



PRESIDENT’S COLUMN

Noshir Contractor (Northwestern U)

The First Four: Writing a New Chapter in ICA’s International Efforts

Over the past month, ICA has embarked on historic next steps to internationalize further. I’m proud to share that we have just launched four regional chapters - ICA Indonesia on March 7th, 2023, ICA Nigeria on March 24th, 2023, ICA China on March 28th, 2023, and ICA Kenya on April 5, 2023. I was honored to have a front seat at these inaugural events, crisscrossing the globe to express appreciation and solidarity on behalf of ICA Leadership. The following are some of the highlights from each event.

Our **ICA Indonesia Chapter** was inaugurated at Atma Jaya Catholic University of Indonesia in Jakarta on March 7th, hosted by the Rector/Chancellor of Atma Jaya Catholic University Jakarta, Indonesia, **Dr. Agustinus Prasentyantoko**. The leadership of ICA Indonesia has developed a long-standing relationship with ICA, having hosted an ICA Regional Conference in 2019 in Bali.



ICA Indonesia Chapter

They’ve also hosted ICA Regional Hubs, concurrent with our annual ICA conference since 2021. Over 350 people participated in the ceremony online, joining over 60 in-person attendees. The leadership of ICA Indonesia comprises representatives from all regions of Indonesia, namely the West, Central, and East. It seeks to draw members from Communication programs in over 300 universities from 38 provinces. Our ICA Indonesia Chapter seeks to (i) contribute to the development of communication scholarship and practice in Indonesia, as well as globalize Indonesia in best practices in the field of communication, (ii) improve skills and share insights and best practices to face today’s and tomorrow’s

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PRESIDENT-ELECT’S COLUMN

Eun-Ju Lee (Seoul National U)

Ready for Blue-Sky Thinking?

We’ve all heard of it, but did you know why “Blue Sky Workshops” were named as such? To my embarrassment, I didn’t. So I asked ChatGPT (OK, who else would you ask?) what “blue sky” means. According to ChatGPT, the term “blue-sky” is used “to describe ideas, plans, or proposals that are not yet grounded in reality or practicality.” It is often associated with “visionary or idealistic concepts that may be desirable but are not yet achievable.” As such, “blue sky thinking” refers to “creative thinking that is not constrained by conventional boundaries or limitations.”

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LOCAL HOST ARTICLE

Arun Jacob (U of Toronto), Bree McEwan (U of Toronto), Sarah Stang (Brock U), Stephen Surlin (McMaster U)

ICA23 Evening Entertainment

In this month’s newsletter, we’re happy to highlight some activities and entertainment you could enjoy in the evenings. While there will be plenty of receptions and get-togethers hosted by ICA divisions, it might be nice to get out of the conference scene for a while and experience some of the evening fun Toronto has to offer.

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Stephen Yoshimura, Interpersonal Communication, U of Montana
Annika Sehl, Journalism Studies, U der Bundeswehr München
Gonen Dori-Hacohen, Language & Social Interaction, U of Massachusetts Amherst
Shinsuke Eguchi, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Queer Studies, U of New Mexico
Sharif Mowlabocus Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Queer Studies, Fordham U
Heather LaMarre, Mass Communication, Temple U
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Keri Stephens, Mobile Communication, U of Texas at Austin
Boris Brummans, Organizational Communication, U of Montreal
Kaarina Nikunen, Philosophy, Theory, and Critique, Tampere U
Frank Esser, Political Communication, U of Zurich
Yupei Zhao, Popular Media & Culture, Zhejiang U
Steven Pike, Public Diplomacy, Syracuse U
Ansgar Zerfass, Public Relations, Leipzig U
Michael Devlin, Sport Communication, Texas State U
Mary Bock, Visual Communication Studies, U of Texas at Austin

Editorial & Advertising

Jennifer Le, ICA Director of Conference Services
Katie Wolfe, ICA Manager of Conference Services

