubs). The conference theme chosen by our President-Elect, Ingrid Bachmann, **Communication and Inequalities in Context**, invites critical reflection on the dynamics between communication and inequality across different social, cultural, and geographical contexts.

The hybrid 76th annual opening plenary session, **"Inequalities and Knowledge Production in Communication: Inroads and Challenges Ahead" (Thursday evening, 4 June, 18:00-19:15, Auditorium 1, CTICC)**, starts the conference and will be presented as a hybrid session for our remote participants as well. This panel features Tanja Bosch (U of Cape Town), Aliaa Khaled ElShabassy (American U in Cairo), and Marwan Kraidy (Northwestern U) in a discussion about what constitutes scientific knowledge in the field of communication and the hierarchies in knowledge production, in order to tackle the question of who counts in communication scholarship. The panel will be moderated by Conference Programming Chair and President-Elect Ingrid Bachmann (Pontificia U Católica de Chile).

New members, students, and all those wanting an overview of ICA, the conference, and our place in the field of communication should be sure to attend the **hybrid session, Get to Know ICA: New Member and Student/ Early-Career Scholar Orientation and Member Business Meeting (Sat, 6 June, 09:00 to 10:15, CTICC 1, Ballroom West)**. This session is designed for all members and provides an occasion to raise questions regarding how the association works. It will also include a general overview of ICA as an organization, an overview of the conference, and ways to participate further in ICA. This is your opportunity to interact with the Executive Committee of ICA and help shape the association and its future direction!

Another annual event to which we all look forward are the three **ICA-wide Interactive Paper/Poster Sessions**. All three sessions will be from **13:30 to 14:45 on their respective days: Fri, 5 June, Sat, 6 June, and Sun, 7 June, in CTICC 1, Hall 2**. They will feature about 30 individual papers each day, encompassing all of ICA's divisions and interest groups. Each day will highlight a best poster winner and runner-up whose posters will stay up for the entirety of the conference.

The hybrid 76th Annual ICA Presidential Address, Fellows' Induction, and Awards Ceremony (Sat, 6 June, 16:30 – 17:45, CTICC 1, Ballroom East) features our annual awards presentations (including new awards for Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access), induction of 16 new ICA Fellows, and the 2026 Presidential Address given by ICA President Thomas Hanitzsch (LMU Munich).

As always, we have made every effort to make the conference accessible to remote and onsite attendees with various accommodations made for hearing, vision, and medical conditions, as well as maximizing inclusion and belonging of LGBTQIA+ scholars, Black scholars, indigenous scholars, neurodivergent scholars, parent/caregiver scholars, and others. Please check the Conference Inclusion and Accessibility section of this program for more information on the time and location of AA meetings, the quiet and religious observance room, the nursing parents' rooms in each venue, ICAKids childcare and family play zone, gender-neutral restrooms, and more.

Lastly, we want to thank all of you who worked to overcome numerous funding, logistical, and political obstacles to make it to our 76th Annual Conference, who encountered obstacles and met them with perseverance and patience, and who welcomed the prospect of an Annual ICA Conference in Africa with a sense of inquisitiveness, excitement, and adventure. We also thank those of you who couldn't make the trip work for whatever reason (health, funding, flight availability, visa denials, etc), many of whom are attending remotely, either individually or via one of the eleven regional hubs. We value ALL of your voices and your perspectives, and it is our sincere hope that the diverse programming at this conference will generate intellectual growth, thought-provoking engagement, and a memorable experience for everyone involved, and that each of you will come away from this conference energized, full of new ideas, and with positive memories of your time immersed in this vibrant and growing ICA Community. I sincerely hope that this conference in Africa will open new pathways for ICA and its members in both the Global South and the Global North, and that we will look back on this first foray into the African continent for the Annual Conference as a watershed moment. Our pandemic refrain of "We will meet you where you are" has expanded from meaning that the conference can take place at your kitchen table and drives us forward into meeting even more of our members exactly where they are, in person. Whether you are joining us in person in Cape Town, online as an individual, or from a regional hub, we can't wait to see you!

Laura Sawyer
Executive Director
ICA Headquarters, Washington DC

Welcome from the Conference Planner

Welcome to the 76th Annual Conference of the International Communication Association in Cape Town, our very first annual conference in Africa!

We have a rich program, and I am looking forward to everything it will bring. With more than 3,000 presenters from all over the world and 600 sessions —not counting pre- or post-conferences— there are tons of opportunities to meet new people, participate in thought-provoking discussions, and catch up on research that shapes how we understand the world.

The Opening Plenary will kick off the conference with a discussion about inequalities and knowledge production in communication. **Tanja Bosch** (U of Cape Town), **Nick Bowman** (Syracuse U), **Aliaa ElShabassy** (Cairo U), and **Marwan Kraidy** (Northwestern U in Qatar) will join me in a frank conversation about what constitutes scientific knowledge in the field of communication and who counts in communication scholarship.

This year's theme, "Communication and inequalities in context," was an invitation to engage with research exploring the deep divisions and existing interpersonal, institutional, and structural inequalities in our societies, and a call to ponder communication scholarship' contributions to understanding, reproducing or modifying structural patterns of inequality. The theme attracted many submissions and resulted in ten sessions tackling issues such as digital justice, migration and race, disabilities, activism, democratic decline, and power imbalances in research.

The ICA26 program is packed with research-related activities, but there are also plenty of opportunities to socialize, meet old and new friends, and have fun. Check the myriads of receptions and special events, such as the Opening Reception, the New Member and Student/ Early-Career Scholar Orientation, the anniversaries of the Feminist Scholarship Division (40 years) and the Global Communication and Social Change Division (20 years), the ICA Kids' Picnic!, the Black Scholars' Noirée, and my personal favorite, the ICA-Cream Social. Don't miss out and make sure to explore Cape Town as well.

I would like to thank all those who have worked to make this conference happen. First of all, the stellar ICA staff for all their efforts ensuring ICA26 goes smoothly: Executive Director **Laura Sawyer**, Associate Executive Director **Tom Mankowski**, as well as **Julie Arnold**, **Jennifer Le**, **Christopher Rochette**, **Karly Senesac**, and **Katie Wolfe**. Many thanks to the Local Host Committee for generously sharing their expertise and enthusiasm to help make this conference a truly memorable experience: **Herman Wasserman** (Stellenbosch U), who served as chair, and members **Tanja Bosch** (U of Cape Town), **Martha Evans** (U of Cape Town), **Ronald Irwin** (U of Cape Town), **Marenet Jordaan** (Stellenbosch U), **Meli Ncube** (Stellenbosch U), and **Sisanda Nkoala** (U of the Western Cape).

I would like to thank the Theme Committee for going above and beyond to make sure we had a great line up of papers and panels addressing inequalities: chair **Hanan Badr** (U of Salzburg) and members **Saifuddin Ahmed** (Nanyang Technological U), **Teresa Correa** (Diego Portales U), **Radhika Gajjala** (Bowling Green State U), **Joy Muthoni Kibarabara** (Stockholm U), **Sr. Agnes Lucy Lando** (Daystar U Nairobi) and **Chris Paterson** (U of Leeds). Also, we could not have this diverse programming without the intense and dedicated work of the **unit planners** of all 34 divisions and interest groups, or the collaboration of thousands of reviewers who set time aside during a busy time of the year to help us have a fantastic set of high-quality presentations.

And finally, thanks to each of you for participating in ICA26. ICA is a great scholarly community, and every member contributes to make this conference a success. I hope you all get to exchange ideas generously, learn a thing or two, and leave with at least one new connection —intellectual or otherwise.

Enjoy ICA26!

Ingrid Bachmann
Pontificia U Católica de Chile
President-Elect

Welcome from the Local Host Committee

A warm welcome to Cape Town! The ICA 2026 Local Host Committee is delighted that you have arrived in our city for this historic ICA conference - the first one ever to take place on the African continent.

We celebrate this milestone conference in the context of ICA's endeavours to make this association a truly international, diverse and inclusive home for scholars from around the world. By hosting the conference in Cape Town, ICA is tangibly demonstrating its commitment not only to broadening the association's reach, but also to deepening and enriching our field. Inclusion, diversity and access have to go beyond tokenism to an acknowledgement that knowledge produced in only a part of the world, or dominated by scholars from well-resourced countries, remains partial knowledge. We are therefore thrilled that the conference in Cape Town will contribute to filling these knowledge gaps. We know from our own experience that stepping outside familiar frameworks is not always easy or comfortable. But it is often where the most generative scholarship begins. The intellectual challenge to understand one's own view as limited, to be driven by curiosity for new perspectives and to avoid foregone conclusions is, after all, what scholarship is all about.

We therefore look forward to robust exchanges, stimulating conversations and making new connections.

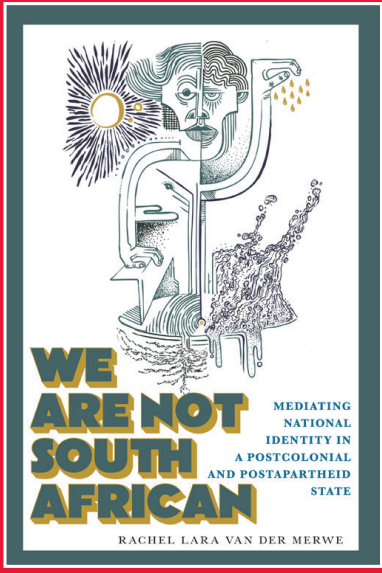
You will have noticed already that this is a complex city, with contested histories and heartbreaking inequalities. You have arrived in a society still marked by the long aftermath of colonialism and apartheid, but also a harbour city which has been globally connected for centuries. These global connections have not always been beneficial. From the exploitation of colonial times, through the oppression of apartheid to contemporary global trade, this society has always borne the economic consequences of domestic and geopolitical power struggles. Yet this is also a city and a society defined not only by its difficulties, but by its warmth and its fierce commitment to social justice; a society whose people have a profound love for their country that has survived a great deal and has in recent years taken moral leadership in global affairs lacking in much richer countries. You will find a society where lack is turned into creativity, and suffering is met with resilience. You may even go home with a perspective you did not arrive with.

We wish you a rewarding, enjoyable and enriching conference.

Wamkelekile. Welkom. Welcome.

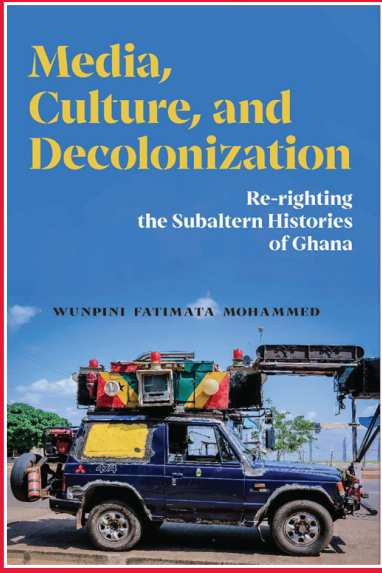
Herman Wasserman, on behalf of the ICA 2026 Host Committee.

