



2021 ICA Election

by Julie Arnold, Director of Governance & Member Services

On 1 September, International Communication Association members began voting for association-wide and division/interest group officers. Like previous years, the vote takes place using an online-only ballot. Polls will remain open until 12:00 Noon ICA Headquarters time (EDT) on 15 October.

Candidate statements for the ICA Presidential position are included in this newsletter; all other (*association wide and division/interest group*) candidate

statements are included within the online ballots in the ICA election system. Beginning with the 2021 election, all candidate statements will also be shared by ICA Headquarters via [The Link](#).

A note on voting engagement and promotion

Official ICA channels of communication can and should be used to promote voter participation, not to advocate for specific candidates. ICA strongly discourages any candidate running for office within the

association, or members in general, use ICA communication channels or platforms, such as The Link, or ICA official mailing lists to solicit the votes of others. Campaigning is awkward for all involved and is therefore strongly discouraged. Active campaigning via non-ICA channels, such as social media, is also strongly discouraged. A candidate's record and qualifications should stand on their own merits. Learn more about [ICA Elections: Protocol and Practices](#).

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Presidential Candidate: Eun-Ju Lee, Seoul National U

The COVID-19 pandemic has drastically changed how we work, study, play, and relate to one another. At the same time, it also has affirmed something communication researchers have known all along: We cannot not communicate. The significance of communication in how society and individuals function has never been more salient. So is the critical role of communication scholars who are committed to identifying problems and discovering their solutions, as related to communication in many shapes and forms. With the ever-increasing importance of communication, I'm deeply honored to have been nominated to run for president of ICA, the most prestigious academic organization for

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Presidential Candidate: May Lwin, National Technological U

I am honored to be nominated for the President of ICA, an association with an outstanding network of international scholars who have guided generations of students, faculty, policymakers and professionals. My decision to run for ICA leadership has made me reflect on the many ways I have benefited from ICA over the years.

The ICA has been my professional home, where my community of mentors, peers and collaborators reside. It began as a student searching in the dusty library shelves for ICA journals. My experiences from

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ICA is Excited to Announce the Paper Submission Website is Now Open!

by ICA Conference Team

ICA invites you to submit your individual submission or session proposal starting on 3 September for the 72nd Annual ICA Conference to be held as a hybrid event. Participants will be able to select the attendance format they prefer whether in-person at Paris, France or virtually online. The physical conference is slated to take place in Paris on 26-30 May 2022. The conference theme is "One World, One Network?"

[Click here for the Conference Calls for Papers](#)

[To access the paper submission website, please click here.](#) You do not have to be an ICA member to access and submit, but you do need a ScholarOne Abstracts profile. If you created a ScholarOne Abstracts profile last year, you can use the same login information to access the website. [Our membership database is no longer linked to the paper submission website.](#) If you have any questions or concerns about accessing or editing your profile, please contact [ScholarOne's Help Desk](#).

Tips for Online Submission

INDIVIDUAL PROPOSAL: SUBMITTING A PAPER OR EXTENDED ABSTRACT?

Have your document ready to upload! You MUST upload a paper or extended abstract in order to complete the individual submission process. Before submitting your document, remember to remove all author identification from the text, cover page, and the file properties. (In the "File" menu select "Properties," delete any identifying information, click "OK," and save the document.)

SESSIONS PROPOSALS: SUBMITTING A PANEL OR ROUND TABLE PROPOSAL?

Plan ahead! The Session Organizer submits the panel proposal, and enters all of the panel information including the abstract rationale, and listing of all panel participants. When entering a panel participant, please SEARCH THE DATABASE for the participants. ENTER ONLY 2 OR 3 LETTERS OF THE FIRST AND LAST NAMES WHEN SEARCHING. This strategy will minimize the possibility of missing a record because of a 'special' character in the first or last names. In the Panel Description field enter the text of your panel proposal including rationale, presentation authors and titles, and abstracts or any other information mentioned in the Call for Papers. You can do this by copying and pasting the text of the panel proposal from your Word document.

CONSIDER SUBMITTING YOUR WORK OR PAPER AS A THEME SESSION

If your topic crosses the interests of several divisions or interest groups, and relates to this year's theme, "One World, One Network?", consider submitting your work or paper as a theme session for the conference, rather to a single division or interest group. The theme invites reimagining communication scholarship on globalization and networks. The use of the interrobang glyph - a superposition of the exclamation and question punctuation marks - seeks to simultaneously celebrate and problematize the "one-ness" in the theme. [Please visit the full CFP for the full theme statement.](#)

If you have any questions about submitting your work for the theme sessions, please get in touch with one of this year's theme co-chairs

Ingrid Bachmann, Pontificia U Católica de Chile, Santiago, Chile, ibachmann@uc.cl

Deen Freelon, U of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, USA, freelon@email.unc.edu

Jack Qiu, National U of Singapore, Singapore, jacklqiu@gmail.com

Herman Wasserman, U of Cape Town, South Africa, herman.wasserman@uct.ac.za

Brooke Foucault Welles, Northeastern U, Boston, USA, b.welles@northeastern.edu

MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS SHOULD SUBMIT ONLINE

ICA Member Associations are entitled to one panel program at the conference. The highest ranking elected officer or designated program planner of each Member Association is invited to submit a panel proposal through the online submission system by the 5 November submission deadline. Follow the instructions for submitting a panel session and submit under Sponsored Sessions.

NEW: Multi-lingual submissions and presentations. Submissions are invited in languages preferred by scholars. Provisions will be made to provide automated or human-in-the-loop translations for purposes of review and for audiences. If submitting in another language besides English, please list in parenthesis of the title.

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President's Message

by Mary Beth Oliver, President, Pennsylvania State U & Laura Sawyer, ICA Executive Director

In thinking about the "big picture" of ICA's place in society, it is important that we be forward-thinking, that we fully recognize and embrace international and cultural diversity, and that we set goals to help guide us over the next three, to five, to seven years. While the Executive Committee and our senior staff, led by **Laura Sawyer**, are always thinking strategically, there is something special about setting aside time to do that real, deep work of strategic planning, as a process unto itself. We've been discussing the idea of embarking on a strategic planning process for ICA for several years, but instead have often been drawn into "getting things done" in various realms, such as strategies specifically geared toward Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access (IDEA), which we started in 2019. And of course, the pandemic has made many of our efforts more urgent--those theoretical musings in 2018 about hybrid conferencing became very real, very fast. In a way, this is good: we have been able to continue on during the pandemic--just as all of you have--utilizing technology, meeting online, and using various platforms to accomplish our goals. While the pandemic isn't over, we do want to get back on track with the Strategic Plan effort in light of the work already done which impacts the future as well as the "new world" in which we now live.