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ICA JOURNAL EDITORS

Annals of the International Communication Association

Herman Wasserman, *U of Cape Town*

annals.of.ica@gmail.com

<https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/rca>

Communication, Culture, & Critique

Melissa A. Click, *Gonzaga U*

click@gonzaga.edu

<http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/cccr>

Communication Theory

Maria Elizabeth (Betsi) Grabe, *Indiana U*

mgrabe@indiana.edu

<http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/comth>

Human Communication Research

Yariv Tsfati, *U of Haifa*

ytsfati@com.h-aifa.ac.il

Steven Wilson, *U of South Florida*

stevenwilson25@gmail.com

<http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/hcr>

Journal of Communication

David R. Ewoldsen, *Michigan State U*

Natascha Just, *U of Zurich*

Chul-Joo "CJ" Lee, *Seoul National U*

Keren Tenenboim-Weinblatt, *Hebrew U of Jerusalem*

<http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/jcom>

Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication

Nicole Ellison, *U of Michigan*

enicole@umich.edu

<http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/jcmc>

MEMBER SERVICES CORNER

Brad Brewer, Manager of Member Services

Life & Sustaining Members: Don't Forget to Register for ICA23!

Though the fee for the conference is included in **Sustaining** and **Life** membership types, you are required to complete a conference registration. If attending in person, you'd need to be registered to get your badge; if attending virtually, you have to register to gain access to the virtual conference platform.

To access the US\$0 rate for your membership type:

1. First, [log into your profile](#)
2. Then, [complete a registration for ICA23](#)

LIFE MEMBERS

ICA wishes to express its gratitude for being a lifetime member. We deeply appreciate the commitment you've made to ICA and hope your membership continues to be a valuable resource. Below are two suggestions suggestions we hope you'll consider at this time:

Review Your Division & Interest Groups

As a Life Member, you receive access to all thirty-three [ICA Division and Interest Groups](#) at no additional charge. Engaging in Divisions and Interest Groups at ICA is a great way to connect with professionals in your field and customize your membership experience based on your personal topic area(s) of interest. You will receive field-specific calls for papers, newsletters or special announcements disseminated by section leaders. Now is the perfect time to review and update your division and interest group memberships. Please [sign into your ICA member profile](#) and select Groups in your personal profile. Review your groups listing, and if you'd like to make any changes, please contact Karly Senesac at membership@icahdq.org with an updated list.

Support ICA - Donate Today

Our organization is able to continue its mission because of your support and generosity. By contributing to a fund, you'll help ensure that our work continues. Online donations are quick and easy using our secure credit card transactions. We welcome donations of all sizes and payment plans – whether it's a one-time gift, a monthly contribution or part of a matching gifts program.

Please consider donating to one or more of the various funds at ICA by [clicking here](#). Your generosity and commitment to ICA is very much appreciated!

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Karly Senesac, Member Services Coordinator

Ekaete George

ICA membership is a community of scholars from various professional methodologies, with expertise, unique talents, and diverse cultural influences from around the globe. Our ever-growing member base is the backbone of our organization. We are continually grateful to those who participate in the association's success. In this new column, we will periodically introduce you to some of ICA's members.



Q&A with Ekaete George U of Port Harcourt, Nigeria PhD Candidate

Q. Tell us how long you've been an ICA member, why you joined ICA, and which was your first conference?

A. I have been in ICA since 2021. Though I had joined and not renewed membership a few years earlier.

I joined ICA to find communications/media studies journals and current research in the field. When I started graduate studies, - I was new in the area as my 1st degree is in English and Literature - I wanted to know the depth of what communications is and I knew if I had to rely on my university library, or buying books and journals, it wouldn't be sufficient to satisfy my quest for knowledge. So I just went on the internet and started searching for professional associations and journals. I found the ICA website... and dug deeper. I became convinced I wanted to be a part of it.

My first conference was ica22 where I attended the Port Harcourt Regional Hub which I also organized. Out of

curiosity I submitted a proposal for a Regional Hub. I was pleasantly surprised to be entrusted with a task like that. ICA impressed me so much I was determined to make an impression too.

Q. What is your academic/research focus and your methodological approach?

A. My doctoral research focus is on development communication and feminist media studies. Using quantitative research methodology to study representations of gender/gender issues in media and their impact on sustainable development in Nigeria.

Q. How have you benefited from being an ICA member?

A. A lot! I have been able to 'meet' amazing scholars across the world. I have been able to exercise my love for organizing for a global body through the Regional Hub experience. I have introduced over 100 people in Nigeria to the ICA, which gives me so much pleasure because they have also come to love what the ICA represents for communications scholarship. So much more...