BOLD Ideas, ESSENTIAL Communication Studies



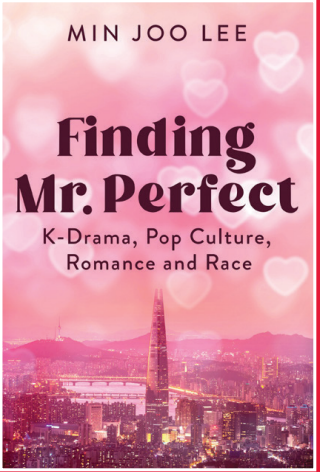
What does it mean to be South African, if the idea of "South Africa" is a European invention that continues to channel colonial values into our world? This book imagines a planet without nations, exploring why and how we could form sociopolitical communities imagined through decolonial commitments to mutual care.

WE ARE NOT SOUTH AFRICAN
Mediating National Identity in a Postcolonial and Postapartheid State
Rachel Lara van der Merwe

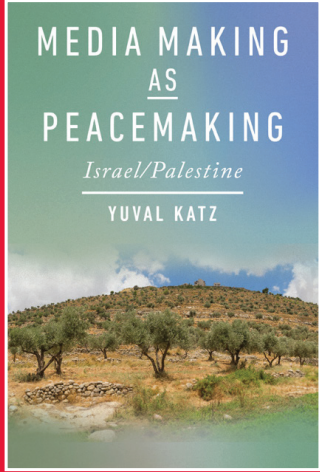


This book examines media by highlighting how African languages, cultures and traditions can shift how we think of knowledge. By focusing on Ghana, the book demonstrates the potential that African language media hold as tools of cultural and epistemological decolonization.

MEDIA, CULTURE, AND DECOLONIZATION
Re-righting the Subaltern Histories of Ghana
Wunpini Fatimata Mohammed



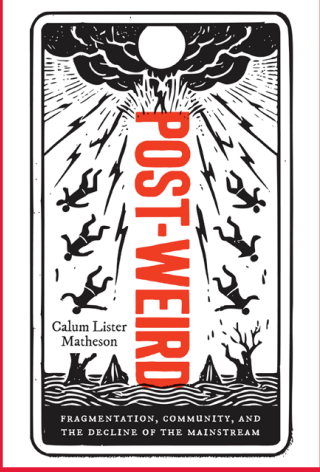
FINDING MR. PERFECT
K-Drama, Pop Culture, Romance, and Race
Min Joo Lee



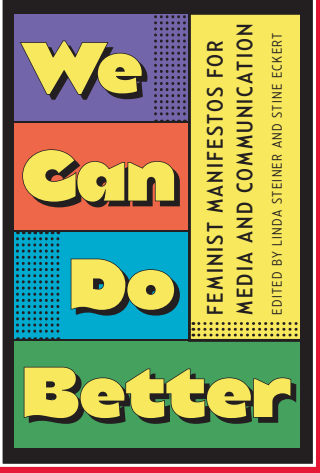
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Yuval Katz



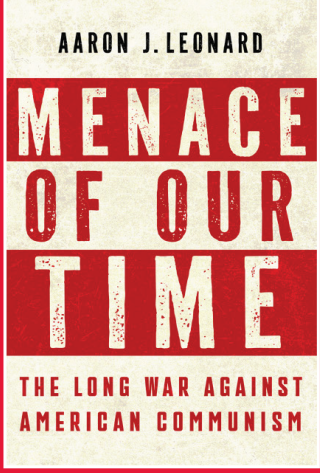
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Latinas Respond to #MeToo
Edited by Melissa Castillo-Garsow



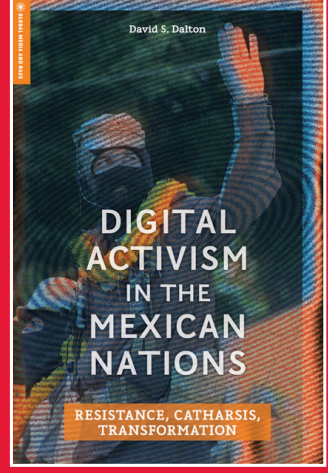
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Fragmentation, Community, and the Decline of the Mainstream
Calum Lister Matheson



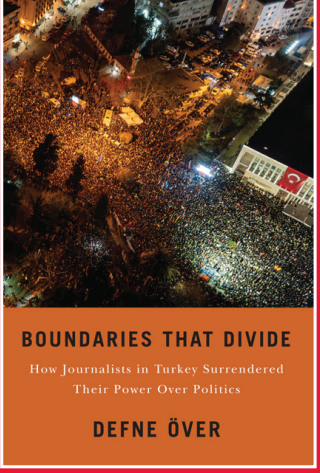
WE CAN DO BETTER
Feminist Manifestos for Media and Communication
Edited by Linda Steiner and Stine Eckert



MENACE OF OUR TIME
The Long War Against American Communism
Aaron J. Leonard



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Resistance, Catharsis, Transformation
David S. Dalton



BOUNDARIES THAT DIVIDE
How Journalists in Turkey Surrendered Their Power over Politics
Defne Över



General Information

Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC): The CTICC is the leading international convention centre on the African continent and serves as the main venue for the ICA conference this year.

The Westin Cape Town: Our second venue for sessions is the only hotel with direct, exclusive skybridge access to the CTICC. Famous for its prime location, nearly all sleeping rooms boast stunning views of Table Mountain, the V&A Waterfront, or the harbor.

Business Centre: Both the CTICC and Westin Cape Town have a small on-site business centre on the ground level.

Families: ICA offers subsidized child care and a family room for nursing/breastmilk storage. This year, we will have our **ICA Kids' + Family Picnic** on Sun, 7 June, at 11:30 at the CTICC. Guests had to RSVP in advance to attend.

Fitness Center/Spa: The Westin Cape Town's fitness center is 24/7 and features sauna and steam rooms. There is also a heated indoor infinity lap pool located inside the spa and outdoor pool available for guests only.

Medical Information: On-site medical facility is equipped to provide medical assistance at the CTICC.

Inclusion and Accessibility: The **Conference Inclusion and Accessibility** section of this program provides information on accommodations such as **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)**, **baby feeding/family room**, **comfort room/quiet room**, and more.

Media: ICA reserves the right to use images or recordings of the conference or conference-related events and its participants. Authorization is implicit upon attendees' registration to the conference or other such events.

Membership: To join ICA, please consult with ICA staff at the registration desk. We welcome members in all communication disciplines from around the globe. You can also join online at www.ica hdq.org. Don't miss out on the significant conference discount with ICA membership!

Badges: The CTICC requires a badge for entry beyond the registration foyer. Please collect yours and wear it at all times during ICA events.

On-site preconference attendees can pick up their badges in advance on Wed, 3 June from 12:00 - 15:00 in Old Harbour level lobby of the Westin Cape Town. This desk will only have preconference badges, not main conference badges. If you can't pick up in advance, you may retrieve your preconference badge Thursday morning near the main registration area in the CTICC 1 (Registration foyer, ground level).

Exhibit Hall: From Friday to Sunday, the exhibit hall will be located in CTICC 1, Hall 2 on the ground level, next to the registration area. This same area will also host the ICA-wide poster sessions, snack breaks, and ICA Kids Family Play Zone.

General Breaks: Snack breaks are served twice daily at 8:30–9:00 and 14:30–15:00 in the Exhibit Hall (CTICC 1, Hall 2) and the Westin Ballroom Foyer, Friday through Sunday. On Monday, the Exhibit Hall location moves to CTICC 1, Jasminium.

MAIN CONF REGISTRATION/ BADGE PICK-UP HOURS	
Thursday, 4 June	8:00 - 20:00
Friday, 5 June	8:00 - 17:00
Saturday, 6 June	8:00 - 17:00
Sunday, 7 June	8:00 - 17:00
Monday, 8 June	9:00 - 12:00

EXHIBIT HALL HOURS	
Thursday, 4 June	no exhibit hall
Friday, 5 June	8:30 - 17:00
Saturday, 6 June	8:30 - 17:00
Sunday, 7 June	8:30 - 15:00
Monday, 8 June	no exhibit hall

Posters: Poster sessions will be held in the exhibit hall, CTICC 1, Hall 2 on the ground level.

Opening Reception: Everyone attending the 76th Annual ICA Conference is invited to participate in the opening reception on Thursday evening, immediately following the opening plenary session. This is the first opportunity to connect with colleagues, eat delicious food, and make plans for the remainder of the conference. This annual can't-miss event will be located on the first floor of the CTICC in Ballroom East. Please note there will be no drink tickets this year. Alcoholic beverages will be available for purchase at the cash bar, while non-alcoholic beverages will be complimentary. It's also important to note that your conference badge will be required for entry.

Special Events: ICA-sponsored events include the opening reception, presidential address, Fellows' induction and awards ceremony, Kids' Picnic*, Noirée*, and ice cream social. Beyond these, ICA's 33 divisions and interest groups organize numerous receptions, joined by additional gatherings hosted by journals, universities and colleges, communication departments, and other associations. Most conferences also feature one or two memorial events honoring beloved scholars lost in the past year, along with the occasional film screening. *Advance registration required.

Badges/Security: All attendees must wear their conference badge at all times for educational sessions and on-site social events. Pick yours up during registration hours (see above) at your earliest convenience.



To Tweet or Not to Tweet? To Post or Not to Post? Many presenters are happy to have their talks and content shared on social media, but others aren't comfortable yet with "going public." What might be ready for a conference audience might not be ready for The World At Large. The ICA Board of Directors' policy is that each presenter can and should indicate a preference and that presenters' preferences should be respected.

To that end, we encourage you to make your wishes known at the beginning of your presentation. Please note that, as it becomes cumbersome to include all the social media icons for affirmative or negative requests, one should consider the "no post" or "ok to post" symbols as referring to all social media.

If you are comfortable with being the subject of social media posts, we recommend you indicate this at the beginning of your talk, both verbally and on your slides, possibly including your preferred social media handle so that you can be tagged.



If you are not comfortable having your information shared on social media, please include the "no posts" symbol on your first slide and call attention to this verbally. We also recommend placing the "no posts" symbol in the corner of any particular slides you wish not to be photographed, posted, or otherwise shared on social media (as this both alerts latecomers to the request and makes it obvious if someone does take a photo that they are doing so against your wishes, as the symbol will be in the photo).

Conference Policies

Who pays the conference registration fee? Everyone. ICA is a voluntary, non-profit, tax-exempt NGO that qualifies for the U.S. Internal Revenue Service's 501(c)3 tax-exempt status. Its annual conference program is comprised almost exclusively of competitively selected papers. There are very few "invited" papers in any ICA conference program; thus, the ICA Board of Directors has established an "everybody pays" policy. That said, ICA does give out over US\$75,000 in travel grants each year based on need. If you would like to support travel grants, please consider donating or renewing as a Sustaining Member, through which a portion of your dues would support student travel.

