



President's Column

by Mary Beth Oliver, ICA President, Penn State U

Why is everyone else so productive?

Everybody but me already knows how to do this.

If I were smarter, I would be able to figure this out on my own.

Am I the only one who doesn't know what this acronym means? My third straight rejection – what is wrong with me?

We've all heard these voices in our heads at some point or the other. Maybe they're loudest among our student and early career scholars when uncertainties are so salient. But here's the reality – they really

never stop talking at us. At this stage of my career, one would think I have everything in place to have confidence in my abilities, but that could not be farther from the truth. Those nagging voices are just as present as they always have been. The only thing that's really different is that I'm willing to have a "conversation" with these voices now, asking them why they sing that out-of-tune song too often.

I think there may be multiple reasons for our collective and long-lasting imposter

syndromes within the academic community. One reason is our (understandable) tendency to share our accomplishments. We cheer on our colleagues who post about their awards, who share their grant successes, or who quote from their glowing student evaluations. But these same colleagues who seem to excel at everything are only telling half of the story. Their struggles, their challenges, and their failures likely don't make it to the "prime time" of social media.

If you ever want to hear about epic failures, shoot me a note! I can tell you about my harshest

continued on page 7

President-Elect's Column

by Noshir Contractor, ICA President-Elect, Northwestern U

For many in our ICA community, the onset of fall or spring (depending on your hemisphere) signals our annual ritual of finalizing ICA conference submissions (the deadline is November 5th this year). Our ICA 2022 Conference Theme "One World, One Network?" ends with the interrobang (an exclamation mark superimposed on a question mark). The interrobang punctuates the duality of both celebration and problematization of oneness. We are introducing two new innovations at the 2022 Conference.

continued on page 8

Call for Blue Sky Workshops

by ICA Conference Team

Blue Sky Workshops aim to engage participants in critical discussions of current concerns within the discipline; exploration of theories, concepts, or methods; or the collective development of new research strategies or best-practice recommendations for a particular subfield of communication. These are not didactic presentations, but rather are meant to be opportunities for dialogue. Blue Skies can also be created around issues of professional development, such as writing and submitting grant proposals,

continued on page 9

ICA Book Award Nominations

by ICA Conference Team

The International Communication Association is now accepting book nominations towards the **Outstanding Book Award** and **Fellows Book Award!** Please make note that the nomination period for the book awards is from 1 September - 10 December. If you would like to nominate a book for either the Outstanding Book Award or Fellows Book Award for 2022, please visit our award page for the nomination links: <http://www.icahdq.org/page/Awards>.

Please provide publisher contact information as requested on the nomination form, so that the ICA Conference team can reach out and coordinate e-book deliveries to the committee members. We will no longer accept book nominations sent to headquarters in Washington D.C.

All other ICA Awards open 1 November and close 31 January. For more information on all ICA Awards, please visit: <http://www.icahdq.org/page/Awards>.

72nd Annual ICA Conference Calls for Papers

We are delighted to invite you to the hybrid 72nd Annual ICA Conference in Paris, France from 26 to 30 May 2022. All Division & Interest Group conference calls for papers are now available online. Submissions are now open and will close 5 November.

[VIEW THE CALLS FOR PAPERS](#)



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START PREPARING NOW FOR YOUR ENTRY TO FRANCE!

As we all know, a lot can happen between now and May 2022; the COVID situation might get better...or worse. But in the interest of optimism, it's important to highlight what the current status is for entry requirements for France. If you are a resident of an EU-member country, your COVID pass will work for entry to France and you're all set. If you reside elsewhere, things are a bit more complicated, and you will need to follow the instructions below to prove you have been vaccinated against COVID-19 in order to gain entry to France. We recommend you start this process as soon as possible so there are no surprises on your trip!

Please visit the following website to determine whether you need the pass, and how to get one if so.

[Applying for a COVID certificate if you were vaccinated abroad \(procedure for non-European nationals entering France and non-European students\) - Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs \(diplomatie.gouv.fr\)](#)

Please note that in order to apply for the pass, you will need to upload a photo of your passport as well as your vaccination card, so it's good to have those at hand before you start the process.