To those ends, ICA has now begun the process of information gathering to help us create a strategic plan. Our Executive Director did an RFP and examined many proposals to bring us several finalists to interview for the role of our external strategic planning consultant. We are pleased to be working with Paul Meyer of Tecker International, LLC over the coming year as we gather data and formulate our plan. Paul has worked with many professional academic organizations to help them identify goals and resources that they want to retain and protect, as well as highlight the changes that will help them to broaden and grow in a rapidly changing social, political, and technological environment. We have also enlisted the help of an internal committee to guide the process and serve as the main liaisons to our consultant as we moved through a very defined and specific process. We are so fortunate to have **Cynthia Stohl** (Distinguished Professor of Communication, UC Santa Barbara and a past President of ICA) and **Karin Wilkins** (Dean, School of Communication at U of Miami) co-chairing

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the Strategic Planning Task Force. The Task Force members include a diverse array of ICA members: **Omar Al-Ghazzi, Francois Allard-Huver, Pablo Boczkowski, Claes de Vreese, Shiv Ganesh, Lee Humphreys, Nancy Jennings, Winni Johansen, Maria Len-Rios, Jasmine McNealy, Patricia Moy, Eve Ng, Jeff Niederdeppe, Devon Powers, Jack Qiu, Eike Mark Rinke, David Tewksbury, Yariv Tsfati, and Silvio Waisbord.**

That said, crafting a strategic plan is a large and cumbersome process and one that cannot be done by any single committee. Rather, we will be soliciting ideas and feedback from members representing a multiplicity of perspectives, including members in all divisions and interest groups, members who are students and early career scholars, members who are diverse in terms of race, culture, sexual orientation, and members who have had (or aspire to have) leadership roles in ICA. As a first step in the process, we will be conducting one-on-one and focus group sessions in October/November to seek your ideas and feedback. We want to learn what you consider to be our most central core values, purpose, and mission. We want to listen to your ideas and needs as we prioritize our goals and objectives. In short, we want to hear your visions for how to ensure that ICA is a welcoming, proactive, and vibrant academic community for everyone. If you are contacted by the Tecker International team, please do give them your time.

After these interviews are complete, we will find areas of synergy that can inform our dialogue as we conduct a strategic planning session in January. From there, we will coalesce our ideas and initiatives into a concrete format that will guide us as we govern the association over the next five years. If you have any questions about this process, or want to share a BIG IDEA you have for the future of ICA, please feel comfortable emailing me at mbo@psu.edu to chat, with the subject line "ICA Strategic Plan."

I look forward to the conversation!



President-Elect's Column

by Noshir Contractor, President-Elect, Northwestern U

The arrival of September trains our thoughts and sights on the next annual ICA conference - Bonjour Paris! After spending decades perfecting the in-person conference (the "old" normal) and the past two years refining the all-virtual conference (the "new" normal), we are now re-imagining what could emerge as the "next" normal. ICA 2022 will be a hybrid conference, leveraging the best parts of both an in-person and a digitally-inclusive global event. Might this be a model for beyond 2022? We are planning for ICA 2022 to be anchored in Paris with regional hubs around the world. The pandemic forced us to "beta-test," at an unprecedented global scale, many aspects of the scholarly enterprise, including conferencing. Many of us have a newfound appreciation of the merits of in-person interaction. But, along the way, we also have a newfound appreciation of the ability to leverage technologies to make the annual ICA conference a more globally diverse and inclusive engagement among communication scholars.

Laura Sawyer and her staff at ICA Headquarters have been working tirelessly to structure the [conference submission](#) process. The "next" normal of conferencing does not come with a user's manual or set of best practices. That means we get to explore and experiment with novel configurations and scripts for panels, sessions, workshops - connecting events in Paris, thematically and when possible synchronously, with those at the Regional Hubs. I am thrilled to invite each of you to join in this collective reimagining of ICA 2022. Alongside the ICA organizing team, I am eager to help you envision, explore and execute creative options and suggestions that would contribute to a more engaging and inclusive conference experience. In addition to soliciting your ideas about the sessions and panels, **I am especially interested in your ideas about two special ICA 2022 initiatives.**

First, we want to build on the pilot [Regional Hubs](#) efforts so deftly envisioned and executed by then ICA President-Elect **Mary Beth Oliver** at ICA 2021. We have been learning a lot from what worked and what we can do better from the 10 regional hubs that hosted events at ICA 2021 in Abuja (Nigeria), Aotearoa (New Zealand), Changsha (China), Hyderabad (India), Hefei (China), Jakarta (Indonesia), Kampala (Uganda), Nairobi (Kenya), Saint Petersburg (Russia), and Sydney (Australia). Most hubs organized special "local" in-person events around specific themes or a more general convening. They organized a mix of local "programming" that included invited and submitted presentations in-person as well as virtual presentations by senior as well as junior scholars. Some organized events to jointly view and discuss "live" ICA presentations as well as asynchronous ICA sessions.

One key message that came through was the ability of Regional Hubs to serve as a forum to build community among communication scholars within these regions. I am especially grateful that former ICA President and current ICA Executive member, **Patricia Moy**, is leading our efforts to help review and curate the Regional Hub proposals for ICA 2022. I sincerely hope many of you will submit proposals for hosting a Regional Hub from a wide variety of locations around the world. We hope these Regional Hubs will serve as a community-building forum, for those who due to health, financial, environmental, or logistical reasons are unable to travel to Paris. I also encourage Regional Hubs to organize events, time zone permitting, which will include synchronous participation with workshops, panels, and sessions in Paris and/or other Regional Hubs.

The second ICA 2022 initiative for which I solicit your input is the ICA premiere of a **Digital Artifacts Exhibition** on the Conference Theme: **One World, One Network?** which invites reimagining communication scholarship on globalization and networks. The use of the interrobang glyph - a superposition of the exclamation and question punctuation marks - seeks to simultaneously celebrate and problematize the "one-ness" in the theme. In addition to workshops, panels, and paper submissions, we are for the first time inviting submissions of digital artifacts that connect with the Conference Theme. Digital artifacts could 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 conference theme. The digital exhibition platform will offer opportunities for online dialog and will be recognized with special ICA-wide awards. I see this as an exciting additional forum for us to collectively engage with communication scholarship on the Conference Theme. I was delighted to hear from colleagues who plan to make this an extra-credit assignment for students in a course they are teaching!

In closing, I hope we can collectively seize this pivotal moment to explore and experiment with bold new ideas that will enable us to make the "next" normal of ICA 2022 and beyond even more engaging and inclusive - intellectually and socially. **Réinventons ensemble l'ICA 2022!**

5+2 Makes 7!

By Julie Arnold, ICA Director of Governance & Member Services

Introducing the newest staff additions to the ICA (Member Services) Team

It is my pleasure to introduce ICA members to the newest ICA staff additions. As a small group of (now) seven hard working, intelligent, whitty, pet-loving and close-knit staff, we are excited to welcome them both to the [ICA team](#)!

Brad Brewer joined us on 9 August as **Manager of Member Services**. Brad has an extensive member services background; his expertise lies in strategic partnerships, sales, membership services, and sponsorships. He has managed a broad spectrum of aspects related to association membership, as well as grown non-dues revenue through sponsorship sales and strategic partnerships with top association members. Specifically, he has direct experience with the platforms we use for both our member management system as well as The Link. Though we initially opened this position up to a remote option located anywhere, Brad happens to live in Washington, DC, and will be joining the headquarters team.