Paper Distribution Center: The Paper Distribution Center (PDC) is available online through our virtual platform provider, Cvent. As part of your conference registration, you will have access to the virtual platform, where you can look up a paper and, if available, download its PDF. Conference papers will be available in this section for 60 days after the conference's conclusion.

ERIC: The Education Resource Information Center (ERIC) Clearinghouse is always interested in having papers from the ICA conference submitted for possible inclusion in the ERIC system. Authors may submit papers to ERIC directly: Coordinator of Documents, ERIC Clearinghouse on Reading and Communication Skills, 2805 East Tenth Street, Smith Research Center, Suite 150, Bloomington, IN 47408-2698 USA.

Audiovisual Equipment: ICA makes every effort to provide the audiovisual equipment needed for conference presentations:

- Each meeting room scheduled for an ICA presentation will have a screen and an LCD projector with an HDMI connection. If your laptop does not have an HDMI connection, please bring the appropriate adapter. The lectern will have cords for both video and audio. Because ICA has 30+ concurrent breakouts most of the time, presenters must run their presentations from their laptops or other mobile devices.
- Those holding non-session meetings (satellite events) in other rooms, who have not preordered AV equipment directly with the hotel or have last-minute needs, must arrange and pay for equipment themselves through the authorized audiovisual provider for this conference. ICA will not place new orders for equipment once the conference has begun.

Conference Code of Conduct: When registering for or accessing the conference mobile app, all attendees must indicate their acceptance of the [Conference Code of Conduct](#). Please review this document before your arrival.

Stop by our booth at #ICA26 to meet #IAS_NUQ staff and to learn about our programs and opportunities.

The Institute for Advanced Study in the Global South (#IAS_NUQ) at Northwestern Qatar produces and promotes evidence-based storytelling on the histories, cultures, societies, and media of the Global South. We are committed to advancing rigorous scholarship and creative mediamaking that sheds light on the complex dynamics of the Global South as a geographic, epistemological, experiential, and ethical space



Scan to explore our programs and current opportunities.

Join the Society for Humanistic Arab Media Studies (SHAMS)

SHAMS brings together scholars to reimagine what media means and how we study it across film, literature, music, visual arts, language, and everyday cultural practices. As a trilingual, transregional network, it fosters rigorous, multidisciplinary, and humanistic research that situates Arab media within its social, cultural, and political realities. Supported by the Carnegie Corporation of New York and established under the Arab Information and Media Studies (AIMS) initiative at #IAS_NUQ, SHAMS champions critical and decolonial inquiry that connects communities within and beyond the region.



Become a member!

Checkout #IAS_NUQ_Press Publications!

Scan the QR code below to explore our featured publications and visit Booth #7 to grab a copy.



Money Talks: Consumption, Identity, and Visibility in the State of Qatar

Haya Al Kuwari

The Fabric is the Message: Understanding Partisan Clothing in Zambia

In'utu Imbuwa

Finding Spirituality in Foreign Lands: The Ziyarah to Fes and Its Implications for Senegal–Morocco Diplomatic Relations

Safae Daoudi

After the Hippies Were Gone: Collective Memory and Spectral Ethnography in Kathmandu's Freak Street

Sudesh Baniya

2026 #IAS_NUQ Global Undergraduate Fellows



Alexandr Khalatyan

Memory of Artsakh



Aruzhan Muratbek

"It's Just a Meme": Digital Humor as Soft Political Critique in Kazakhstan



Bayan Kobenova

Umytylgan Qala: A Journey Through Semey



Falasteen Mansour

Stolen Time and Family Ties: How Political Imprisonment Affects West Bank Society



Julia Nasser

Laughter as Practice: Humor and Coping in Lebanon



Lilith Hovsepyan

Between Faith and Power: The Armenian Church, the State, and Public Trust



Linh Tran

Writings on Vietnamese Freedom under French Colonial Rule: Class and Ideology



Maryam Kafoud

Hayya Alal Falah



Mensur Feleke

The Amharic Epistemology



Nomin Erdenetsogt

Surviving in Script: Voices of Mongolian Language, Identity, and Culture Across Borders



Shugyla Karshygyakzy

Foreign Yet Fluent: Oral Histories of Kazakh Returnees in a Russian-Dominated Homeland



Symbat Tussupbekova

The Glass Button: A Visual Oral History of Religion and Repression in Soviet Kazakhstan



Tayama Rai

Chat, Poll, Revolt: The Role of Discord in Nepal's 2025 Gen Z Protest



Thales de Albuquerque Lima

A Distant Echo of Portuguese: Timorese Journalists Educate a Nation



Yaqi Huang

Reciting, Remembering: Elderly Hui Women Pursuing Arabic in Northwest China

Conference Inclusion and Accessibility

ICA is committed to creating an inclusive, diverse, equitable, and accessible environment for all conference attendees. We want ICA to be where those with accommodation needs can participate and feel completely welcome, comfortable, and valued - to belong.

Attendees with accessibility needs who have not made advance arrangements are welcome to inquire at the ICA Registration Desk or email Christopher Rochette (crochette@icahdq.org). **Every reasonable effort will be made to assist attendees onsite;** however, ICA may not be able to provide all services or equipment requested onsite due to availability or the time required to obtain some items.

GETTING AROUND

All sessions for ICA26 take place in either the **Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC)** or the **Westin Cape Town**. The CTICC houses approximately 80% of the sessions; the Westin houses 20% of the sessions. Both venues are completely accessible with elevators to every level, and in some parts escalators between session floors. The two properties are across the street from one another with a wide crosswalk and curb cutouts at the venue entry/exit points.

Car Park

Please check both the [CTICC](#) and [Westin Cape Town](#) website for parking information. For the Westin website, scroll down to Frequently Asked Questions and then look for an arrow to expand information on What are the Parking Options at the Westin Cape Town?

Airport Ground Public Transportation

[Visit the Airports Company South Africa public transport webpage for Cape Town International Airport](#) information on authorized ground public transportation options.

Hotel Accommodation

All hotels in our housing block have accessible rooms available. If you need an accessible room and have not yet arranged one, contact the hotel directly or inquire at the ICA Registration Desk.

MOBILITY ACCOMMODATIONS

Presenters


Each presentation or session is designed and conducted with the full participation of all in mind. All rooms include:

- a lectern with a microphone*,
- a head table with table microphone(s)* for presenters to use (either for presentation if sitting is preferred, or during the Q&A).
- a microphone* on a stand in the audience for questions.

**Note - select small meeting rooms may not have a microphone/sound system due to their size. If you have any questions about a particular meeting, please contact Christopher Rochette.*

If you are presenting and need to ensure your room is set up properly for your participation (wheelchair ramp to the stage, etc.), please contact Christopher Rochette.

Seating

Reserved front-row seating for attendees with vision, hearing, or mobility needs is available in select large meeting rooms, marked in the program and mobile app with the  symbol and below. All meeting rooms include dedicated space for wheelchair users.

- 2.41-2.42-2.43 (CTICC1, Lev 2)
- 2.44-2.45-2.56 (CTICC1, Lev 2)
- 2.61-2.63 (CTICC1, Lev 2)
- 8.1 (CTICC2, Lev 2)
- 8.2 (CTICC2, Lev 2)
- 8.3 (CTICC2, Lev 2)
- Auditorium 1 (CTICC1, Lev 1)
- Auditorium 2 (CTICC1, Lev 2)
- CTICC Ballroom East (CTICC1, Lev 1)
- CTICC Ballroom West (CTICC1, Lev 1)
- Westin Ballroom East (Westin, Old Harbour Level)
- Westin Ballroom West (Westin, Old Harbour Level)

HEARING ACCOMMODATIONS

Captioning/Transcription Services

Because of the sheer number of concurrent sessions (27+ separate rooms at any given time), ICA is unable to automatically provide captioning for every session. However, ICA has a strong record of working with individuals who have specific needs to make sure that the sessions they plan to attend—and/or in which they are presenting—are made accessible to them. Select hybrid sessions occurring in CTICC Ballroom East or West will offer Communication Access Real Time Translation (CART). Hybrid sessions that offer this service will be identified in the program/mobile app with the letters "**CART**" and below:

- (HYBRID) 'Talking Back' to Visual Culture: Disability Across Visual Media Forms
- (HYBRID) Disability and Inequality in African Contexts: Implications for Communication Studies
- (HYBRID) BLUE SKY: The Future of Disability, Communication, and Media Research at ICA
- (HYBRID) Health Communication and Disability Across Popular Media Culture
- (HYBRID) Inequalities in Mediated Disability Activism Across Contexts

Presentations

Each presentation or session should be designed and conducted with the full participation of all in mind. ICA suggests that all chairs and presenters take the steps necessary to make all programming accessible to their respective audiences. At ICA, the majority of session rooms have a lectern with a microphone*. Even if the room is small, all presenters should please use the mics to help those who have hearing impairments, and **chairs should repeat questions from the audience for everyone to hear** in the larger rooms as well.

CHILD/PARENT/CAREGIVER ACCOMMODATIONS

It is important to know that you have the right to feed your baby wherever you see fit; you do not HAVE to find a private space for nursing. That said, if you prefer privacy, ICA has reserved a dedicated family room at both the CTICC and the Westin Hotel for parents and caregivers.

Room Guidelines:

- **Diapers/nappies:** Do not dispose of soiled diapers in the room's wastebasket. Please take them to the restroom, where bins are emptied more frequently.
- **Nappy changes only:** Please do not request the room key solely for a nappy change — pull-down changing facilities are available in the restrooms.
- **Tidiness:** Leave the room as you found it, including cleaning up any spills and turning the door sign from "Occupied" back to "Available."
- **Cleanliness concerns:** If you find the room in need of cleaning, please notify a staff member at the registration desk.

CTICC Nursing Room

If you are using the CTICC's own nursing room rather than the ICA private room, follow these directions:

Enter **CTICC Building 1** and make your way to the reception area. Take the escalator to the first floor and turn left. Walk past the meeting rooms, and just before the glass lift, turn right at the brown door. If you have difficulty locating it, ask any CTICC staff member for help.

Please note: This is a shared facility that other conference groups may also be using. It includes a changing table and a comfortable chair but does not have a mini refrigerator.

ICAKids: Childcare

The availability of affordable and accessible childcare is an inclusion issue that ICA takes very seriously. Now in its seventh year, the "ICAKids" Childcare Program is available for parents in need of childcare during conference hours. This service is heavily subsidized by ICA, with fees at a deep discount to all attendees and completely free for student parents. To provide this service, ICA is partnering with a licensed childcare provider. The childcare room is located onsite at the Westin Hotel; the precise location is available at the ICA Registration Desk. **For evenings (and days/times not covered by ICA's subsidized daytime childcare),** the concierge at your hotel will be able to connect you with a list of nannies/babysitters who can be hired to come to your sleeping room. For a multiplicity of reasons, including insurance liability restrictions, ICA is not able to provide evening childcare.

ICAKids' Picnic

The ICAKids' + Family Picnic is on June 7 from 11:30 to 13:00 in the CTICC, Jasminium Conservatory. Free and open to all children and their parents or caregivers, this event is a great opportunity for academic families to connect while the kids play together. ICA serves child-friendly foods and has scheduled fun entertainment activities for the children. Guests had to RSVP in advance to attend.