You will also need to be prepared for what requirements are in place for a smooth return home. Currently:

- **United Kingdom:** PCR is valid, Antigen under conditions. Further information here: [Rules to reach UK](#). You also need to fill out the following form: [Passenger Locator Form](#).
- **Italy:** Both tests are valid, need to be done less 48 hours before departure. If you have a vaccination proof, tests are not mandatory. A registration is requested [here](#) or enclosed to this email.
- **USA:** Both tests are valid to go back to the USA. Tests have to be done less than 72 hours before departure. Further information here: [Rules to reach the USA](#). A declaration is requested.
- **Germany:** A PCR test less than 72 hours is requested, or Antigen test less than 48 hours, or a vaccination proof. A registration to access the country is requested [here](#).

To obtain information for re-entry to other countries, please visit this website: [Conseils aux Voyageurs - Ministère de l'Europe et des Affaires étrangères \(diplomatie.gouv.fr\)](#).

Membership Column

By ICA Member Services Team

Make the Most Out of Your 2021-2022 ICA Membership Term

We are pleased to welcome new, and returning, members to the new ICA Membership term! We hope that our efforts to provide you with networking opportunities and venues to share your research exceed your expectations. We also extend our gratitude for your ongoing support of ICA as a member.

PROTIP CHECKLIST: Make the most out of your ICA membership

- Access** [ICA's six scholarly journals](#) online, including all previously published issues
- Follow** us on the socials; keep up to date on all things ICA via [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#) & [LinkedIn](#)
- Network** via ICA's engagement platform: [The Link](#). Members are already utilizing this newest benefit in the coolest of ways: gauging interest in panels, posing research questions, seeking feedback, hunting for relevant literature... and so much more! Don't forget to adjust your notification settings to align with your inbox preferences!
- Join** *another* one of ICA's 33 [Divisions or Interest Groups](#). Every ICA member is required to join at least one division or interest group, but many elect to join more than one! They are a great way to customize your ICA experience based on your personal topic area(s) of interest. Doing so affords you increased potential to network with colleagues of similar interest. You will receive field-specific calls for papers, newsletters or special announcements (*contact us at membership@icahdq.org for more info on how to add a new Division/Interest group outside of the online join/renew process*)
- Submit** a paper. The theme of #ica22 is [One World, One Network!](#). Be sure to read through the Division and Interest Group calls for papers before you submit. Make note that each Div/IG has different requirements and there is an overall limit of maximum three first-author submissions, unlimited non-first author papers/panels. You can find the conference calls for papers and deadline to submit on both on the [ICA website](#) and the welcome page of the [paper submission website](#).
- Vote** in the [ICA Election 2021!](#) Help Shape the Future of ICA: Vote by 12:00 Noon ICA Headquarters time (EDT) on 15 October.. The scope of the election includes both association-wide balloting (for both officers and bylaws changes) as well as balloting specific to any Divisions or Interest Groups to which you belong. It is a meaningful opportunity for you to participate in ICA and to help guide our future. Your input is most appreciated and highly regarded.
- Explore** ICA [Engagement opportunities](#) in leadership roles; **submit** an Expression of Interest during the open call. Becoming part of a committee or task force helps get you on the radar of, and build connections with, ICA Leadership. ICA committee and task force members often advance to other leadership roles within the organization. If you're ambitious to move up within the leadership, volunteering for a committee or task force is the place to start. (*Want to know more about leadership at ICA, contact Julie Arnold ICA Director of Governance & Member Services*).
- Receive** a generously discounted registration price by [signing into your ICA profile](#) first before registering for #ica22.
- Attend** the 72nd Annual ICA Conference from 26-30 May 2022 in Paris, France. It is being planned from the start as a hybrid conference! Participants will have the option to choose whether to attend either as an in-person attendee or as a virtual only attendee. [Read more about the hybrid plan here.](#)

Go on... tell us what you (really) think!

The Member Services team continuously strives to improve upon and enhance your experience as a member. We encourage you to reach out to us at membership@icahdq.org with suggestions for new member benefits you wish we offered in addition to our existing [benefits](#).

The fine print. ICA membership runs from 1 October – 30 September each term, with a 60-day grace period. If you do not renew your membership by 30 September, then you will have 60 days to renew before your ICA membership access is officially suspended. ICA welcomes new and renewing members to join/renew throughout the year. Members joining/renewing mid membership year receive full membership benefits upon enrollment, including online access to all previously published ICA journals. Dues are not prorated based on the date joined. For this reason, we recommend renewing your membership now to maximize your access to a year's worth of member benefits.