Karly Senesac joined us on 24 August as our part-time **Member Services Coordinator**. Karly's experience in the member-based non-profit association management arena taught her that building trusted connections with association members is key to long-term loyalty. Her abilities in verbal and written communication will be a strong asset, she will bring necessary skills such as effective interpersonal communication, data management, and time management. As this is a part-time position, Karly's schedule will be Tues/Wed/Thur from 08:30-17:00 (Eastern/ICA Headquarters time); she will work remotely from her home in Chicago, IL.

Q&A with Brad Brewer (he/him/his)

ICA Manager of Member Services

bbrewer@icahdq.org

Q. Tell us a bit about your professional background?

A. I have worked in multiple associations focusing on all aspects of association membership management. I also have a background in education services and sales.

Q. What professional qualities do you most value and which are your personal strengths?

A. I value integrity and honesty in a professional setting. When people are committed to their work and honest with themselves and others it makes for a fun and very functional work environment! My personal strengths are in customer service and membership growth/engagement. I love to get to know as many members as possible and focus on creating and providing the best possible value.

Q. Which professional accomplishment are you most proud of, and why?

A. I have a variety of accomplishments that I am proud of. If I had to choose just one, I would say improving membership retention by over 15% in a single year by changing the association's focus to be more customer service centric and making sure we were always laser focused on member needs.

Q&A with Karly Senesac (she/her/hers)

ICA Member Services Coordinator

ksenesac@icahdq.org

Q. Tell us a bit about your professional background?

A. I am returning to the workforce after spending a decade as a stay at home parent and community volunteer. Prior to that I spent 6 years in the Education department at North American Spine Society, so I have experience with member driven organizations.

Q. What professional qualities do you most value and which are your personal strengths?

A. I think of myself as a team player and I am really looking forward to being part of this collaborative group of people here at ICA.

Q. Which professional accomplishment are you most proud of, and why?

A. I am very proud of the decision I made to run for my local school district's Board of Education because it was so far out of my comfort zone and not something I ever envisioned myself doing.

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Renew Today for the 2021 - 2022 ICA Membership Term!

by ICA Membership Team

The 2021 – 2022 ICA membership term comes to an end in less than 30 days. We strongly urge our members to renew their membership now to ensure receiving a full year's worth of ICA member benefits.

The sense of belonging and professional networking you receive from your ICA membership is more important now than ever before, and professional associations like ICA need you more than ever, as well. Renew today and don't miss out on the professional growth and support of the ICA community!

Prevent a lapse in your ICA membership; [click here to sign in and renew your membership](#) today: *Forgot password? [Please click here to reset.](#)*

Top five reasons to renew your ICA membership today:

ICA is the premier academic association for scholars engaged in the study, teaching, and application of all aspects of communication globally. To be a member of ICA means to:

- Belong to a large community of communication scholars across 82 different countries
- Customize your ICA experience by joining one or more of our 33 [divisions and interest groups](#) to network with scholars in similar disciplines
- Gain access to some of the top scholarly [journals](#) in the field
- Receive a generous discount to one of the world's leading conferences in the field of communication (which in Paris in May 2022 will offer both a virtual and in-person option)
- Join your peers on ICA's engagement platform "The Link!" Members are already utilizing [The Link](#) in the coolest ways: gauging interest in panels, posing research questions, seeking feedback, hunting for relevant literature... and so much more!

Need help?

Contact the Member Services Team at membership@icahdq.org

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.



ask us anything

International
Communication
Association

Help MBO get the ICA "Ask Us Anything" webinar series off the ground! Please complete this super brief questionnaire that asks about the topics you would be interested in.



Incoming Editor

by Nicole Ellison, U of Michigan

Nicole Ellison, U of Michigan, Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication

The *Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication* (JCMC) is very special to me, and I am honored to help shape the next generation of CMC scholarship as Editor in Chief for the next four years. Since its founding back in 1995, JCMC has solidified its reputation as one of the preeminent open access journals for social science scholarship on technology-mediated interaction, with an impact factor of 5.4 and an international presence. As a new PhD student at USC Annenberg in the mid-1990s, I remember hearing about the new journal just created by **Margaret (Peggy) McLaughlin** and **Shezaf Rafali**, and even worked on it as an editorial assistant for a semester or two. At that time, the notion of an *online* academic journal was shocking to many, and even ten years later some institutions didn't consider it a legitimate publication solely due to its online status. Ten years later, in 2007, JCMC Editor **Susan Herring** took a chance when she agreed to publish a special issue I co-edited with **danah boyd** devoted to the new set of online platforms somewhat haphazardly known as "social network sites"; the scholarship danah and I helped curate served an important role for the field as we collectively considered what these platforms represented and how they were--and weren't--different from other forms of online communication. In the 15 years since my first *JCMC* paper, I've remained involved in the journal as an author, reviewer, reader, and, for the last eight years, Associate Editor.

Below I share my vision for the journal, introduce the folks who will work with me to achieve it, and talk briefly about some challenges and opportunities I see along the way. Before doing so, I must acknowledge everyone who has played a role in making *JCMC* one of the key journals for theoretically rich, empirical, forward-thinking scholarship. **Rich Ling**, and his editorial assistants **Yang Tingting** and **Sapphire H. Lin**, have worked tirelessly over the last four years to find and elevate key scholarship, and I am especially appreciative of their efforts over the last few weeks to ensure a smooth transition. Rich joins a long tradition of strong, forward-thinking *JCMC* editors, including **Shyam Sundar**, **Susan Herring**, **Kevin Wright**, **Margaret McLaughlin**, and others.

As I continue the work they've done to help define the field by soliciting, helping to refine, and publishing innovative, theoretically rich, CMC-focused scholarship,

I'm grateful for my community of Associate Editors, who I know will be critical in the journal's success over the next four years. JCMC's new Associate Editors, a wonderful group of technology scholars who will play an important role in establishing the voice of the journal during our time together, are: **Scott Campbell** (U of Michigan), **Caleb Carr** (Illinois State U), **Teresa Correa** (U Diego Portales), **Lee Humphreys** (Cornell U), **Nicole Kramer** (U of Duisburg-Essen), **Eun Ju Lee** (Seoul National U), **Tammy Jih-Hsuan Lin** (National ChengChi U), **Adam Joinson** (U of Bath), **Katy Pearce** (U Washington), **Cindy Shen** (UC Davis), **Jenny Stromer-Galley** (Syracuse U), **Jessica Vitak** (U of Maryland), **Thilo von Pape** (U de Franche-Comté), and **Mike Yao** (U of Illinois at Urbana Champaign). This is a larger group than in the past, but is appropriate given the uncertainty of the next few years (from the pandemic and other issues) and the wide breadth of topics and methods included in the journal.