ICAKids Family Play Zone

The ICAKids family play zone is a designated space in the CTICC, Hall 2 with kid-friendly toys where parents and caregivers can take a break from the conference with their children, relax, and connect with other families. **This area is not supervised and should not be used as childcare - children may NOT be left unattended in this area.** We ask that you not use this area for nappy/diapering changes; however, due to the facility's sanitation regulations, there are restrooms nearby with changing tables. Due to the types of equipment and toys available, we

especially recommend this room for children ages 3 months to 8 years, though older children are welcome—with their parents/caregivers—as well.

LGBTQIA+ ATTENDEES

Cape Town is widely recognized as one of the most LGBTQIA+ friendly cities in Africa.

- [Learn more](https://www.iglta.org/destinations/africa/south-africa/) (https://www.iglta.org/destinations/africa/south-africa/) about South Africa as a LGBTQIA+ destination and Cape Town-specific LGBTQ nightlife, history, and neighborhoods, from IGLTA.
- Beginning with Paris in 2022, ICA has been honored to co-sponsor the Annual LGBTQIA+@ ICA reception with the LGBTQ Studies Interest Group. The co-chairs of the Interest Group serve as the event's planners, with input and financial backing via ICA's Executive Director, and have been able to host some amazing events at offsite queer hotspots in our host cities. All are welcome!

Gender-Neutral Restrooms

At this event, all attendees are welcome to use whichever restroom aligns with their gender identity. This includes transgender women and nonbinary attendees using the standard women's restroom, and transgender men and nonbinary attendees using the standard men's restroom.

ICA encourages all attendees to help foster an inclusive environment. Any behavior that interferes with another person's restroom access may be considered a violation of ICA's Code of Ethics. Concerns can be directed to Julie Arnold (jarnold@icahdq.org).

Safety for LGBTQIA+ Attendees at the Conference

ICA is a diverse and predominantly queer-friendly community, and we take care to choose conference venues in safe neighborhoods within cities with a high level of security and diversity. That said, if you experience harassment or aggression from anyone during the ICA conference due to your gender expression, identity, or anything else, please let us know immediately so we can help and provide support. Please email Julie Arnold for assistance.

BLACK CAUCUS ATTENDEES

Beginning with ICA Paris in 2022, ICA has been honored to sponsor the **Black Scholars' Noirée** (cleverly named by event originator Prof. Deen Freelon). While the event did not occur in 2023, in 2024 the Executive Director revived the event and asked Prof. Meghan S. Sanders to co-host for ICA24 in Gold Coast and again at ICA25 in Denver. We had an excellent turnout the past two years and look forward to continuing the tradition annually. This year, Dr. Sanders is joined by co-host Dr. Tina M Harris. ICA and the IDEA committee will provide the catering and bar for this event. Guests should RSVP in advance to attend.

RELIGIOUS & CULTURAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Religious observance/multi-faith room

We understand that travel schedules can make regular religious observance challenging. A dedicated room is available for prayer, religious observance, or quiet contemplation, welcoming all faiths and traditions.

Please note the following when using the room:

- Personal prayer items (such as malas, prayer mats, and cushions) must be taken with you when you leave. The room is unmonitored and we cannot be held responsible for lost or

misplaced belongings.

- If you remove your shoes, please place them neatly along the wall by the doorway.
- Quiet meditation and yoga are also welcome in this space.

The CTICC accommodates people of all faiths and backgrounds, with dedicated prayer rooms available in both CTICC 1 and CTICC 2.

Religious Schedule Conflicts

If you have a religious scheduling conflict with a session, please contact the Conference team as soon as possible. *We will do our best to accommodate your needs, though please note that once the schedule is set, changes that affect others' travel may not be possible.*

OTHER ACCOMMODATIONS (alpha order)

Alcohol Culture

ICA is committed to making social events welcoming for all attendees, including those who abstain from alcohol. Clearly marked non-alcoholic bars serving water and soft drinks are available at the Opening Reception and other evening events. Divisions, interest groups, and satellite event organizers are encouraged to provide the same.

The Opening Reception no longer uses drink tickets. Instead, ICA has adopted a cash bar format — alcoholic beverages are available for purchase by credit card, while water, soft drinks, and all catered food are provided free of charge. This approach keeps registration fees down and ensures non-drinking attendees are not subsidizing alcohol costs. Please note that satellite events are managed independently, so practices may vary. Thank you for your understanding.

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)

Friends of Bill W. are welcome to gather each conference morning from 7:30 to 8:15 a.m. in the Dassen Island at the Westin Hotel. Meetings are held in English. *This meeting is self-organized based on who shows up (there is no designated lead).* If one prefers to attend a public AA meeting outside the hotel, learn more about AA resources in South Africa, including the Western Cape Intergroup in Cape Town. *Narcotics Anonymous is listed separately in this guide under the letter N.*

Allergies

ICA requires its venues to label all food provided for our conferences—whether during a reception or for mid-day coffee breaks—with the allergens involved in its preparation. If you have provided your allergy information to us during the conference registration process, we have shared that with the venues - however, mistakes do happen so we recommend carefully reviewing all signage and, when in doubt, to refrain from eating something you're not sure about and ask the venue banquet staff for assistance.

Exercise Facilities and Pool

The Westin Hotel has a fitness center and pool for use by hotel guests. Learn more about Westin's facilities, <https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/cptwi-the-westin-cape-town/experiences/>. Other hotels in the ICA26 block, Southern Sun-The Cullinan Hotel, and Hotel Sky, also offer fitness centers and pools.

Fragrance-Free Environment

ICA requests that participants refrain from wearing strong perfume, cologne, or other

fragrances in order to promote a fragrance-free environment for the benefit of attendees with multiple chemical sensitivities.

Medical Needs: Hospital & Urgent Care

The closest emergency room is at [Mediclinic Cape Town Hospital](#), an eight minute drive away at 21 Hof Street, Oranjezicht, Cape Town, 8001.

Mental Health/Suicide Hotline

[988lifeline](#) is a free, confidential service available to anyone experiencing a mental health, substance use, or emotional crisis. There are multiple ways to contact the service (e.g. - voice call, text, or chat), including for those with accessibility needs, and you may reach on behalf of yourself or for someone you are concerned about, such as a friend, neighbor, colleague, or loved one.

Narcotics Anonymous (NA)

NA has a dedicated South Africa website (<https://na.org.za/>) where NA meetings and/or other services in the immediate downtown Cape Town area can be located.

TRAVEL SAFETY

As with any destination, it is important to:

- **Remove your badge when outside the venue/your hotel** (*this is the #1 mistake we see attendees making out and about!*)
- Be aware of your surroundings, especially if a stranger suddenly engages you in a lively conversation (often a distraction technique for pickpockets).
- Keep your phone out of sight in public, and never store your phone or wallet in a back pocket. Before leaving your hotel, familiarize yourself with your route so you can walk with purpose — constantly checking maps or GPS while moving signals to others that you're a tourist and unfamiliar with your surroundings.
- Take care when crossing the street, especially if traffic goes in a different direction than what you are used to at home.
- In most major cities outside New York, avoid hailing cabs at the curb — instead, prearrange your travel through an app or service. Our tourism bureau partners recommend Uber Black, which is surprisingly affordable in Cape Town.
- Be discreet about the cash you're carrying, and use your hotel safe to store your passport rather than carrying it with you if possible.

As with any downtown area, safety can vary by neighborhood. If you do decide to stay outside the ICA housing block, please be careful when booking your lodging and cross reference your location with several sources to ensure you are in a safe area.

Harassment

ICA takes its attendees' and members' safety seriously. By registering for the conference, every attendee, exhibitor, sponsor, and speaker has agreed to abide by the [Conference Code of Conduct](#) (<https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.icahdq.org/resource/resmgr/conference/conf-coc.pdf>). You have the right to attend the conference without being the subject of harassment based on your ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or any other issue. **If you are being harassed, notice that someone else is being harassed, or have other concerns about inappropriate behavior, please contact a member of conference staff immediately.** Conference staff can most easily be found at the registration desk, and will be wearing

ribbons that say STAFF (***please take care to find actual ICA staff and not student volunteers who may also be working in this area*** – volunteers are typically wearing round buttons that say “I’m a volunteer!”). You may also email both Julie Arnold, Director of Governance, and Laura Sawyer (lsawyer@icahdq.org), Executive Director, directly with any concerns. Information shared will be kept confidential. We will be happy to help participants contact hotel/venue security or local law enforcement, provide escorts, or otherwise assist those experiencing harassment to feel safe for the duration of the conference, and to take action to remove those acting inappropriately. **We reserve the right to revoke access to the conference for anyone harassing another individual.** We keep a record of all incidents and reserve the right to ban individuals from future conferences.

Should a Problem Arise While You are Onsite at the ICA Meeting

If you have any problem or negative experience related to accessibility—including issues with housing, sessions, harassment, or any other accessibility-related issue that takes place within the conference venue or blocked hotel—please email Laura Sawyer, ICA Executive Director and/or Julie Arnold. In addition to meeting these needs, we keep a record of all requests and our ability to meet them in order to improve each year; we also provide feedback on accessibility issues to our hotel partners and the cities in which we meet. Please note that a reply may not be immediate given the constraints and demands of our entire staff being onsite for the conference and in meetings for part of each day, but we will get back to you as quickly as possible.

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Challenging misinformation

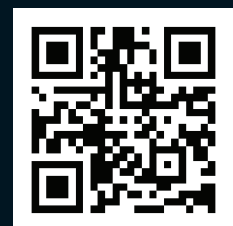
Researchers at Cardiff University School of Journalism, Media and Culture are reshaping political journalism, working with major broadcasters, regulators, and audiences to challenge misinformation and build trusted, accountable news for future generations.

We are revealing how misinformation spreads and how to tackle it.

This is **Future Generation Thinking**.



Future
Generation
Thinking



A world-leading centre of excellence in research and teaching, Cardiff University's School of Journalism, Media and Culture is shaping global journalism and communication. Our research spans three themes: journalism and democracy, digital media and society, and media, culture and creativity. Our research communities are shaping scholarly and public debate and defining the media systems of tomorrow.