Governance Corner

by Julie Arnold, Director of Governance and Member Services & Shiv Ganesh, The U of Texas at Austin, Chair of the ICA Membership and Internationalization Committee

Advancing ICA's Internationalization Agenda: Best Practices for Division/Interest Group International Liaisons (ILs)

On 6 August 2021, ICA held our third annual **Best Practices for ICA Division/Interest Group International Liaisons (ILs)**, co-hosted by **Shiv Ganesh**, Chair of the ICA Membership & Internationalization Committee and **Julie Arnold**, ICA's Director of Governance & Member Services. We're excited to share the momentum that is growing! Each of the thirty-three ILs were invited to participate. Participants were asked to complete a survey in advance of the session to share initiatives, challenges, successes, and questions which helped shape the agenda for the session which covered an overview of ICA Governance, the origins of internationalization at ICA and why it is important, the best practices portion of discussion followed by a Q&A opportunity. Following the meeting, a shareable summary of the survey responses, along with additional resources for ILs and a recording of the video were shared with each of the ILs. Hosting formal best practices has facilitated a more concerted effort; helping to formally organize this initiative and address questions to aid ILs in their ability to meet the remit of the role. We need to do more work to educate the association at large about the IL role, and this newsletter offers us the chance to start doing exactly that.

Who is an IL and what do they do?

In May of 2019, the ICA Board of Directors approved a motion to formalize the International Liaison role, until then an optional, appointed and somewhat ad-hoc position, and transition it to an officially elected position in each of its thirty-three division and interest groups (DIVs/IGs). We did this to make sure that efforts at internationalization were both distributed across the association and deepened into DIVs/IGs level, where it makes a considerable difference. DIV/IG ILs are now tasked with gathering opinions and feedback from their members, especially new members from less represented cultures and conveying them to the DIV/IG Chair/VC, or other relevant bodies ICA (Headquarters, the Membership & Internationalization Committee, etc.). They provide social support to, and help welcome, this cohort to the Association. Through the Membership and Internationalization Committee, ILs liaise across the DIV/IG groups on general issues that go beyond any given unit of ICA. They assist in the planning of ICA annual conferences, helping the chair and vice-chair to pay attention to participants from ethnic-minority communities and the developing world who may need extra help. They also help their DIVs/

IGs identify conference practices that are welcoming of all members. In particular, they identify the needs of scholars, especially those from non-English-speaking countries, who may need the training of particular skills (e.g., writing, data analysis), relay them to ICA Membership and Internationalization Committee or other relevant bodies. They participate in and facilitate other ICA internationalization activities such as regional conferences, mentorship programs. They aid the Chair in soliciting and submitting nominees annually for ICA-wide awards, including ICA Fellows, which reflect the diversity of the ICA membership not only in terms of nationality, regional identification, gender, and ethnicity, but crucially, in terms of what they study and where, and how they study it.

Progress since 2019

We are elated to see the revitalization of the IL role begin to have an impact in a variety of ways. Among the 2020-2021 accomplishments shared, several DIV/IG conducted surveys, several identified new members & engaged in outreach to new members from throughout the globe. Many DIV/IG involved ILs in helping with the program to ensure international work was visible, some conducted workshops for members, the Visual Studies Communication Division put together a panel on what ICA is and was part of a symposium held in Kenya that was well attended.

This August, through the survey as well as the meeting, four main Issues were identified: (1) outreach (in terms of identifying people to reach out to); (2) how exhausted people felt during the pandemic and the need to examine conference practices accordingly (3) the new challenges that virtual work affords regardless of location and (4) funding for IL efforts. These main issues vastly differed from issues the previous year, which centered much more around role clarity, the need to get data about ICA members, and clarity on what sort of support ICA ought to provide for internationalization. As such, they are great "next step" issues. That means people have a better sense of the role & what internationalization is, and that will give us a better chance of ensuring that the association internationalizes in an inclusive and diverse manner.

continued on page 10

Student Column

by Arienne Ferchaud, Florida State U

When I graduated with my Ph.D. in May of 2018, I was all set to begin my first academic job as an assistant professor at Florida State University. I was so excited and, honestly, more than a little bit nervous. Certainly, I felt well-prepared in my training, but, as it turned out, there was so much more to transitioning from student to professor that I wasn't necessarily prepared for. So, in thinking about a potential column for this month's newsletter, I knew that I wanted to share my experience with others, so late stage grad students can have somewhat of an idea of what it's like to make that transition.