Q. Tell us about your favorite interaction you've had within ICA or at the conference?

A. I have many favorites! But if I had to pick one, that has to be with Mary Beth Oliver. She calls me and says the kindest things to encourage me to keep going just when I need them.

Q. What divisions and interest group(s) do you participate in and why did you make that selection?

A. Feminist media, Health Communication, Environmental

Communication, political communication, mass communication. These areas are important to me mostly because being from Nigeria, there are huge development gaps in health, environment, politics and so on. Now put severe gender inequalities into that mix and I believe we can apply media to much more positive use. So I am always interested in what is happening and how I can learn more to be equipped to give more in terms of scholarly contributions.

Q. What advice would you offer new members or to those starting in the field?

A. I really am still learning so I am not sure whether I can give advice. But I can tell people like me - and I do tell them in Nigeria - that I am having fun because I feel at home in ICA. I found the academic resources I was looking for in ICA, and a global family of fabulous people. So...

Q. Which was your favorite ICA conference you've attended, and why?

A. ICA22 Port Harcourt Regional Hub, It was my first and I organized it and the attendees told me they had a great time. I was overjoyed.

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

A. That would be me being given responsibilities and opportunities to serve in the ICA22 conference (and this year too!) I never thought as a PhD candidate, I would have that.

ICA 2023 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

Introducing an improved, *streamlined* hybrid ICA conference.

Browse through our FAQ page to learn what you can expect for ICA 2023. Some of the questions that will be answered:

- What are the new hours for the session day?
- What types of sessions go in the livestream and webcast rooms? Who decides which sessions get that additional online exposure?
- What are the hours of operation for the ICA staff during the conference?

[read FAQ](#)

ICA TIP #101
FOLLOW OUR
SOCIAL MEDIA
ACCOUNTS FOR
THE MOST RECENT
NEWS & UPDATES!



STUDENT COLUMN

Dan Andrew (U of New South Wales), SECAC member

Dr. ChatGPT: Or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love AI

One of the biggest conversation pieces around universities at the moment is the use of writing AI programs such as ChatGPT. At first there was a lot of concern about students using ChatGPT to cheat and write their assignments for them and how universities were going to deal with this issue. It is not only educators who are worried about the threat of AI.

I recently attended a talk about the use of AI in the advertising industry. What I found interesting was how balanced the discussion was. There are many jobs, from the creation of advertising to campaign strategies, that AI could replace, but instead of focusing only on the negative, the discussion was about how the advertising industry could use these tools to improve what they are already doing. One speaker spoke about how they were using AI to help write their presentations, including that one. Their use of AI was to help them identify anything they may have missed and better structure their talk. I have to admit that I went home and used ChatGPT to help write my next lecture. And while it was not perfect and wasn't able to provide the insights that we can bring to a subject, it helped better structure my lecture and even identify some areas I had not considered before.

One of the first experiments I did on ChatGPT when I first heard about it

was to ask it to write an abstract for a friend who was in the writing phase of their PhD thesis. I sent it to her, and we were both surprised at how good a job it had done. It was topline and with no real insights, which is common from AI responses that can only use what it has learnt from the internet about a topic. Yet, it provided a logical structure for her abstract that she plans to use as a guide.

There are many potential uses for ChatGPT as it has the potential to assist many tasks we have to undertake, from helping search for readings related to your literature review, analysis data and help improve the writing of articles. The U of Sydney recently asked students to use ChatGPT to write an essay about a particular question as part of a unit assessment. The students were then required to assess and correct the results as their assessment, demonstrating the critical thinking and analysis skills that are at the heart of what we try to teach our students. There is even the potential to teach ChatGPT to help with grading student assessments.

We have to accept that technology is continually changing, and while there will always be those who only see the threat to how they did things in the past, there is no putting the genie back in the bottle; we have to learn how to embrace ChatGPT as a tool in our research and teaching.