	7:00	8:00	9:00	10:00	11:00	12:00	13:00	14:00	15:00	16:00	17:00	18:00	19:00	20:00	21:00	22:00
CTICC Ballroom East (CTICC1, Lev 1)																
1.41 (CTICC1, Lev 1)			08:30–17:00 PRECONFERENCE: Practicing Trust: Media, Machines and Methods													
1.61 (CTICC1, Lev 1)																
1.62 (CTICC1, Lev 1)			09:00–16:30 PRECONFERENCE: 15th Annual Doctoral Consortium of the Communication and Technology Division, co-sponsored by the Mobile Communication Division													
1.63 (CTICC1, Lev 1)			09:00–17:00 PRECONFERENCE: Whose Protest Counts? Power and Exclusion in Online Activism													
1.64 (CTICC1, Lev 1)			08:00–17:00 PRECONFERENCE: Affecting Myself?: Exploring Self- and Feedback Effects in Digital Communication													
2.41-2.43 (CTICC1, Lev 2)			08:00–17:00 PRECONFERENCE: Rethinking Global Discourses of Racial Inequality													
2.44-2.46 (CTICC1, Lev 2)			08:00–17:00 Breakout Room for "Rethinking Global Discourses of Racial Inequality" Preconference													
Nerina (CTICC2, Lev 1)			08:00–12:00 PRECONFERENCE: Analyzing and Theorizing Raw Qualitative Data as a Collective - Developing Sensitivity for													
Protea (CTICC2, Lev 1)			08:00–17:00 PRECONFERENCE: Human-Machine Communication and Inequalities: Contexts, Challenges, and Opportunities													
Daisy (CTICC2, Lev 2)			08:30–12:00 PRECONFERENCE: Children's Rights Under Pressure in a Digital World													
															19:30–21:30 ICA's 76th Opening Reception	



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Wee Kim Wee School
of Communication and Information

Join Us at the Nanyang Reception



6 June 2025, Saturday
8pm – 10pm



Ballroom East, Cape Town
International Convention
Centre 1 (CTICC1)



IN ASIA

Communication &
Media Studies



IN THE WORLD

Communication &
Media Studies



IN ASIA

Library & Information
Management



IN THE WORLD

Library & Information
Management



Korean Journal of Communication

The *Korean Journal of Communication (KJC)* is a peer-reviewed publication dedicated to disseminating scholarly research, book reviews, insightful commentaries, and meticulous field notes and data analysis. The journal's primary objective is to foster the advancement and wider dissemination of Korean communication studies. *KJC* places significant emphasis on the breadth of its scope, which encompasses theory-based research, pioneering theory development, and cutting-edge methodological approaches to Korean communication research. Furthermore, the journal highly values contributions from both the social sciences and humanities disciplines, recognizing their unique insights and perspectives. Consequently, manuscripts from disciplines other than communication scholarship are also welcomed and appreciated by the journal.

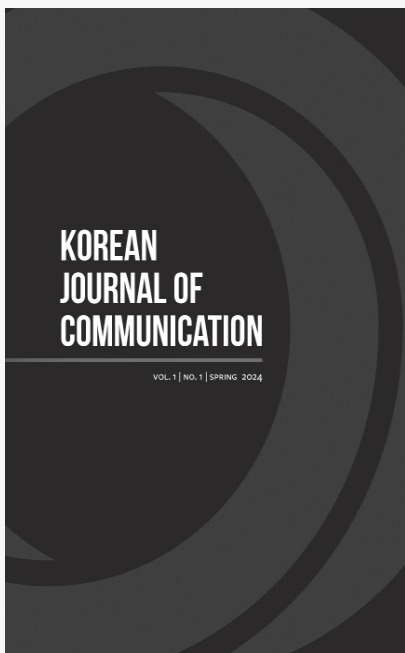
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The Korean American Communication Association (KACA) is an organization dedicated to serving the academic and social needs of communication scholars and students in North America and around the world. The KACA encourages and facilitates cooperation among members in conducting research in communication, especially focusing on subjects related to Korea, Korean Americans, and Korean diaspora.



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Exploring Media, Technology, and Culture with James Lull - Weekly on Substack



Scan the QR code or follow the link below to see my latest posts:
[Jameslull.substack.com](https://jameslull.substack.com)

Professor Emeritus of Communication Studies at San Jose State University, California, specializing in media and technology studies, cultural studies, and evolutionary communication.

Friends and Colleagues, Substack has become an important contemporary platform for sharing ideas about our interests as communications researchers and instructors. I write a free weekly post on Substack that merges text with images to express my thoughts about current issues connected to media/technology, communication, and culture.

I invite you to visit my Substack to read the latest posts and comment.

If you like what you see, you'll have an opportunity to subscribe.

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Previous posts include a communication-based 7-step approach to living successfully with Artificial Intelligence

- Step 1:** *Here's the Key to Success in the AI World*
- Step 2:** *Your "Self." Who are You Becoming and What are You Losing?*
- Step 3:** *Express Your "Self." AI and the Human Mode*
- Step 4:** *Faces and Fantasies: Managing Your body*
- Step 5:** *Technologies of Loneliness*
- Step 6:** *What Taco Bell teaches us about AI*
- Step 7:** *Does AI Steal Your Free Will?*

Other Popular Posts:

- Do You Bad Bunny? What that Means and Why it Matters*
- Communicate to Cooperate*
- Community: Who's in and Who's Not?*
- Why do We Check, Click, and Scroll so Much?*
- Why Christian Nationalism isn't Christian*
- What's Your Space in the Superculture?*

Friday, 29 May 2026

98 **PRECONFERENCE: 2026 PhD Workshop in Public Relations and Strategic Communication**

Friday **Pre/Postconferences**

8:00–12:00 **Public Relations**

ONLINE-ONLY **Discussants**

(online) Yang Cheng, North Carolina State U, USA

Øyvind Ihlen, U of Oslo, NORWAY

Organizer

Pablo Miño, U de los Andes, CHILE

Doctoral students will discuss their dissertation research with peers in a constructive atmosphere and receive one-on-one mentorship from some of the most prominent scholars in the field of strategic communication and public relations. The workshop is relevant for PhD students who are at different stages of their dissertation processes. We will prioritize mid- or early-stage doctoral students whose projects are still under development and can benefit the most from senior faculty mentors' advice.

LOCATION: Remote/online.

Tuesday, 2 June 2026

197 **PRECONFERENCE: The “Dark Side” of Social Conversations around Science: Contemporary Challenges and Potential Solutions for Science Communication**

Tuesday **Pre/Postconferences**

9:00–17:00 **Environmental Communication**
Science Communication

OFFSITE **Organizer**

EVENTS Jana Laura Egelhofer, Ludwig-Maximilian-U Munich, GERMANY

(offsite) LOCATION: Stellenbosch U

Wednesday, 3 June 2026

1097 **PRECONFERENCE: The 22nd Annual ICA Mobile Preconference 2026: Mobile Communication and Inequalities in Context**

Wednesday **Pre/Postconferences**

8:30–16:00 **Mobile Communication**

OFFSITE

EVENTS

(offsite)

For 22 years, the ICA Mobile Preconference has been an interdisciplinary gathering of scholars, researchers, and practitioners who focus on mobile communication research. Continuing this tradition, the 2026 preconference will provide a venue in which scholars can present, learn, and discuss their latest ideas, research, and skills around a number of themes related to mobile communication and mobile media. The preconference's goal is to support synergies and collaborations.

LOCATION: U of Cape Town

1097**PRECONFERENCE: Journalistic Roles in Context: Global Views and Local Realities****Wednesday Pre/Postconferences**

8:00–17:00

OFFSITE**EVENTS****(offsite)****Organizer**

Marenet Jordaan, Stellenbosch U, SOUTH AFRICA

This preconference welcomes presentations bridging macro-level understandings with specific case studies to address how universal ideals intersect with local cultural norms, political structures, media platforms, and local conditions related to journalistic role performances. Contributions that critically reflect on the conceptual and empirical tensions between global journalistic ideals and local journalistic realities would also be welcome. We are particularly interested in views from the majority world.

This preconference is affiliated with the Journalistic Role Performance Project

(<https://www.journalisticperformance.org/>).

LOCATION: NASDAK

1097**PRECONFERENCE: 12th Journalism Studies Graduate Student Colloquium****Wednesday Pre/Postconferences**

8:30–17:00

OFFSITE**EVENTS****(offsite)****Organizers**

Mathias Felipe de-Lima-Santos, Federal U of São Paulo, BRAZIL

Raul Ferrer-Conill, U of Stavanger, NORWAY

Joanne Kuai, RMIT U, AUSTRALIA

The 12th Journalism Studies Graduate Student Colloquium is an annual event designed to foster academic and professional development among graduate students and early-career scholars in the field of journalism studies. The colloquium provides a supportive environment for emerging researchers to share ongoing projects, receive feedback from senior scholars, and connect with peers working across diverse global contexts.

The 2026 edition continues the tradition of offering mentorship, research exchange, and scholarly community-building, aligning with ICA's broader goals of promoting inclusive and international academic dialogue.

LOCATION: Centre for Film and Media Studies, U of Cape Town

1097**PRECONFERENCE: ICA 2026 Hackathon: Opening Computational Communication****Wednesday Pre/Postconferences**

8:30–16:30

Communication Science, and Biology**Computational Methods****OFFSITE****EVENTS****(offsite)****Organizer**

Aditi Dutta, U of Exeter, UNITED KINGDOM

Advancing collaborative research in communication depends on the open exchange of tools, skills, data, and ideas across its many diverse subfields. While conferences and workshops play an important role in fostering this exchange, they often lack the unstructured time and hands-on engagement needed to spark new collaborations and creative projects. The ICA preconference Hackathon addresses this need by creating a space for open, noncompetitive collaboration in the form of a two-day, hands-on workshop.

LOCATION: Stellenbosch U School for Data Science & Computational Thinking

1097**PRECONFERENCE: Global Disruptions: Platforms, Power, and Contested Communication****Wednesday Pre/Postconferences**

8:00–17:00

**Activism, Communication and Social Justice
Political Communication,
Journalism Studies
Global Communication and Social Change****OFFSITE
EVENTS
(offsite)****Organizers**

Yossabel Chetty, Centre for Information Integrity in Africa, SOUTH AFRICA
Jaylexia Clark, U of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA
Daniel Kreiss, U of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA
Bruce Mutsvairo, Utrecht U, NETHERLANDS
Job Mwaura, Ludwig-Maximilian-U Munich, GERMANY
Lorcan Neill, U of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA
Daniel Roodt, Stellenbosch U, SOUTH AFRICA
Patricia Rossini, U of Glasgow, UNITED KINGDOM
Sahana Udupa, Ludwig-Maximilian-U Munich, GERMANY
Herman Wasserman, Stellenbosch U, SOUTH AFRICA
Khadijah White, Rutgers U, USA

Global Disruptions: Platforms, Power, and Contested Communication is a full-day preconference that brings scholars together to understand the complicated role of media and communication in disrupting states and societies around the world. This includes threats to democratic norms and institutions, enabling forms of authoritarianism, and perpetuating global inequalities as well as fostering social movements and resistance to oppression and exploitation.

LOCATION: Lanzerac Hotel, Stellenbosch

1197**PRECONFERENCE: Echoes and Overlaps in Arab and African Thought on Media and Culture: Forging New Directions for Research****Wednesday Pre/Postconferences**

9:00–17:00

**Philosophy, Theory and Critique
Global Communication and Social Change****OFFSITE
EVENTS
(offsite)****Participants****Echoes and Overlaps in Arab and African Thought on Media and Culture: Forging New Directions for Research**

Clovis Bergere, Northwestern U in Qatar, QATAR
Marwan Kraidy, Northwestern U in Qatar, QATAR
Nabil Echchaibi, U of Colorado Boulder, USA

Guided by long-standing—and more recent—calls to decolonize knowledge, we draw attention to Arab and African scholarship on media and culture, which has been, and continues to be, systematically occluded due to its form, location, language, race, nationality, and limited access to journals, funding, or distribution circuits. Our endeavor is driven by a desire to forge new directions for media and communication research by building on persistent—yet often repressed—theories, methods, and literatures within Africa and the Arab world.