Of course, I want to be clear that my experience is not the same as everyone else's. Some folks do postdoctoral fellowships after grad school. Some work at liberal arts colleges or smaller universities where teaching responsibilities may be greater. And of course, my experience really cannot be generalized to universities and positions outside of the United States. But it is my hope that someone, somewhere, may resonate with what I have to say.

The first thing to think about in this time of transition is the time between graduation and the all-important first paycheck. Once my time at Penn State was up, I had no income for the summer until I got my first paycheck in August. Some colleagues at other universities have told me that their first check did not come until September or October. That lack of monetary stability can put a strain on you, so it's good to be prepared.

Once I actually started my position, I was struck by how much *freedom* there was. When I was in my doctoral program, I was able to pursue projects that interested me, but I still had my advisor to guide me. As a professor, it's just you. What are *your* interests? What research program do *you* want to pursue? Ultimately, my program of research has progressed from what it was in grad school. I've led research teams, instead of just being a member. I am a much more confident researcher than I was. But when I first started, I certainly felt a bit lost. It took me a full semester before I started to feel assured in what I was doing.

Another area that took me somewhat by surprise was teaching. In graduate school, I had the opportunity to teach a class per semester. That certainly allowed me to get my feet wet in terms of my personal pedagogical approach. When I started at Florida State, a research intensive university, my teaching load doubled to two classes a semester. Even though it was only one additional class, it felt at times overwhelming, especially in the beginning. I had to prep new courses I had never

taught before at a university with an entirely different student body. I found myself devoting the vast majority of my time to teaching, and my research suffered for it. There are so many other things I could discuss—working with graduate students, departmental service, finding funding—but I guess, above all, my advice to those making that transition from student to professor is to allow yourself some grace. Be patient with yourself as you try things. Try to allow yourself some space to learn and grow. Now in my fourth year on the tenure-track, I feel like I finally know myself as a teacher and researcher, but as with most things in life, it takes time.



President's Column from page 1

rejections, my most biting student comments, and my most embarrassing email snafus. I can share the multitude of times when I honestly couldn't answer student questions, when I completely blanked on meetings (even ones that I arranged!), and when I dropped the ball on deadlines. And you know what? It would feel good to "come clean." I fondly recall my friend, colleague, mentor, and "academic uncle" **Jennings Bryant** (ICA president, 2002-2003). He, along with **Dave Ewoldsen**, founded the journal *Media Psychology*. Years after his editorship had passed, Jennings said to me, "Well, today I got a rejection from the journal that I co-founded." His honesty, humility, and humor warm my heart to this day.

Another reason why we may have imposter syndrome is something that I'll characterize as "not learning from our successes." When most of us start a research project, we often don't approach it from a completely naïve perspective. We have ideas of what we might find, or in some instances, we may present formal hypotheses. When these ideas come to fruition, we may experience a sense of pride and accomplishment. Not finding what we thought, however, can sometimes bring about profound feelings of failure and dejection. But "succeeding" can mean that we close the book on how we understand our research and never consider other possibilities. "Aha! I found what I thought." In contrast, not finding what we anticipated can be the springboard for enriching and productive theorizing. Once we get past the initial reaction of "How could I have been so wrong?" we then begin to really dig into our work. "Maybe I made erroneous assumptions," "Here's something I didn't consider," or "Perhaps we need to look at this from another angle," are the building blocks of theory construction. These are the types of questions that may never arise when we "succeed." Our "failures" cause us to stretch, grow, and to reimagine--not only in our work but in our personal lives as well. They may not be things that people advertise to the world (and hence, our imposter syndromes), but deep down, they can become our superpowers.