COMMUNICATION, CULTURE, AND CRITIQUE SPECIAL ISSUE WINS BAFTSS AWARD

By Jamie J. Zhao (City U of Hong Kong) & Eve Ng (Ohio U)

On April 4th, 2023, [the British Association of Film, Television and Screen Studies conference](#) announced the awardees for its publication awards of the year. To our delight, our coedited special issue, "Centering Women on Post-2010 Chinese TV," for the [15.3 issue of ICA journal *Communication, Culture & Critique*](#), won for [Best Edited Collection!](#)

We were ecstatic, not simply for being bestowed with such an international academic accolade, but, more importantly, because it made history as the first volume focused on Chinese women to garner a BAFTSS award. BAFTSS, one of the most prominent academic networks for film, television, and screen studies, has had annual conference awards since 2013, yet most of the nominated publications have been about film and TV cultures of the Global North. One week before winners were announced, we were notified that our special issue was one of four finalists for its award category. Simply being shortlisted felt like an improbable turn of events, given how this issue has been something of a "mission impossible" from its inception.

We began conceiving the project around September 2020. It was an uncertain, even frightening period for women in China, in part due to the conditions of COVID-19. Misogynist, hostile speeches targeting female nurses and doctors, domestic violence, and conversations saturated with slut-shaming, homophobia, transphobia, and ageism against girls, women, and LGBTQI+ groups proliferated on social media. Yet, on China's commercial TV screens, programming in the past decade featuring women of different generations, with diverse ethnic-geopolitical-linguistic backgrounds, and of varying gender expressions have become the most profitable, attention-grabbing media spectacles. This apparent paradox reflects the Chinese state's struggle to reconcile its heteropatriarchal systems with its goals to propagandize China as a highly developed country that respects gender equality and human rights. Within such contexts, our special issue aimed to capture the complexities of these contradictions.

While there are some existing book-form publications on Chinese women and cinema, this special issue is the first edited volume examining Chinese women's television culture through an intersectional, interdisciplinary lens, one that considers both televisual imaginaries of women and women's roles as media producers, performers, and audiences. In five full-length articles, our contributors present cutting-edge discussions on representations of ethnic minority women in China, disparate images of mistresses, imaginaries of heroines during the COVID-19 pandemic, and women's authorship in the Chinese television industry.

Unfortunately, we were unable to attend the conference in the UK. If we may indulge ourselves here to celebrate our award – as hopefully just one exhilarating sign of the rise of television studies centered on Chinese women – we will partly appropriate the beautiful words of **Michelle Yeoh** after her historic Oscar win at the 95th Academy Awards on March 12, 2023:

For all the girls, tomboys, and women who have been struggling like us, this is a beacon of hope and possibilities in this still largely male-centric, Euro-American-dominated academia. This is proof—dream big—and dreams do come true. Don't let anybody tell you, this is impossible. Never give up.

And to our editor-in-chief of *Communication, Culture & Critique*, **Dr. Melissa Click** who offered wonderful support and editorship, and to our brilliant contributors and insightful reviewers, as well as all the colleagues who have trusted and worked together with us on this project, thank you! Thank you to the BAFTSS association—this is history in the making. More specifically, this is a women's story in the making.

Calls for Papers

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

The World Association for Public Opinion Research (WAPOR) annual conference theme is: Public Opinion Research in a Technology-Driven World, 19-22 Sept. 2023, in Salzburg, Austria.

Deadline for abstracts April 23. See <https://wapor.org/events/annual-conference/current-conference/>



Special Issue Call for the Public Relations Review!

Topic: Artificial Intelligence and Public Relations

Deadline: Full paper submission due by 31 January 2024

Guest Co-Editors:

Yang (Alice) Cheng, Ph.D., North Carolina State U, USA, ycheng20@ncsu.edu

Hua Jiang, Ph.D., Syracuse U, USA, hjiang07@syr.edu

For details, please click this link:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1b3Lm0QNrKtDPNObvMQ-7dlMapxon01/edit>



**Global Knowledge Exchange
Preconference @ ICA in Africa 2023
Cape Town, South Africa
15 November 2023**

The Global Knowledge Exchange Preconference at the [2023 ICA in Africa regional conference in South Africa](#) is designed to facilitate mutually beneficial knowledge exchange without reinforcing systemic inequities in academia. It does so by bringing together emerging and senior scholars both within and outside the African continent into structured

conversations with each other about how best to study media and communication in Africa.

Participants will be placed into four-member cohort groups consisting of an emerging scholar based in Africa, an emerging scholar studying Africa from outside the continent, a senior scholar based in Africa, and a senior scholar studying Africa from outside the continent. Cohort groups will be organized around research interests. Cohorts are not expected to engage in collaborative research; rather, the goal is to nurture and develop each member's own research projects and interests by recognizing the various ways members can learn from each other.