LOCATION: U of Cape Town

1197**PRECONFERENCE: African and Global Media Representations of Africa****Wednesday Pre/Postconferences**

9:00–17:00

Global Communication and Social Change

Visual Communication Studies
Journalism Studies

OFFSITE Mainstream media portrayals of Africa remain shaped by enduring tropes, structural
EVENTS imbalances, and colonial legacies that influence how the continent is represented and
(offsite) understood. This preconference brings together scholars examining how Africa is narrated,
imagined, and negotiated across global media systems. Moving beyond familiar critiques, it
highlights research tracing the vocabularies, institutional logics, and material infrastructures
that shape contemporary portrayals, visibility, and silences in the mediated circulation of
African meanings.

LOCATION: U of Western Cape

1197

PRECONFERENCE: Challenges to Contemporary Conflict Reporting

Wednesday **Pre/Postconferences**

9:00–17:00

Journalism Studies
Global Communication and Social Change
Activism, Communication, and Social Justice

OFFSITE
EVENTS
(offsite)

Participant

Challenges to Contemporary Conflict Reporting Preconference
Richard Stupart, U of Liverpool, UNITED KINGDOM

This preconference invites contributions that offer ways of thinking about the structures of violence facing those engaged in the mediation of armed conflict, the possibilities of continuing these media practices, the ethical dilemmas, and potential future forms of witnessing war. While we welcome contributions from scholars of journalism studies and war—an obvious home for these concerns—we also encourage submissions from those considering practices of mediating conflict beyond the boundaries of professional journalism.

LOCATION: Workshop 17, Kloof Street

1197

PRECONFERENCE: Bridging Inequality Gaps in Public Relations and Strategic Communication: Power, Ethics, and Inclusion

Wednesday **Pre/Postconferences**

9:00–17:00

OFFSITE
EVENTS
(offsite)

Organizers

Anca Anton, U of Bucharest, ROMANIA
Caroline Azionya, U of Johannesburg, SOUTH AFRICA
Nirvana Bechan, Cape Peninsula U of Technology, SOUTH AFRICA
Dalien Benecke, U of Johannesburg, SOUTH AFRICA
Yang Cheng, North Carolina State U, USA
Jesper Falkheimer, Lund U, SWEDEN
Cindy Ngai, Hong Kong Polytechnic U, HONG KONG
Deidre Porthen, Cape Peninsula U of Technology, SOUTH AFRICA

Held on 3 June 2026, at Cape Peninsula U of Technology, this preconference examines how public relations and strategic communication can help to bridge inequality gaps, as well as the role the disciplines play in reproducing them across organizational, community, governmental, and transnational contexts. It welcomes conceptual and empirical work and practitioner-academia collaborations that advance ethical frameworks, shed light on power dynamics, and translate scholarship into tools, interventions, and partnerships that demonstrably improve inclusion and accountability.

LOCATION: Cape Peninsula U of Technology

1198**PRECONFERENCE: Celebrating and Relaunching the Field of Media and Religion: A Project of Disruption and Recovery****Wednesday Pre/Postconferences****9:00–16:30 Philosophy, Theory, and Critique****OFFSITE Chairs****EVENTS** Nabil Echchaibi, U of Colorado Boulder, USA
(offsite) Stewart Hoover, U of Colorado Boulder, USA**Participant**

Mara Einstein, Queens College, City U of New York, USA

Participants

How Digitalization Has Changed Media, Communication, and Religion in Western Democracies

Rebekka Rieser, U of Zurich, SWITZERLAND

LaRisa Anderson-Horne, U of Utah, USA

Stewart Hoover, U of Colorado Boulder, USA

Current Research on Media and Religion in South Africa and the African Continent

Asonzeh Ukah, U of Cape Town, SOUTH AFRICA

Henrietta Nyamnjoh, U of Cape Town, SOUTH AFRICA

Lee-Shae Sharnack-Undemans, U of Western Cape, SOUTH AFRICA

What is the role and function of a field like media and religion in the wake of the rise of far-right fascism, of xenophobic populism, of hegemonic nationalism, of perpetual catastrophism, of disinformation, of media overload, or of hyper and spectacular mediations? Or put differently, where is the “elsewhere” of the field of media and religion? Where and what are the scholarly perspectives from which to critique and repair this field?

LOCATION: Hybrid. U of Cape Town and U of the Western Cape

1383**Onsite Preconference Badge Early Access Pickup****Wednesday Sponsored Sessions****12:00–15:00****Old Harbour
Level Lobby
(Westin)**

If you are attending an onsite preconference at the CTICC on Thursday, please pick up your badge in advance on Wednesday in the lobby of the Westin Cape Town. This desk will only have preconference badges, not main conference badges. If you arrive late on Wednesday and can't pick up in advance, you may retrieve your badge on the way into your preconference by finding the separate onsite preconference badge kiosk near the main registration area in the CTICC1 (Registration foyer, ground level).

1397**PRECONFERENCE: Researching Media Production in the Global South****Wednesday Pre/Postconferences****13:00–17:00 Global Communication and Social Change****OFFSITE Organizers****EVENTS** Tanja Bosch, U of Cape Town, SOUTH AFRICA
(offsite) Hayes Mabwezara, U of Glasgow, UNITED KINGDOM
Chris Paterson, U of Leeds, UNITED KINGDOM
Anna Zoellner, U of Leeds, UNITED KINGDOM

This preconference explores the particularities involved in researching media production in the Global South. Research on media production is dominated by Western scholarship. This event gathers theoretically informed empirical studies that develop and extend conversations about the particularities of studying non-Western sites of production, from well-established outlets to newer digital forms. This preconference furthers dialogue between different research cultures

and seeks to push the boundaries of production research beyond dominant concepts and practices.

LOCATION: U of Cape Town

1397

PRECONFERENCE: Media and Communication in Global Latinidades

Wednesday Pre/Postconferences

13:00–17:00

**Journalism Studies
Ethnicity and Race in Communication**

**OFFSITE
EVENTS
(offsite)**

Organizers

Pablo J. Boczkowski, Northwestern U, USA
Claudia Bucciferro, Rochester Institute of Technology, USA
Ayleen Cabas-Mijares, U of Miami, USA
Nivia Escobar Salazar, Indiana U, USA
Miriam Hernández, California State U, Dominguez Hills, USA
Juan Larrosa-Fuentes, ITESO, MEXICO
Lucia Magis-Weinberg, U of Washington, USA
Eugenia Mitchelstein, U de San Andres, ARGENTINA
Pablo Porten-Chee, Heidelberg U, GERMANY
Jessica Retis, U of Arizona, USA
Laura Robinson, Santa Clara U, USA
Lucila Rozas Urruñaga, U of Pennsylvania, USA
Magdalena Saldana, Pontificia U Católica de Chile, CHILE
Arthur Soto-Vásquez, U of Nevada, Las Vegas, USA
Celeste Wagner, Rutgers U, USA
Silvio Waisbord, George Washington U, USA

This preconference examines the production, distribution, and consumption of media and communication in global Latinidades. It follows up on seven preconferences held in the context of the 2019–2025 Annual Meetings of the International Communication Association. In this eighth edition, we continue to center media and communication practices of the Latinx and Latin American experience globally.

LOCATION: U of Cape Town

Thursday, 4 June 2026

2003

PRECONFERENCE: Practicing Trust: Media, Machines and Methods

Thursday Pre/Postconferences

8:30–17:00

**Media Industry Studies
Journalism Studies
Communication Law and Policy**

**1.41 (CTICC1,
Lev 1)**

Chair

Terry Flew, U of Sydney, AUSTRALIA

Organizers

Michael Davis, U of Technology Sydney, AUSTRALIA
Harry Dugmore, U of the Sunshine Coast, AUSTRALIA
Timothy Koskie, U of Sydney, AUSTRALIA
Sora Park, U of Canberra, AUSTRALIA
Agata Stepnik, U of Sydney, AUSTRALIA
Wenjia Tang, U of Sydney, AUSTRALIA

The Practicing Trust: Media, Machines and Methods ICA preconference aims to develop new frameworks for understanding the relationship of trust to our understanding of contemporary

news and journalism, media industries and practices, and communications and media policy. It seeks to locate trust as being shaped within specific contexts, communities and environments, and to consider how trust is actively influenced by the actions of media organizations, public institutions, and technology companies.

2007 **PRECONFERENCE: Children’s Rights Under Pressure in a Digital World**

Thursday **Pre/Postconferences**
 8:00–12:00 **Communication Law and Policy**
Children, Adolescents, and the Media
Chairs
 Daisy (CTICC2, Lev 2) Sonia Livingstone, London School of Economics & Political Science, UNITED KINGDOM
 Kim Sylwander, London School of Economics & Political Science, UNITED KINGDOM
Discussant
 Ann Skelton, U of Pretoria, SOUTH AFRICA

Optimism that the internet would enhance the realization of children’s rights is giving way to concern that digital business models drive problematic societal transformations that undermine children’s rights. While the Global South seeks greater digital connectivity to overcome barriers of access and inclusion, the Global North increasingly observes the adverse effects on children’s well-being. This preconference deliberates on research relating to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the digital environment.

2010 **PRECONFERENCE: Affecting Myself?! Exploring Self- and Feedback Effects in Digital Communication**

Thursday **Pre/Postconferences**
 8:00–17:00 **Mass Communication**
Communication and Technology
 1.64 (CTICC1, Lev 1) **Organizers**
 Jana Dreston, U of Duisburg-Essen, GERMANY
 Dominique Heinbach, U of Mannheim, GERMANY
 Klara Langmann, Johannes Gutenberg U Mainz, GERMANY
 Teresa Naab, U of Mannheim, GERMANY
 German Neubaum, U of Duisburg-Essen, GERMANY
 Anna Schnauber-Stockmann, Johannes Gutenberg U Mainz, GERMANY

This preconference aims to bring together scholars from diverse subfields to explore, connect, and systematize research on self- and feedback effects in all fields of (digital) communication. By critically discussing theoretical foundations, clarifying key concepts, and comparing methodological approaches, we seek to lay the groundwork for a more integrated research agenda. The preconference also aims to identify overlooked mechanisms, stimulate collaboration, and build a lasting network for scholars working in this area.