Experiencing imposter syndrome can feel like a shameful and lonely experience. But rest assured, if you've had these feelings, you're not alone. Folks who never acknowledge their struggles, challenges, and "failures" are not only hiding the reality but are also not experiencing the joys and the creativity that can arise when we are confronted with having to rethink our scholarly assumptions and to embrace and recognize the boundaries of what we "know" and the infinitude of what has yet to be discovered. So yay for our failures!! I'm proud to call myself ignorant. :)



ICA
ICA Career Center

Connecting Talent with Opportunity
SEARCH OR POST JOBS



**International
Communication
Association**

**DON'T FORGET TO
RENEW YOUR ICA MEMBERSHIP
FOR THE 2021-2022 MEMBERSHIP YEAR!**

President-Elect's Column from page 1

The first is a podcast series. In the run-up to the 2022 ICA conference, we have launched a new podcast series on the Conference Theme, "One World, One Network?" which is now available on your favorite podcast platforms (such as [Apple Podcasts](#), [Spotify](#)). Learn more about the conference theme [here](#) and listen at <http://bit.ly/OneWorldOneNetwork>, to the introductory episode in which Co-Chairs - **Ingrid Bachman, Shakuntala Banaji, Brooke Foucault Welles, Deen Freelon, Jack Giu, and Herman Wasserman** - reflect on their unique perspectives on the Conference Theme. They delve further on their perspectives in future episodes, each hosted by a Co-Chair with guests they invite. While the podcast series will showcase our insights for the global public, ICA members have the added benefit of engaging in a discussion about the episodes with show hosts and guests, as well as fellow ICA members. In order to participate in a discussion about the introductory episode, go to the ICA social media platform [The Link](#) and look for the Public Channel discussion thread titled, "ICA Podcast Network: One World, One Network?: Episode 0." We want to hear what you think of the podcast conversation. What did you agree or disagree with? What was missing from the conversation? What would you like addressed in future episodes?

The second innovation is a Digital Artifacts submission track. We have introduced a submission track for digital artifacts that seek to aesthetically capture the aspirational and problematized facets of the Conference Theme. Digital artifacts include artwork, information visualizations, oral histories, performance art, installation art, interactive, multimedia, 3-D, augmented reality, and virtual-reality offerings that highlight aspects of the One World, One Network? theme. I am delighted that **Robby Ratan** has agreed to serve as Chair of the Digital Artifacts Track. He is helping ICA identify the most innovative ways in which we can set up a jury to review submissions, curate the exhibits for the ICA community, as well as foster dialogue and discussion around these artifacts. The Digital Artifacts track signals ICA's commitment to inclusivity by embracing the widest range of scholarly expression related to the Conference Theme. We hope the different forms of expression will expand and inspire dialogue across traditional boundaries: be they Divisional/Interest Groups, epistemic, or, methodological, within the ICA community. To incentivize the premiere of the Digital Artifacts track, we will be offering ICA-wide awards and cash prizes.

As we look forward to the ICA 2022 conference, we have benefited greatly by looking at the ICA 2021 conference in the rearview mirror. Despite our fervent hopes to convene together in Denver, we were unable to do so because of the challenges of the COVID-19 crisis and the conference was restricted, for the second

time, to a virtual format. In the 2021 post-conference survey, we heard a range of responses about the virtual conference experience. Many expressed sentiments of being "zoomed out" or "zoomed to death." And yet, for a significant number of respondents, the virtual format did quite the opposite. It provided the ability to participate when circumstances (e.g. lack of funding, or caregiving responsibilities) would have otherwise prevented them from doing so. Some remarked on the virtual format enabling a maximalist conference experience, in which the traditional limits of time and space did not prevent them from engaging with all the panels they wished to view, or enjoying the added benefit of transcriptions and the ability to "watch at 1.5 speed." We heard from those who would like a longer window for watching the panels after the conference takes place. We also heard that you would enjoy seeing enhancements to virtual presentations, for example, the ability to link supplemental information and data sources.

Though the virtual format came with some benefits, and the upshot of "no jet lag!!" to quote one member, many of you lamented the loss of opportunities for forming or building in-person connections with scholars from different regions or levels of experience. Across the globe, people are yearning to connect like never before, and, for many, the appeal of social gatherings that we once may have taken for granted cannot be overstated. Notably, about half of ICA 2021 conference survey respondents said they would have planned to attend the conference in-person if that had been an option, despite known barriers and risks. This is a powerful testament to the meaningful role the ICA community plays in our personal lives and professional development. And yet, at the same time, virtual conference platforms provided flexibility that allowed participation to fit "on-demand" into some members' busy and complex lives. One member remarked, "as a Southern Hemisphere scholar with caring responsibilities, I wouldn't usually attend - so just being part of ICA and catching great recorded panels was great."