What makes a paper a good fit for JCMC, given the other myriad publication opportunities authors may be considering? I believe the canonical JCMC paper is theoretically grounded yet innovative and creative; powered appropriately by diverse datasets, methods, and disciplinary traditions; and expressed in clear and compelling writing. Although the core questions animating JCMC papers are those central to the communication field, there is no requirement to be limited to communication theories. Like many other editors before me, I believe JCMC should remain exuberantly multidisciplinary, taking inspiration and guidance from a wide range of disciplinary traditions, theoretical mechanisms, and methods. Within this range, however, JCMC papers must be theoretically motivated -- motivated in the sense of the intellectual curiosity animating the analytic project, not in the more narrow sense of a pre-registered study (although they are also welcome) -- and contribute in a meaningful way to our understanding of technology-mediated phenomena. Studies that aspire to describe contemporary phenomena, practices, or platforms at a moment in time are helpful for our understanding; but would be better placed in other venues. In contrast, my editorial team and I welcome papers that tap into the *mechanisms* behind social, psychological, cultural, structural, and other phenomena as they relate to technology. As technology scholars, we are at a unique moment, when terabytes of user micro-behaviors are captured and available for analysis -- yet work that uses these data merely to produce a descriptive snapshot without fundamentally informing our understanding in an enduring fashion, drawing from theory, and engaging with key questions related in some fashion to the study of communication and/or social interaction are unlikely to be endorsed by our editorial team and reviewers. As S. Shyam Sundar noted in his [Editor's Note](#) from 2015: "Papers that are purely descriptive or ones in which technology is not a specific object of investigation, but is instead the context

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Call for Nominations

by Tom Mankowski, ICA Director of Publishing Services

Editor for *Journal of Communication (JOC)*

The ICA Publications Committee is soliciting nominations for the next editor of the *Journal of Communication (JOC)*. Self-nominations are welcome as are co-editor teams. The appointment is for a four-year term, to begin accepting manuscripts in September 2022.

The *Journal of Communication (JOC)* is the flagship journal of the International Communication Association and an essential publication for all communication scholars, specialists, and policy makers. *JOC* concentrates on communication research, practice, policy, and theory, bringing to its readers the latest, broadest, and most important findings in the field of communication studies. Spanning all methods and areas of scholarly inquiry, articles published in *JOC* strive to be conceptually and methodologically sound, socially meaningful, clearly written, and thoughtfully argued. *JOC* also features an extensive book review section and symposia of studies on current issues. More details about the journal can be found at <https://academic.oup.com/joc>.

A complete nomination package should include:

- A letter of application
- A vision statement for the editorship
- The candidate's curriculum vitae
- 2 letters of support from scholars familiar with the candidate's work, speaking to the quality of the candidate's research as well as their experience with and suitability for journal editing
- A letter of institutional support from the candidate's home institution

The Publications Committee weighs multiple factors when evaluating candidates, including, but not limited to:

- Clear understanding of the mission of the journal
- Clear articulation of an intellectual and operational vision for the journal
- Demonstrated openness to a range of epistemologies and methodologies appropriate for the scope of the journal
- Demonstrated interest and/or experience in theoretical development
- Demonstrated interest and/or openness to interdisciplinary work
- Demonstrated communication skills and diplomacy
- Reputation and excellence of academic output
- Editorial, managerial or administrative experience
- Tenure or advanced rank
- Institutional support

Within the scope of their work for ICA, editors of ICA publications should be committed to respecting and enhancing diversity in terms of interest areas, gender, ethnicity, and national origin.

All materials should be submitted to **Thomas Mankowski**, ICA Director of Publishing Operations (tmankowski at icahdq dot org) by **15 January 2022**. Finalists will be notified in March 2022 and subsequently interviewed by members of the Publications Committee.

ICA's Publications Committee is chaired by **Robin Nabi** (U of California, Santa Barbara) and includes: **Patricia Moy** (U of Washington), **Katherine Sender** (Cornell U), **Sabine Trepte** (U of Hohenheim), and **Silvio Waisbord** (George Washington U).

ICA maintains both a [LinkedIn page](#) and a [LinkedIn group](#). Our LinkedIn page is mainly used for association news and information, the type of updates you can see and share in your own feed. The LinkedIn group is used for engagement, and for group member updates, posts and information. Follow both!

A note on our LinkedIn group. ICA would like to take a moment to thank Filmmaker Bryan Mark Urbasaitis for creating the LinkedIn group page in 2008, and for maintaining the group since that time. Bryan has been instrumental in the success and growth of the page, having accepted all of the 11K members into the group. ICA will manage the group page moving forward, but it is an understatement to say the page would not be where it is without Bryan. Thank you Bryan!

Bryan is a freelance videographer, researcher, and activist with an eye and ear for social justice issues, he is quadrilingual and both a cyclist and founder of AIDS Ride South Africa. Find him at <https://arsa.org.za>, or on [LinkedIn](#).

Student Column

by Lara Schreurs, KU Leuven & Christine Cook, National Chengchi U, ICA Board Student & Early Career Representatives

SECR's best practices and finding your intellectual home within ICA

In this new ICA year, many divisions and interest groups had the pleasure of welcoming a new face in their student and early career representative (SECR) role. To both help our new SEC reps get started and reflect on last year's experiences with the reps doing their second term, a virtual meeting was organized.

During the meeting, we first got a very clear overview from ICA's Director of Governance & Member Services Julie Arnold on the history of the SECR role, how the role is positioned within ICA leadership, and what kind of tasks/responsibilities the role entails. Afterwards, we had an open-ended discussion with all attendees on SEC related efforts within the different divisions/interest groups. We talked about experiences with existing mentorship programs, networking initiatives, and student engagement efforts; we also discussed how we as a group can communicate and collaborate more effectively with each other. We also reflected on some ideas for new cool initiatives relevant for our student and early career members. The meeting was very rewarding and definitely created an excellent starting point for the new SECR's to kick off in their new role!

Make sure to keep an eye on our Student and Early-Career Resource Hub on the Link and the social media

accounts of SECAC and your division/interest group so you won't miss any cool activities that will be organized for student and early career members throughout the course of this ICA year! Also, if you have any questions, suggestions, ideas related to student membership in your division, please do not hesitate to reach out to your student representative. This can be via e-mail or via The Link – your choice!

After reading all of this, you might be wondering which divisions/interest groups you should follow on social media, which SEC rep you should talk to when you have questions, etc. It is not always clear for everyone which divisions/interest groups match their research interests best, especially when they have a broad or interdisciplinary focus. Since the conference submission website just opened, it might be a good idea to start the search for your ideal submission home! No one wants a "bad fit" paper rejection to a conference, after all. Thankfully, last year, SECAC created a guide that bundles information on all division/interest groups from the SECRs' perspective. [You can find that guide here!](#) We hope it helps you in your search towards an intellectual home within ICA, but as always, give us a shout if you need more information.



Election from page 1

To access the ballot from the ICA website, members will need their ICA username and password. Members, please make sure that ICA has your correct email address so that the association can send you an announcement of the election and a link to the ballots. The ICA website allows you to personally verify, correct, and/or update the information.

To vote in the election, [click here](#). If you have any questions about the elections, please contact [Julie Arnold](#), ICA Director of Governance and Member Services.