2020 **PRECONFERENCE: Rethinking Global Discourses of Racial Inequality**

Thursday **Pre/Postconferences**
 8:00–17:00 **Language and Social Interaction**
Intercultural Communication
Ethnicity and Race in Communication
 2.41-2.43 (CTICC1, Lev 2) **Organizers**
 Godfried Asante, San Diego State U, USA

Yossi David, Ben-Gurion U of the Negev, ISRAEL
Natasha Shrikant, U of Colorado Boulder, USA

This preconference was designed in response to the current moment, characterized by parallel discourses of racism, resistance, justice, and empowerment. This moment has invigorated a renewed interest in re-imagining the analytical tools for examining how race and racial inequalities are normalized and influence intercultural encounters and conflict. This preconference brings together students and early-career scholars to present their work and receive constructive feedback in a supportive, interdisciplinary environment. By launching collaboration across our three divisions—Ethnicity and Race in Communication, Intercultural Communication, and Language and Social Interaction—we aim to foster cross-disciplinary intellectual exchange that advances new ways of thinking about race as a unifying theme. Each division engages race from different perspectives, and together we will expand knowledge, spark collaboration, and cultivate innovative approaches to rethinking global discourses of racial inequality.

2030

PRECONFERENCE: Analyzing and Theorizing Raw Qualitative Data as a Collective - Developing Sensitivity for Inequality and Difference

Thursday Pre/Postconferences

8:00–12:00 **Organizational Communication**

Nerina
(CTICC2, Lev
1)

Organizers

Stina Brøgger, U of Twente, NETHERLANDS
Pascale Caidor, U de Montréal, CANADA
Joëlle M. Cruz, U of Colorado Boulder, USA
Monica Nadegger, Ludwig-Maximilian-U Munich, GERMANY
Ellen Nathues, U of Twente, NETHERLANDS

This preconference creates space for collective data analysis from communication-constitutes-organization (CCO), discursive, performative, arts-based, feminist, queer, and critical approaches, where scholars can collaboratively examine “raw” qualitative data and generate ideas that are empirically grounded and remain sensitive to issues of power, difference, and inequality. The preconference offers a hands-on workshop where a select number of presenters share their data for joint analysis with other participants to deepen critical reflexivity and analytical sensitivity in communication research.

2031

PRECONFERENCE: Human-Machine Communication and Inequalities: Contexts, Challenges, and Opportunities

Thursday Pre/Postconferences

8:00–17:00 **Human-Machine Communication**

Protea
(CTICC2, Lev
1)

Chairs

Marco Dehnert, U of Arkansas, USA
Autumn Edwards, Western Michigan U, USA
Katrin Etzrodt, TU Dresden, GERMANY
Jihyun Kim, U of Central Florida, USA

At the 9th HMC IG preconference, we explore inequalities/inequities, embedded in and surrounding communication with machines. How they are inscribed in conceptions of communication, design/infrastructure of machines, trans-ontological relations or co-construction processes. How they shape negotiations of ontological boundaries, the process of communication itself, meaning-making, and moral conceptions, and how context matters. We reflect on ethical implications and opportunities in HMC for advancing equality among humans, among machines, and between humans and machines.

2090 Badge Pickup for Onsite Preconferences

Thursday **Sponsored Sessions**
7:00–9:30

Registration Foyer (CTICC1, Ground Level) If you arrive late on Wednesday and can't pick up in advance, you may retrieve your onsite preconference badge on the way into your preconference by finding the *separate onsite preconference badge kiosk* near the main registration area in the CTICC1 (Registration foyer, ground level). Do not get in the line for main conference registration/badges; look for the separate table.

2090 Main ICA Conference Registration and Badge Pickup Hours

Thursday **Sponsored Sessions**
8:00–20:00

Registration Foyer (CTICC1, Ground Level) Thursday is our onsite preconference day, followed by the evening Opening Plenary and Opening Reception. The registration desk will be open late on this day to accommodate late arrivals to the conference, so everyone can be admitted to the building for the Welcome Reception. The CTICC requires badge-check security for entry into the building beyond the registration foyer. For onsite preconference attendees: Please pick up your badge in advance on Wednesday from Noon–3PM in the lobby of the Westin Cape Town. This desk will only have preconference badges, not main conference badges. If you arrive late on Wednesday and can't pick up in advance, you may retrieve your preconference badge on the way into your full-day or morning preconference by finding the *separate onsite preconference badge kiosk* near the main registration area in the CTICC1 (Registration foyer, ground level).

2097 PRECONFERENCE: Beyond the Norm(al): Media Use Practices at the Intersection of Body, Mind, and Technology

Thursday **Pre/Postconferences**
8:00–15:30
OFFSITE EVENTS (offsite)

Organizers
Laura Aleman, Ludwig-Maximilian-U Munich, GERMANY
Celine Dorrani, Leipzig U, GERMANY
Felix Frey, Leipzig U, GERMANY
Benjamin Krämer, Ludwig-Maximilian-U Munich, GERMANY
Max Lechner, Ludwig-Maximilian-U Munich, GERMANY

This preconference discusses diverse theoretical and empirical insights into how different special mental, bodily, social, and spatial contexts shape media use and reception. By foregrounding these perspectives, we aim to highlight the diversity of media practices that arise under unequal bodily, mental, social, and technological circumstances and to challenge the prevailing notion of “normality,” which still privileges the experiences of healthy and neurotypical individuals as well as typical circumstances of life.

LOCATION: Radisson RED Hotel, V&A Waterfront, Cape Town

2097 PRECONFERENCE: Digital Publics and the Global South: Reimagining Communication for Equality and Inclusion in Uncertain Times

Thursday **Pre/Postconferences**
9:00–16:30
**Public Diplomacy
Global Communication and Social Change
Communication Law and Policy**

**OFFSITE
EVENTS
(offsite)**

Organizers

Yu Hong, Zhejiang U, CHINA

Bingchun Meng, London School of Economics and Political Science, UNITED KINGDOM

Wei Wang, Zhejiang U, CHINA

We live in turbulent times when the notion of public, which is central to both understanding communication as a life world phenomenon and studying it as an academic subject, is becoming increasingly contested. Amid escalating social inequality, political polarization, violent confrontation, and concentration of communication power and resources, the common ground for sustaining communicative rationality has been eroded to an untenable point. Notably, this erosion is compounded by the rise of AI-driven media ecosystems, which algorithmically shape visibility, amplify affective polarization, and create crises of public trust in institutions and in one another. These technologies, often embedded with political biases, are reshaping digital culture and public opinions, determining what counts as knowledge and who is granted epistemic authority. This in turn has significant consequences on the ways in which we organize our social, cultural, and political life.

LOCATION: U of Cape Town, Graduate School of Business Academic Conference Centre, Portwood Road, V&A Waterfront, Cape Town, South Africa

2097

PRECONFERENCE: Beyond the Divide: Global South Agendas for a Plural Journalism Studies

Thursday

Pre/Postconferences

8:00–17:00

Global Communication and Social Change

OFFSITE

Chair

EVENTS

Maha Bashri, The Africa Institute- Global Studies U, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

(offsite)

Discussant

Ruth Moon, Louisiana State U, USA

Moderator

Carolyn Walcott, Clayton State U, USA

Participants

Tanja Bosch, U of Cape Town, SOUTH AFRICA

Nicola Davies-Laubscher, U of Cape Town, SOUTH AFRICA

Kecheng Fang, Chinese U of Hong Kong, HONG KONG

Summer Harlow, U of Texas at Austin, USA

Lea Hellmueller, City, U of London, UNITED KINGDOM

Wendy Weile Zhou, U of Virginia, USA

This participatory preconference re-centers journalism studies around the Global South as the locus of theory, practice, and collaboration. Through small, facilitated knowledge labs, participants will co-create frameworks that originate in Global South epistemologies and extend outward in dialogue with the North, exploring concepts, solidarity projects, and equitable collaboration structures to expand what counts as knowledge and who produces it.

Sponsored by: The Africa Institute, Global Studies U, Sharjah, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

LOCATION: U of Cape Town

2097

PRECONFERENCE: Metamodern Public Relations: Navigating Inequality, Engagement, and Transformation in Complex Contexts

Thursday

Pre/Postconferences

8:30–16:00

Public Relations

OFFSITE

Organizers

EVENTS

Erica Ciszek, U of Texas at Austin, USA

(offsite)

Lee Edwards, London School of Economics & Political Science, UNITED KINGDOM

Jenny Hou, Queensland U of Technology, AUSTRALIA
Howard Nothhaft, Lund U, SWEDEN
Jens Seiffert-Brockmann, Vienna U of Economics and Business, AUSTRIA
Celia Weaver, U of Colorado Boulder, USA
Franziska Weder, Vienna U of Economics and Business, AUSTRIA

The ICA 2026 theme invites scholars to examine how structural inequalities shape and are shaped by communication practices. Metamodernism, with its oscillatory logic and openness to complexity, offers a compelling lens to interrogate how communication—including public relations—can both reproduce and challenge such inequalities. The preconference will foster a critical dialogue between Global North and Global South scholars around inclusive, context-sensitive approaches and models of PR.

LOCATION: Cape Town Hotel School

2108 **PRECONFERENCE: 15th Annual Doctoral Consortium of the Communication and Technology Division, co-sponsored by the Mobile Communication Division**

Thursday **Pre/Postconferences**

9:00–16:30 **Mobile Communication**

Communication and Technology

**1.62 (CTICC1,
Lev 1)**

Organizers

Will Marler, Tilburg U, NETHERLANDS
Bree McEwan, U of Toronto Mississauga, CANADA
Anne Oeldorf-Hirsch, U of Connecticut, USA

The consortium brings together PhD candidates conducting research on communication technologies and mobile communication to give them the opportunity to present and discuss their research in a constructive and international atmosphere. Objectives of the event are to provide feedback and advice to participating PhD candidates on their in-progress research thesis. Moreover, the doctoral consortium will provide the opportunity to meet experts as well as fellow PhD candidates from different backgrounds working on related topics.

2109 **PRECONFERENCE: Whose Protest Counts? Power and Exclusion in Online Activism**

Thursday **Pre/Postconferences**

9:00–17:00 **Activism, Communication, and Social Justice**

Global Communication and Social Change

**1.63 (CTICC1,
Lev 1)**

Organizers

Qian Huang, U of Groningen, NETHERLANDS
Jun Liu, U of Copenhagen, DENMARK
Chris Chao Su, Boston U, USA
Yu Sun, U of Glasgow, UNITED KINGDOM
Guobin Yang, U of Pennsylvania, USA

This preconference aims to be a meeting ground for scholars, practitioners, and policymakers to exchange insights, challenge assumptions, and develop actionable strategies to ensure that digital activism fulfills its democratic promise—not only for those who can connect, but for those who can be heard. We will seek original, rigorous, and innovative contributions that critically examine the dynamics, opportunities, and inequalities shaping digital activism in contemporary contexts. Submissions may adopt theoretical frameworks or be grounded in empirical investigations, addressing questions of participation, visibility, and influence in networked movements.