ICA 2022 has the potential to leverage the *best of both* in-person and virtual conferencing. Sadly, any hybrid conference runs the risk of being the worst of both experiences. In the ominous words of one of my colleagues: "**I am not going to Paris to watch a bunch of videos...**" We must - and will - do better than that. We look forward to unveiling all that a hybrid conference has to offer us as a community, and we relish the opportunity to bring everyone together again both virtually and "IRL." **Réinventons ensemble l'ICA 2022!**

Blue Sky Workshops from page 1

developing a social media presence, or designing effective assignments.

How do I submit a proposal for a Blue Sky Workshop?

Proposals for Blue Sky Workshops are not bound to ICA divisions. **We will accept Blue Sky Workshops through the paper submission website (<https://ica2022.abstractcentral.com/>).** The proposal timeline will coincide with the conference papers from 3 September - 5 November 2021.

Each (session) proposal should contain:

- a session title,
- the name and contact information of the proposing session chair,
- a brief summary of the workshop (a 120-word abstract for the conference program) as well as
- a longer description of the session's topic, goals, and planned schedule (up to 500 words, to be published on the ICA website).
- This long description should also include requirements or instructions, if there are any, for interested participants (e.g., a condition that members interested in attending must submit their own thematic statements to the session chair prior to the conference, a suggestion of what core knowledge in a field or about a method is required for productive contribution, or an invitation to bring computers for joint text production).

If the number of proposals exceeds the amount of available rooms, proposals will be selected by the Conference Planner and President-Elect, **Noshir Contractor**. Please note that Blue Sky Workshops typically take place in smaller rooms set for 15-25 people.

*Please make note that ICA cannot guarantee a particular room set (u-shape, classroom, etc.), and that audiovisual equipment WILL NOT be available in the Blue Sky rooms.

Who can propose a Blue Sky Workshop?

Anyone may propose a Blue Sky Workshop, and anyone may attend a Blue Sky Workshop. Those who plan to attend a workshop should work with the workshop chair to discuss their potential role and/or contribution. Organizers' names will appear in the online, printed, and app versions of the program.

When are proposals due?

Proposals for Blue Sky Workshops can be submitted through the paper submission website (<https://ica2022.abstractcentral.com/>) until 5 November 2021, 12:00 Noon ICA Headquarters Time (EDT).

If you have any questions, please contact conference@icahdq.org.

Do something today that your future self will thank you for!

The International Communication Association relies on the expertise and passion of its membership. In addition to enjoying exclusive benefits such as discounted conference rates, ICA members derive gratification from contributing to the association's success through service on committees and task forces. This collaboration with scholars from all around the world is both intellectually challenging and rewarding.

How can serving ICA serve me? Top five reasons you should get involved:

- BOOST YOUR CAREER
- MAKE AN IMPACT
- GIVE BACK TO AN ORGANIZATION YOU BELIEVE IN
- FORM A CONNECTION
- BECOME PART OF THE ICA LEADERSHIP COMMUNITY

[Learn how...](#)

Governance Corner from page 5

Sharing strengths & strategies

The IL's who participated shared varied approaches and successes they've had in outreach such as engaging members via The Link & social media. Some DIV/IGs are working to flesh out additional event ideas, outside of annual conferences, to help re-envision their DIVs/IGs as places of mutual support for work in progress--inspired in no small part by a Blue Skies workshop that several IGs conducted in this year's annual conference. For example, the idea of a "Buddy system" is being discussed in ICA's Student and Early Career Advisory Committee (SECAC), which involves identifying new student members & connecting with someone really active in the DIV/IG, intended to help reduce intimidation factor - things like inviting people to "walk over" to a DIV/IG reception together if they're new.

At the August meeting, suggestions for ILs for 2021-2022 were offered to help guide their direction over the course of this governance year which begins and ends on the final day of the annual ICA conference. Those included things like: identifying priorities early, connecting with DIV/IG leadership to help facilitate internationalization becoming part of what leadership does, identifying research papers on international/global

issues, inviting the Chair of M&I (currently Shiv Ganesh) to DIV/IG meetings on internationalization.