ICA wide positions are Board level roles, representing the top level of our leadership. ICA wishes to thank the Nominating Committee for their diligent efforts to put forth a fantastic, experienced, and qualified slate.

Congratulations and best of luck to each of the 2021 ICA-wide candidates:

PRESIDENT

The member selected as president makes a 5 1/2-year commitment to the Executive Committee (six months as president-elect select; one year as president-elect/conference program chair; one year as ICA President; three years as past president). The final year on the Executive Committee, the past president serves as General Secretary and chair of the Regional Conferences Committee. The President Elect Select selected in the 2021 election will begin service on the Executive Committee immediately upon announcement of the results.



Eun-Ju Lee
Seoul National U



May O. Lwin
Nanyang Technological U



International
Communication
Association

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

BOARD MEMBER-AT-LARGE

Board members-at-large serve one three-year term; there are three BMAL at any given time. The purpose of member-at-large positions is to grow the Board of Directors representation from underrepresented regions. The BMAL selected in the 2021 election will begin service at the end of the 2022 Annual ICA Conference in Paris, France. This will be the last year this role will be elected. *Please refer to the new process for new BMAL in the [Evolution Board Member at Large article](#) shared in the June/July 2021 newsletter.*



Daniel Raichvarg

Societe Francaise des Sciences de l'Information et de la Communication

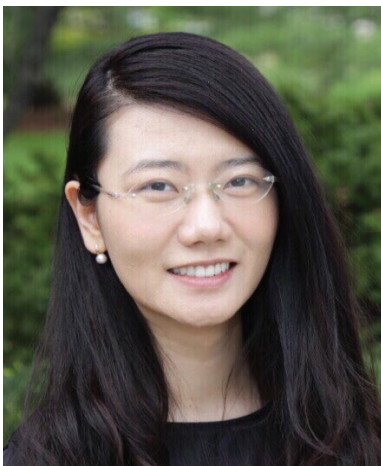


Herman Wasserman

U of Cape Town

BOARD STUDENT AND EARLY CAREER REPRESENTATIVE

Board Student and Early Career Representatives serve in pairs, with one nominated each year for overlapping two-year terms. The Board Student and Early Career Representative selected in the 2021 election will begin service at the end of the 2022 Annual ICA Conference in Paris, France.



Yue (Nancy) Dai

City U of Hong Kong



Dinfin Mulupi

U of Maryland

Presidential Candidate: Lee from page 1

communication scholars and educators worldwide. For the past two decades, since my graduate work at Stanford, ICA has been my intellectual home. ICA annual conferences have never failed to reignite my intellectual curiosity and passion for research. At ICA, I could talk about my research for hours with like-minded colleagues, without worrying (too much) about boring them to death. After earning tenure at UC Davis, I returned to South Korea and have remained deeply engaged with ICA. I served as Board Member-at-Large representing East Asia and have worked on several association-wide committees charged with overseeing internationalization, publications, and the Young Scholar Award. I also have served on various ICA task forces – on possible formats for ICA conferences, limiting the number of submissions for ICA conferences, and Open Access/Open Science. I also have served as an associate editor for the *Journal of Communication*, as well as associate editor and editor-in-chief of *Human Communication Research*.

While serving in these roles, I have had the privilege to meet and work with countless individuals who are not only brilliant scholars, but also genuinely dedicated to community building. Through these humbling experiences, I came to realize that it is not a single genius or a charismatic leader, but the collective efforts of talented individuals that made what ICA is today. It is this realization that led me to accept the nomination for ICA presidency. I am eager to hear out what our members think about the future of ICA and engage them to pursue our shared goals together.

What should our future look like?

I envision ICA to be a strong, vibrant intellectual community wherein all members constantly engage in dialogue across boundaries with mutual respect. Each of ICA's 24 divisions and 9 interest groups has distinct research foci as well as epistemological and methodological approaches. An unfortunate side effect of the continued growth of ICA membership is that members of each division have become rather oblivious, if not indifferent, to what is happening in other areas of the discipline. Just like an elephant in the dark, however, emerging research topics and questions increasingly demand knowledge and expertise that span a range of subdisciplines, making it all the more imperative to revitalize cross-divisional communication and collaboration.

Another boundary concerns geographic location. For more than a decade, ICA leadership has consistently and passionately explored ways to boost global membership and advance geographic diversity. Supporting regional conferences, instituting regional affiliate journals, and

creating international liaisons represent such efforts. As the COVID-19 pandemic has clearly demonstrated, living in a hyper-connected world inevitably invites challenges and poses threats on a global scale, thereby necessitating more robust cross-national/regional scholarly collaboration to diagnose (and predict) problems and propose solutions – another reason why ICA should make global outreach one of its highest priorities.

Perhaps less visible is the boundary between those in different career stages. The health of an academic organization (or any organization, for that matter) hinges largely on how systematically it fosters and invests in the professional development of its members. ICA should be a platform where ongoing conversations between senior scholars and emerging scholars, including graduate students, occur freely and frequently. Several divisions have showcased successful mentoring programs, but ICA-level mentoring and training workshops, by creatively harnessing technologies to transcend temporal and spatial barriers, can support those unreached by existing division-level efforts.

While these issues are crucial to strengthening ICA internally, ICA needs to amplify the visibility and centrality of communication scholarship externally, within and beyond academia. Regardless of epistemological and methodological preferences, we all do communication research for the betterment of society in a way no other discipline can – to combat mis/disinformation, to help people lead healthy lives, to promote democratic principles, to reduce prejudice and hatred toward outgroups, to design human-centered technologies, and so forth. We also believe that theoretically sound and methodologically rigorous research is the most powerful tool that enables us to make a difference. ICA's longstanding and unwavering commitment to scholarly excellence has prepared itself to assume more active roles in shaping public agendas and tackling issues of broad social significance. And we know that it's much more fun when we do it together. If elected, I would develop and implement specific steps to further the excellence and relevance of communication scholarship through inclusion, diversity, equity and access.

This is the first time in ICA history that two Asian women from universities outside North America are running against each other for president, a clear statement acknowledging the invaluable contributions of members from all corners of the world. The ICA History section of the website notes, "If an organization is international, then it needs to look international on all of its public faces." I would be immensely honored to be one of those faces and help ICA to transition "from a U.S.-based organization that happened to have international members to a truly international organization that happened to be based in the U.S."

About Me: I am a professor in the Department of Communication and the Director of Institute of Communication Research at Seoul National University, Republic of Korea. My research focuses on how digital technology alters communication processes and effects, especially in the context of computer-mediated communication and human-computer interaction. I co-edited *Media Psychology* and edited *Human Communication Research*. I have served on external review committees for academic departments in the U.S., Asia, and Europe, as well as on the grant evaluation panels for the European Research Council, Dutch Research Council, and Israel Science Foundation. I was elected an ICA Fellow in 2019 ([click to view my CV](#)).