Thursday Regional Hub9:00–10:00 **Chair****ONLINE-
ONLY
(online)**

Agnes Lucy Lando, Daystar U, KENYA

Participants

Robert Aswani, Daystar U, KENYA

Ingrid Bachmann, Pontificia U Católica de Chile, CHILE

Thomas Hanitzsch, Ludwig-Maximilian-U Munich, GERMANY

This panel focuses on Communication and Inequalities in Context: Reflecting on the ICA Journey (to Africa). The objective of the panel is to discuss the journey of ICA to Africa, and the inequalities therein. ICA Global has accomplished a milestone in holding its first ever annual conference on the continent. But how does it intend to maintain this momentum and help to shape more supportive and equitable opportunities for scholars on the continent.

Thursday Pre/Postconferences9:00–17:00 **Philosophy, Theory, and Critique****OFFSITE
EVENTS
(offsite)****Organizers**

Meryl Alper, Northeastern U, USA

Tanja Bosch, U of Cape Town, SOUTH AFRICA

Lorenzo Dalvit, Rhodes U, SOUTH AFRICA

Elizabeth Ellcessor, U of Virginia, USA

Katie Ellis, Curtin U, AUSTRALIA

Ngozi Emmanuel, Birmingham City U, UNITED KINGDOM

Bev Enion, U of Sheffield, UNITED KINGDOM

Bimbo Fafowora, Rhodes U, SOUTH AFRICA

Gerard Goggin, Western Sydney U, AUSTRALIA

Ria Gualano, Cornell U, USA

Beth Haller, Towson U, USA

Deanna Holroyd, Akita International U, JAPAN

Karen Jeynes, Independent Scholar, SOUTH AFRICA

Chelsea Jones, Brock U, CANADA

Jenny Kennedy, RMIT U, AUSTRALIA

Muya Koloko, U of Cape Town, SOUTH AFRICA

Amanda Lagerkvist, Uppsala U, SWEDEN

Jingyi Liao, Nanyang Technological U, SINGAPORE

Dyah Pitaloka, Monash U, INDONESIA

Samira Rajabi, U of Colorado Boulder, USA

Valquiria Ramos Obregón, Pontificia U Católica de Chile, CHILE

Abdul Rohman, RMIT U Vietnam, VIET NAM

Wenqi Tan, U of Sydney, AUSTRALIA

Filippo Trevisan, American U, USA

Zhuoxiao Xie, Nanjing U, CHINA

M. Remi Yergeau, Carleton U, CANADA

Kuansong Victor Zhuang, Nanyang Technological U, SINGAPORE

We connect this preconference to the broader ICA 2026 conference theme, particularly inviting critical reflection on the interconnections among disability, communication and media, and inequality. Disability, communication, and media research is a vibrant field cutting across the swathe of communication and media studies and that offers great opportunity for generative thinking around inequality. At this preconference, we especially encourage attendees to pay attention to the “complex of inequalities ... embedded in historically set socio-relations of global power” (Meekosha and Soldatic 2011, 1383).

LOCATION: U of Cape Town

2197

PRECONFERENCE: Anti-Apartheid Legacies: Mediating Solidarities from South Africa to Palestine

Thursday **Pre/Postconferences**
9:00–17:00 **Philosophy, Theory, and Critique**

OFFSITE
EVENTS
(offsite)

Organizer

Paula Chakravartty, New York U, USA

Addressing ICA's theme of Inequalities in Context, this preconference focuses on the parallels between the mediated struggle against institutionalized segregation during South African apartheid and the ongoing global solidarity movement against Israeli occupation, segregation, and genocidal violence in Palestine.

LOCATION: U of Cape Town, Centre for African Studies - CAS Gallery Harry Oppenheimer Institute Building, Engineering Mall Road, Upper Campus

2197

PRECONFERENCE: Decolonizing the Visual: Community, Memory, and Resistance

Thursday **Pre/Postconferences**
9:00–16:00 **Activism, Communication, and Social Justice**

OFFSITE
EVENTS
(offsite)

Visual Communication Studies
Popular Media & Culture
Philosophy, Theory, and Critique
Intercultural Communication
Ethnicity and Race in Communication
Communication History

Organizer

Ashley Stewart, U of Port Harcourt, NIGERIA

In an era where the legacies of colonialism continue to shape visual cultures, representation, and knowledge production, the need to interrogate and transform dominant visual narratives has never been more urgent. Visual communication is both a site of power and a field of contestation, a medium through which histories are remembered or erased, communities are misrepresented or empowered, and resistance is silenced or amplified. Decolonizing the visual extends far beyond examining exchanges of images.

LOCATION: U of Western Cape

2307

PRECONFERENCE: Intersectional Political Economy: New Directions for Research and Teaching

Thursday **Pre/Postconferences**
13:00–17:00 **Feminist Scholarship**
Activism, Communication, and Social Justice

Daisy
(CTICC2, Lev
2)

Chairs

Carolyn Byerly, Howard U, USA
Stine Eckert, Wayne State U, USA

Moderators

Hanan Badr, U of Salzburg, AUSTRIA
Elisabetta Ferrari, Aarhus U, DENMARK
H. Leslie Steeves, U of Oregon, USA

Participants

Karin Assmann, U of Georgia, USA
 Irene Awino, U of Wisconsin–La Crosse, USA
 Mara Einstein, Queens College, City U of New York, USA
 Dustin Harp, U of Texas at Arlington, USA
 Gabriela Martinez, U of Oregon, USA
 Aljoscha Paulus, Hanover U of Music, Drama, and Media, GERMANY
 Andrea Press, U of Virginia, USA
 Federico Subervi-Velez, U of Wisconsin–Madison, USA
 Mandy Troeger, U of Tübingen, GERMANY
 Janet Wasko, U of Oregon, USA
 Téwodros Workneh, Kent State U, USA

This preconference celebrates the 40th anniversary of the Feminist Scholarship Division and the 1st anniversary of the Activism, Communication, and Social Justice Division in 2026 by focusing on new directions for researching and teaching the contexts of inequalities in media through political economy scholarship. This half-day preconference will explore ways of researching and teaching about structural inequalities in media policies, ownership, management, and financing through the lenses of gender, race, class, and nationality.

2330 Journalistic Role Performance (JRP) Project Meeting

Thursday **Satellite Events**

13:00–16:00

Organizer

Nerina

Claudia Mellado, Pontificia U Católica de Valparaíso, CHILE

(CTICC2, Lev
1)

Invitation only.

2392 ICA Onsite Preconference Attendees’ Lunch (for full-day Preconference Attendees Only)

Thursday **Sponsored Sessions**

12:00–14:00

**Jasminium
Conservatory
(CTICC1,
Ground Level)**

Registered attendees and presenters for full-day onsite preconferences will eat lunch together in one area. Onsite preconference badge required. Half-day preconference attendees’ registration does not include lunch. A morning and afternoon break will also be available for all preconferences, in an area close to the session room (please see instructions from HQ staff about your group’s break area).

2397 PRECONFERENCE: A Causal Inference Institute in Communication Studies

Thursday **Pre/Postconferences**

13:00–17:00

Organizers

OFFSITE

Shuning Lu, U of Maryland, College Park, USA

EVENTS

Ewa Maslowska, Institute of Communications Research, USA

(offsite)

Harsh Taneja, Institute of Communications Research, USA

This preconference serves as the next step following the successful 2025 blue sky workshop on causal inference. The session will advance the conversation on causality by showcasing cutting-edge research through a competitive paper selection process. We will facilitate collaborative discussions across subfields and develop a shared agenda for the future, with the goal of fostering a cross-disciplinary community dedicated to theory building and methodological innovation in communication research.

LOCATION: Cape Town Waterfront

Thursday
18:00–19:15
Auditorium 1
(CTICC1, Lev
1)

Sponsored Sessions

Chair

Thomas Hanitzsch, Ludwig-Maximilian-U Munich, GERMANY

Participants

Ingrid Bachmann, Pontificia U Católica de Chile, CHILE

Karin Wahl-Jorgensen, Cardiff U, UNITED KINGDOM

Laura Sawyer, International Communication Association, USA

Eszter Hargittai, U of Zurich, SWITZERLAND

Isabel Molina, U of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, USA

Julie Arnold, International Communication Association, USA

Who gets to produce knowledge? On whose terms? With what reach? These questions lie at the heart of persistent and well-documented inequalities in communication scholarship, from gender gaps in citations to disparities in access to funding, publishing infrastructure, and international networks. This session will discuss what drives these divides and what—if anything—can meaningfully address them. By bringing together different perspectives, this opening plenary aims to move from diagnosis to a debate about what constitutes scientific knowledge in the field of communication and the hierarchies in knowledge production to tackle the question of who counts in communication scholarship.

Thursday
19:30–21:30
CTICC
Ballroom East
(CTICC1, Lev
1)

Sponsored Sessions

Join your colleagues for an opening night welcome reception showcasing the beautiful flora and fauna of the African continent, with copious heavy hors d'oeuvres and desserts provided by ICA. Cash bar.

AI Politics

General Call for Proposals

A New Interdisciplinary Book Series

To be published by: Intellect and University of Chicago Press

Edited by Andrew Hoskins (University of Edinburgh) and Ben O'Loughlin (Royal Holloway, University of London)

We invite proposals for a new interdisciplinary book series, AI Politics, which will interrogate and shape debate on the social, political, and epistemological transformations wrought by artificial intelligence. This series provides a critical platform for researchers engaging with the emergent realities of AI — not speculative futures, but the immediate and ongoing contests over knowledge, data, information, power, identity, privacy, memory, economy, war, and resistance in the digital era. The series is animated by an urgent need for epistemic authority in an environment dominated by accelerated technological change and discursive volatility.

AI Politics welcomes contributions that address key thematic areas including (but not limited to):

AI and democratic trust * Generative AI and memory * Surveillance and data justice * AI in warfare and security ecologies * AI and activist politics.

We are particularly interested in scholarship that disrupts dominant narratives and reimagines how AI might be governed, contested, or transformed.

The series is open to a range of formats:

- Short form and Agenda-setting texts (30,000 and 60,000 words) that respond to critical events and policy shifts or reorient scholarly and public discourse;
- Full-length monographs (50,000+ words) presenting comprehensive research and theoretical contributions;
- Textbooks that redefine or re-map fields of study for students and instructors in the AI era.

Submission

To submit a proposal or express interest, please contact the series editors with a brief abstract (300–500 words), author biography, and indicative table of contents. Full proposal guidelines can be provided upon request.

AI Politics is not just a series—it is a critical intervention in how we come to understand and live with AI. Join us in shaping this essential conversation.



More info
here

Contact

Professor Andrew Hoskins
andrew.hoskins@ed.ac.uk

Professor Ben O'Loughlin
ben.oloughlin@rhul.ac.uk



www.intellectbooks.com

INGRID BACHMANN

ICA PRESIDENT-ELECT 2025-2026

We extend our congratulations to our President-Elect on the successful planning of this year's conference. The dedication, clear vision, and effort you brought to the process were truly admirable — and the results spoke for themselves. We are so grateful for your leadership. Here's to a historic ICA26!





Department of
Media and Communication

香港城市大學
City University of Hong Kong

Advancing Communication
Through Cutting-Edge Research

Shaping Futures with
Innovative Education

Driving Global Impact via
Industry and Knowledge
Transfer Partnerships



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