ILs: a resource for ICA members

If you are interested in connecting with the IL for your DIV/IG for help, and or to share your perspective or feedback about your experience within the DIV/IG, each is listed on the rosters for [Division Leadership](#) & [Interest Group Leadership](#). If you wish to offer a more broad perspective or have questions/suggestions for ICA wide initiatives, or questions about ICA governance, we encourage you to reach out to Julie Arnold at headquarters at [jarnold\[at\]icahdq\[dot\]org](mailto:jarnold@icahdq.org).

There is much that our association has done to internationalize over the last ten years, and we are acutely aware that there is much left to do, both at the association level as well as at the DIV/IG level. The more we all participate in these efforts, the more likely we will be to succeed!

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Special issue of Human Communication Research: Difficult Conversations Concerning Identity and Difference

Guest Editors

Srividya Ramasubramanian, Syracuse U
Jordan Soliz, U of Nebraska–Lincoln

From community dialogues about polarizing social issues to managing different ideologies and identities in families to critical conversations about different lived experiences (e.g., differences in experiences of bias and discrimination, experiences with chronic illness and disability), our daily lives are often infused with conversations that can be characterized as difficult, contentious, uncomfortable, or anxiety-inducing often requiring courageous, bold, and vulnerable engagement by individuals, organizations, and communities. Further, popular conceptions of what constitutes “appropriate” conversations can often silence dissent, suppress voices of marginalized communities, or ignore experiences of individuals. These difficult conversations and dialogue are often necessary to achieve social justice goals, to build inclusive community or relational solidarity, to enhance individual well-being, to critically engage social issues and truth-telling, or to serve as the foundation for community-led initiatives to enact social change. As such, we benefit from additional inquiries, theorizing, and critical examination on what contributes to effective and empowering conversations in these contexts as well as the personal, social, institutional, and cultural factors that influence engagement in and outcomes of these interactions.

Authors are invited to submit theoretically-informed proposals that enhance our insight, understanding,

and recognition of the complexities of difficult conversations. We encourage proposals focusing on a wide range of social, relational, cultural, and organizational contexts from various theoretical traditions. For instance, topics could include (but are not limited to) empirical inquiries or essays on (a) the efficacy of dialogue programs related to racial issues in a community, (b) the role of social media or online interactions in facilitating or hindering effective conversations and dialogue on salient social concerns, (c) critical conversations in personal relationships related to different experiences, identities, or social positions, (d) cultural variations in difficult conversations about physical and mental health, (e) community-led initiatives to provide voice to marginalized groups in our communities, or (f) critiques of current approaches to teaching and researching difficult conversations. We encourage proposals from a variety of scholarly areas (e.g., intercultural, political, interpersonal, health, intergroup, media, organizational, technology) and welcome all methodological approaches.

Both empirical research reports and theoretical or conceptual essays are welcome. For the proposal, authors should submit an extended abstract no later than November 7th, 2021. Extended abstracts should consist of no more than 1,500 words (not including references). For quantitative and qualitative empirical research papers, the extended abstract should highlight

the theoretical rationale and focus of the proposed project as well as the manner in which the findings will contribute to the focus of the special issue. For theoretical or conceptual essays, the extended abstract should clearly elaborate on the conceptual, theoretical, and applied contribution of the proposed essay. After final decisions on the extended abstracts are made (no later than January 2022), authors invited to proceed will be given, at minimum, six (6) months to complete a final manuscript. Final manuscripts will undergo peer review. Page limits and other parameters for the complete paper will be allocated at time of invitation. Our goal is to work with invited authors on timelines that allow for accommodations and considerations related to various pandemic-related factors that emerge during the completion of the contribution.

In addition to our emphasis on methodological pluralism and a variety of scholarly areas and contexts of inquiry, we also hope for submissions that reflect global experiences. Authors for whom English is not a primary language are welcome to contact the guest editors to learn about programs and services to support research endeavors.

For questions, please contact Dr. Jordan Soliz (jsoliz2@unl.edu) and Dr. Srividya Ramasubramanian (srramasu@syr.edu). Proposal submissions (i.e., extended abstracts) should be submitted to Dr. Soliz by November 7th, 2021.

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