Presidential Candidate: Lwin from page 1

two decades of membership and service in ICA committees, and as a Fellow of ICA, have reinforced my view that ICA's scholarly strength and global distribution are truly unique. As Co-Chair of the ICA 2010 Conference in Singapore, I had the opportunity to work across the organization with committees from various disciplines and regions. These experiences shaped how I envision the future of ICA, how best to augment the strong foundations already laid, and how to adapt to the profound changes in communication. I envision myriad ways ICA can benefit its stakeholders through the following I-C-A triadic framework:

INCLUSIVITY (and Diversity, Equity, Access):

Creating more opportunities for diversity, equity, and inclusion to converge is particularly critical and timely for the communication field. I am of a "mixed" heritage, with Burmese-Chinese and Asian American grandparents. I spent my childhood in Yangon and Singapore, and have lived in Australia and the US. My first trip on a plane was to leave Myanmar as a child with my mum — a teacher — and \$7 in my pocket (the maximum allowed then when leaving the country). We migrated to Singapore, a multicultural country that stands at the crossroads of the East and West. The inclusiveness of my community brought me to learn new languages, new skillsets, and an appreciation for other cultures. As an undergraduate pre-medical student at Bryn Mawr College, Pennsylvania, I was moved by the passionate fieldwork of my professors in rural Kenya and inner-city Philadelphia. They inspired me to switch my studies to social sciences and use scholarly knowledge to make a difference to society, a dominant theme underlying my research since.

In my communication and public health research projects, I have collaborated with researchers from various regions, across the Asia-Pacific, Europe, and the US. Our teams have conducted fieldwork in hospitals in Dhaka and Bandar Aceh, villages in Myanmar, schools and construction sites in Colombo, and migrant worker dormitories in Singapore. With the collective power of the ICA, I will champion: a) thematic research endeavours with methodological plurality across divisions to improve our grasp of the diverse issues that matter on deeper and applied levels; b) bringing communication knowledge to various corners of the world in English and local languages through free digital materials for communication educators and researchers; and c) fostering mentorship and member recruitment from underrepresented communities within countries and across regions.

CONNECTIVITY:

ICA members will benefit from enhancing connections within and outside our community. ICA's strengths lie in the diversity of theories and methods brought in by members, and we can maximize our impact by nurturing stronger connections through dialogues and cooperation, building on each other's strengths. As a former national water sports athlete, I know only too well the pains of cancelled major events. I understand how all fraternities miss physical meetings, which are the crucible of connections. In the two years since our last physical ICA conference, we adapted the best we can to keep our connections and networks alive. The absence of face-to-face meeting opportunities presented challenges for everyone. On the upside, what we have learned has helped us to build bridges in new ways and will lead ICA to be more prepared for a post-COVID future.

In my current projects, I have seen how interdisciplinary scholars from various fields came together to discover new knowledge to confront pandemics, misinformation, equality, and other challenges. If elected, I will prioritize the creation of stronger and more accessible connections by involving more ICA representatives in geographic regions. These will be spearheaded by the innovative offerings at annual and regional conferences via hybrid and virtual platforms, supported by year-round resources and enabling technology structures. My goal is to strengthen how ICA members connect

Paper submission from page 2

NEW: Contributors of individual and panel submissions to Conference Theme will be requested to self-assess diversity.

At the time of submission, individuals who seek to contribute to the conference theme will self-assess: (i) the extent to which the submission focuses on a specific region of the world or is global in its scope; (ii) the extent to which the submission references and builds on scholarship diverse in terms of region, ethnicity, gender, and career stage; (iii) the extent to which coauthors (if any) reflect diversity in terms of region, ethnicity, gender, career stage, other academic disciplines (including those beyond the social sciences and humanities), and non-academic entities (e.g., civil society, government, industry, NGOs, policy makers). In addition to the above, contributors to all panel conference theme submissions will be requested to self-assess, at submission, the extent to which the panel as a whole reflect diversity in terms of region, ethnicity, gender, career stage, other academic disciplines (including those beyond the social sciences and humanities), and non-academic entities (e.g., civil society, government, industry, NGOs, policy makers). These self-assessments will be used along with other criteria in making decisions about submission acceptances.

Panel conference-theme submissions are encouraged to: (i) showcase and/or critique ongoing inter-divisional communication scholarship relevant to the conference theme; (ii) propose the development of an inter-divisional research agenda relevant to the conference theme; and/or (iii) assemble a blue-sky session for individuals to workshop nascent ideas that could lead to the future development of an inter-divisional research agenda relevant to the conference theme.

In addition to submissions to be presented during the conference, contributors are invited to submit proposals for pre- and post- Conference-theme workshops that could be in-person, online or hybrid, in and around Paris as well as from locations around the world.

NEW: Digital Artifacts Exhibition on Conference Theme: Contributors are invited to submit "Digital Artifacts" relevant to the conference theme. The exhibit will launch online in early 2022 and continue past the conference. Submissions can be in the form of artwork, information visualizations, oral histories, performance art, installation art, interactive, multimedia, 3-D, augmented reality, and virtual-reality offerings that highlight aspects of the conference theme. The digital exhibition platform will offer opportunities for online dialog and will be recognized with special ICA-wide awards.

Submissions to theme sessions must follow all general guidelines put forward by ICA. Proposals for papers,

panels, material and digital artifacts, as well as pre- and post- conference workshops on the conference theme are invited from all sectors of the field and will be evaluated competitively by anonymous reviewers selected by the Conference Theme Committee. Submissions deemed to fit only the interests of one division or interest group rather than the conference as a whole will be forwarded to that group for consideration. Papers or panels submitted to the theme must not be submitted simultaneously for consideration to any division or interest group.

Panel proposals on the conference theme must include a 400-word rationale explaining how the panel fits the conference theme, a 100-word rationale articulating how the panel intellectually engages with multiple divisions/ interest groups, plus a separate 150-word summary of the rationale to appear in the conference program.

REVIEWER

When you submit your paper, you are automatically signed up to review. You do not have to submit a paper to become a reviewer. Volunteering to serve as a reviewer does not guarantee that you will be selected to review. Be sure to mark your areas of expertise, so that you are appropriately matched to a paper to review.

REMINDER

Submitters can only be the first author on three submissions max. But there is no longer a limit on submissions in general, only for the first author.

HELP IS AVAILABLE

If you need help with online submission, contact the appropriate ICA division or interest group program planner. [Contact information is listed in the Calls for Papers.](#)

IMPORTANT NOTE

Messages or emails are regularly sent from ICA or Unit Planners concerning paper submissions or reviewing. Sometimes our emails will filter into spam folders, usually of those who have a university address. So be sure to frequently check your message center in the paper submission system after signing in. The message center stores all sent messages and eliminates the problem of universities blocking emails.

Submission Deadline: Friday 5 November @12:00 Noon ICA Headquarter Time (EST)

For more information on ICA22, please visit the [frequently asked questions page.](#)

more fluidly and collaborate to address critical issues such as the environment and social injustice.

APPLICATION:

Heightening the relevance of our work to the rapidly transforming industries around the world will be another important focus for ICA. Many global regions are seeing major developments in artificial intelligence, virtual reality, and other types of digital media technology that call for informed discourse and applied knowledge.

My work in infectious disease communication in Asia was recognized by the ICA Outstanding Applied Scholar Award in 2019 at the ICA Conference in Washington DC. A few months later, I was tasked by the Singapore government to apply my research to COVID-19 pandemic communication strategies. I believe that ICA can play an important role in helping its members take their work to wider audiences and translate their findings — both pure and applied — into applications that benefit more stakeholders. This goes beyond the media space into areas like health, science, politics, and business, through partnerships and participation in community, organizations, and government agencies. If elected, I will lead ICA to forge closer relationships with international bodies regionally and worldwide to provide an interface for research and to create new linkages in emergent areas that also provide future career options for students.

MY VISION FOR ICA

We are at an important juncture where a strong organization like ICA is clearly needed. We can become an even more welcoming, forward-looking academic nucleus connecting communication scholars, professionals, and society. In the role of President, I will bring my diverse experiences, leadership capabilities, and compassion to serve, having served in leadership roles as Vice Dean, Director and currently as President's Chair of the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication & Information. If elected, I shall work closely with all ICA stakeholders, pulling together our strong networks of expertise to address shared goals and further raise the communication discipline.

At the heart of my vision for ICA are members like you. Together, we can foster greater representation, encourage healthy debate, stimulate empathy, and nurture relationships across cultures, to have lasting impacts on our world.

For more about me, please visit:
<https://blogs.ntu.edu.sg/mayolwin/>
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/may-lwin-508756a2/?originalSubdomain=sg>

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...](#)

New Staff from page 6

Getting to know Brad on a more personal level:

Q. If you could learn any new skill, what would you choose and why?

A. I would love to learn more about coding languages.

Q. If you weren't going to be in the association management field, what career would you choose and why?

A. While not necessarily a career, I have always been interested in joining the Peace Corps or an entity of a similar nature.

Q. What do you consider to be your personal superpower?

A. I am not so sure it's a super power, but I can be very good at reading people and understanding their wants/needs.

Q. If you could meet anyone (living or deceased) from the past, present or future, who would you want to meet & why?

A. Immanuel Kant. Oh the questions I would ask!

Q. When you have 30 minutes of free time, how do you pass the time?

A. Nowadays, I love just the simple things like going for a walk and calling friends/family who I haven't gotten to see much in a while.

Q. What's one thing people are generally surprised to learn about you?

A. That I was captain of the wrestling team in high school.

Q. Are you team #dogsofica (or) #catsofica?

A. #dogsofica

Getting to know Karly on a more personal level:

Q. If you could learn any new skill, what would you choose and why?

A. I wish I could play piano, because I have a piano that we inherited many years ago but no one knows how to play!

Q. What do you consider to be your personal superpower?

A. I feel like my superpower is having the organization skills to keep the train on the tracks and getting everything done that needs to be done, for myself and others!

Q. When you have 30 minutes of free time, how do you pass the time?

A. I probably spend 25 of those 30 minutes on social media telling myself the whole time I'm putting down my phone now, and then the next 5 minutes kicking myself for wasting 25 minutes looking at my phone.

Q. If you could meet anyone (living or deceased) from the past, present or future, who would you want to meet & why?

A. Anthony Bourdain (deceased) because I love food and travel, Michelle Obama (very much alive) because she is amazing and I am sure we'd be best friends.

Q. What's one thing people are generally surprised to learn about you?

A. People might be surprised to learn that I have been to nearly 200 concerts in my life, though that is just an estimated number. I might have a teensy bit of tinnitus because of this hobby, and I regret nothing.

Q. Are you team #dogsofica (or) #catsofica?

A. #dogsofica 100%



shown to the left:
Maverick, Brad's
pup.



shown to the
right: Auggie,
Karly's pup.

JCMC from page 8

or backdrop for a mainstream communication study, should be directed to other journals. Just because a communication study is conducted online does not necessarily make it a study of online communication.” Similarly, I believe we are at a point where we can say that just because a study employs data collected or captured online does not necessarily make it a study of online communication. Rather, JCMC is, at its heart, concerned with computer-mediated communication processes in a wide spectrum of domains -- interpersonal, organizational, psychological, cultural, structural -- rather than merely a source of data.

This is a key moment in the study of CMC, both within and outside of scholarly contexts. The implications of mediated forms of interaction, across many contexts, are hotly debated by everyday users who wonder about the consequences of technology use for well-being, the privacy risks of trace digital data collection, and the role of algorithmic logic in shaping our exposure and consumption of news and other information. It is important that social scientists join these conversations. How can we do a better job translating our work to the public in a way that is accessible, timely, and visible?

As part of meeting this challenge, I want JCMC to cultivate more “big ideas” scholarship. I’d like to solicit, curate, and publish more high-risk, high-reward papers in addition to the less risky but still critically important work that furthers technology-relevant theory. (Here I am purposefully not limiting my discussion to “CMC theory,” as, akin to Carr (2020), I believe this term may be too limiting if taken at face value.)

Other important challenges include:

- Broadening participation. How can we expand, in meaningful ways, the community of scholars JCMC serves? By this, I mean traditional metrics like geography and gender, but also methodological and epistemological diversity. I plan to revisit the Editorial Board composition in ways that will increase representation across multiple dimensions. JCMC’s shift to a fully open access license and journal in 2020 will also support this goal.
- How can we incorporate Open Science Practices in ways that are also supportive of multiple methods and approaches (e.g., qualitative work) and sensitive to concerns about ethics and inclusiveness?
- How can the journal best support our community given this moment in time? Specifically, we will need to be thoughtful about reviewing resources. The economic, health, and institutional effects of the pandemic will be felt for many years; this is especially (but not exclusively) true for those with caregiving demands.

I am eager to begin work on these and no doubt other challenges that will emerge over the next four years. More importantly, I hope to surface, support, and elevate scholarship that gives us the opportunity to reconnect with joy -- the joy of curiosity, playfulness, discovery and, ultimately, understanding.

Nicole Ellison, U of Michigan



ICA

ICA Career Center



Connecting Talent with Opportunity

SEARCH OR POST JOBS

Calls for Papers

Visit our Resources section for more Call for Papers: <http://www.icahdq.org/page/CFP>.

Call for Papers

Disinformation-for-Hire and Click Farming around the World: Identities, Incentives, Infrastructures

Special Issue of [Social Media + Society](#) (Open Access Journal)

Abstract submission deadline: October 15, 2021

Full paper submission deadline: March 1, 2022

Special Issue Editors: **Rafael Grohmann (Unisinos U, Brazil) and Jonathan Corpus Ong (U of Massachusetts-Amherst, USA)**

From state-sponsored propagandists using paid troll armies, to commercially motivated data analytics firms selling their toolkits to politicians, and platform workers producing memes for overseas clients, the global industry of disinformation production has only professionalized and diversified. This special issue for *Social Media + Society* aims to deepen understanding about the social identities, work arrangements, and political and commercial motivations of an emerging class of digital disinformation workers. We are interested in critical and interdisciplinary research that examines the political economy, specifically the digital and creative industries that propel and produce disinformation.

The special issue's focus on business models and disinformation worker identities in global context aims to expand on disinformation studies' analysis of "fake news" and hate speech as content that require better policing or fact-checking. It also aims to expand platform studies' research agenda and consider the range of digital professionals and entrepreneurs who buy and sell engagement on social media—with pernicious political consequences especially in contexts where

dissenting voices are suppressed.

Thus, we solicit submissions that discuss the diverse worker hierarchies and conditions, outsourced gig arrangements, money politics, and/or regulatory loopholes in the promotional industries that enable the strategic production of disinformation. We are interested in interdisciplinary and ethnographic research that engages with the deep stories of workers in "dark PR" firms (Silverman, Lytyvenko & Kung 2020; Verwey & Muir 2019), data analytics firms (Briant 2021), Latin American and Indonesian Instagram click farms (Lindquist 2021), and "propaganda secretary" offices (Hassan & Hitchen 2019). We are also interested in normative discussions about complicity and collusion in digital industries as well as scholarly self-reflection about the challenges of doing engaged research about disinformation (Ong 2020).

We are especially interested in submissions that shed light across these themes:

- ethnographic portraits of paid trolls, meme producers, and political strategists
- precarity, aspiration, and the tactics of resistance of digital workers / disinformation producers
- the ethics of representing perpetrators; whistleblowers as unreliable narrators
- participatory disinformation (Starbird 2021) and networked disinformation
- the infrastructure, materiality, and "platform trees" (van Dijck 2020) of click farm platforms with mainstream social media
- moral justifications of disinformation producers (Ong & Cabañes 2019)
- the complicity of advertising and public relations to "organized lying" (Edwards 2021)
- legitimacy, respectability, and

plausible deniability; the role of intermediaries or brokers in the disinformation industries

- mental health of workers in digital shadow economies
- the social proximities between content moderators and paid trolls in the global South
- regulatory loopholes in political marketing and PR; experiments with self-regulation and codes of ethics in digital campaigning (Udupa 2019)
- auto-ethnographic reflections of engaged scholars about their experiences working with governments, platforms, workers, and journalists to shed light on disinformation shadow economies

The special issue will include an interview with ProPublica's Craig Silverman and a response to the contributions from Dr Joan Donovan.

Timeline

300- to 500-word abstracts should be emailed to rafaelgrohmann@unisinos.br and jcong@umass.edu by October 15, 2021. The abstract should articulate: 1) the issue or research question to be discussed, 2) the methodological or critical framework used, and 3) the expected findings or conclusions. Feel free to consult with the Special Issue Editors about your article ideas and potential angles or approaches.

Decisions will be communicated to the authors by November 1, 2021. Full papers of the selected abstracts should be submitted by March 1, 2022.

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Call for Chapters - edited volume
Mediating Mother-Activism
Edited by Gilda Seddighi and Sara Tafakori

Recent years have seen a renewed interest in exploring motherhood and mothering as political and emotional resources for digital activism.

Although the intertwining of mothering and politics predates the digital context, feminist debates around the politicization of mothering, from protests against state killings and disappearances, via the role of the mother in nation-building, to advocacy for right wing populisms, need addressing all the more urgently as we endeavour to understand the ways in which mothering is not only mediated, but agentively deployed across social media platforms. The political role and significance of the mother, the uneasy relation between motherhood as gendered identity and mothering as daily practice, continue to be contentious issues for feminists (Rich 1976, DiQuinzio 1999, Gumbs, Martens and Williams 2016, Naber 2021). Mother-activists have historically constructed public issues from their personal experiences of suffering and loss within family structures (Reiger 2000), utilizing the symbolic power of motherhood in order to motivate others to join their causes (Logsdon Conradsen 2011). Notwithstanding, campaigns such as those of the Argentinian Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo have been cast as 'trapped by a bad script' (Taylor 1997), that is as reproducing the same narratives of familialism and heteropatriarchal bloodline that underpin the narrative of the state. Conversely, many feminist scholars have argued that the political mobilisation of the trope of the mother has the potential to challenge the 'official' frameworks of national, ethnic or other group loyalty and to undermine or to radically reframe these very narratives (Kim 2020, Athanasiou 2017, Carreon and Moghadam 2015,). For example, the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo have raised the slogan 'One child, all the children' (Sosa 2014), taking the campaign beyond limits of blood kinship.

A key debate to address is the relation between individual and collective in mothers' digital activism, and how this relation shapes the politics of mothering. On the one hand, digital activism

is often celebrated as connecting 'private' individual and personal experiences and emotions with the public realm (Bennett and Segerberg 2013, Papacharissi 2010, Vivienne 2016), something which has perhaps favoured 'popular feminism' in the shape of MeToo and 1 other mobilisations (Baer 2016, Banet-Weiser 2018). On the other hand, this perspective is often criticised as downplaying the potential of digital activism both for building collective identifications and projects (Gerbaudo 2012, Dean 2016, Nunes 2015) and for creating new forms of exclusion and hierarchy (Seddighi 2014). In light of discussions around datafication (Lomborg, Dencik, & Moe 2020) and disinformation (Bennett & Livingstone 2018), the question of how mother-activists utilise digital media affordances to shape modalities of political intervention, has become even more important.

The proposed edited volume aims to bring together contributions from a broad range of interdisciplinary perspectives with a focus around mothering and the uses of social media for social and political change. We aim to include conceptual papers as well as empirical studies from a broad range of contexts across the global South and global North.

Papers may address one or more of the following topics but are not limited to these:

- The relation between digital affordances and mother-activism
- Creating digital political spaces beyond the binary of horizontalism vs hierarchy
- Intersectional and decolonial approaches to mediating mother-activism
- Mediating queer mothering
- How to build spaces and practices of solidarity
- Centre-periphery narratives and mothers at the margins: how hierarchies and mechanisms of social exclusion are reproduced and/or challenged/interrupted
- The mediation of/relations between local, national and

transnational spaces of mothering -
Temporalities of mothering: memory
work; futurities

- Mediated affects and affective practices of mother-activism
- The visual mediation of mothering; tropes, repertoires, disruptions
- Mobilising motherhood and mothering under authoritarian governments - The deployment of motherhood tropes in right-wing movements; the mother figure and racism or nativism
- Mediating motherhood during economic or political crises
- Interrelations and tensions between online and offline activism

Abstract submission deadline:

September 15, 2021. Please submit a title and an abstract of around 500 words with a short bio (150 words) to both email accounts: Gilda Seddighi gse@vestforsk.no and Sara Tafakori s.tafakori@lse.ac.uk. Abstracts should reference 3-4 works in the relevant literature. The accepted abstracts will serve as chapter summaries in the book proposal.

Notification of abstract acceptance:

October 1, 2021

Full paper submission: March 6, 2022 (between 6500 and 7500 words)

Please note: Our initial book proposal received interest from the editor of the Palgrave MacMillan Gender Studies list. The full proposal with chapter summaries will go out by November 8, 2021 with the intention of getting a book contract early in 2022.

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