The preconference schedule will include dedicated time for each group member to discuss and receive detailed feedback on a current or future research project. It will also include presentations and discussions about topics such as how to offer constructive feedback, project development, research collaboration, and geographic disparities in scholarly knowledge production.

Application process. Applicants must apply as either emerging scholars or senior scholars. An "emerging scholar" is defined as anyone currently enrolled in an MA or PhD program as well as postdocs and early career faculty who have completed their doctoral degree within the past three years. A "senior scholar" is anyone who completed their doctoral degree more than three years ago.

To apply, emerging scholars must submit the following:

- A recent CV
- A 150-250 word personal statement that describes their research interests, current professional standing (e.g., student, post-doc, early career faculty, etc.), and previous experience with mentorship, teaching, or research collaborations.
- A 500-750 word research

proposal. The research proposal should describe a study that has not yet been conducted but would benefit from dedicated feedback and guidance at the preconference. The proposal should include the topic, rationale, theoretical approach, and proposed methodology.

To apply, senior scholars must submit the following:

- A recent CV
- A 150-250 word personal statement that describes their research expertise, any relevant current research projects, and previous experience working with graduate students and/or early career faculty.

Applicants will be evaluated individually as well as based on the overall composition of cohort groups.

Travel grants. Resource limitations have a serious and significant effect on knowledge production in and about Africa. To this end, the ICA Executive Committee has generously committed to providing the following travel grants to help alleviate the financial strain that might otherwise prohibit participants from attending:

- \$1,000 travel grants for emerging scholars based in Africa and outside the continent
- \$500 travel grants to senior scholars based in Africa

Deadline. Submit application materials to preconference co-organizer Brian Ekdale at brian-ekdale@uiowa.edu. Please use the subject line "ICA in Africa Preconference Submission." Applications are due June 30, 2023. Notifications will be sent on or before August 15, 2023.

The preconference will take place 15 November 2023 at the University of Cape Town. The ICA in Africa regional conference will take place 16-18 November, 2023. To submit to the ICA in Africa conference, please review the full call here <https://journalism.sun.ac.za/en/2023/02/15/ica-in-africa-call-for-papers/>

President's Column from page 1

challenges, and (iii) increase their credibility and professional reputation as members of a regional chapter of an international professional organization. Toward these goals, ICA Indonesia Chair **Prof. Dorien Kartikawangi** and her team have planned several events for 2023, from international conferences to lectures and workshops.

Our **ICA Nigeria Chapter** was inaugurated on March 24th, 2023, at the University of Port Harcourt in Port Harcourt, Nigeria, hosted by **Prof. Clifford Ofurum**, the Deputy Vice Chancellor of the University. The attendees at ICA Nigeria Chapter included representatives from 11 universities across Nigeria, the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria, and the Ministry of Education in Rivers State, Nigeria. The Chairs of ICA Indonesia and ICA Kenya Regional Chapters also joined the event. ICA Nigeria is Chaired by **Ekaete George** (turn to page 4 to learn more about Ekaete George) a doctoral student who demonstrated her leadership acumen by coordinating the ICA 2022 Regional Hub at Port Harcourt alongside the annual ICA 2022 conference. ICA Nigeria seeks to coalesce a large interdisciplinary network of scholars across Nigeria with interest in communication. The Chapter seeks to serve as an exclusive hub for students and early career researchers to access mentorship, community, and resources for



ICA Nigeria Chapter

academic achievement, professional development, and career growth. Following the first Quarterly Seminar Series (QSS) held at the University of Port Harcourt as part of the inauguration, the next QSS will be held in June 2023 in Lagos, Nigeria.

Our **ICA China Chapter** was inaugurated on March 28th in Beijing at an event attended by the Deans and Directors of Communication programs at seven major universities in China, including Peking University, Tsinghua University, University of Science and Technology of China, Renmin University, Zhejiang University, Fudan University, and Shanghai Jiao Tong University. The ceremony also included remarks by the President of the Asian-Pacific Communication Alliance (APCA), Professor Changfeng Chen from Tsinghua University. **ICA President-Elect Prof. Eun-Ju Lee** and the Chairs of ICA Indonesia, ICA Kenya, and ICA Nigeria Chapters

joined the ceremony online. The organizing team of ICA China, chaired by **Prof. Mengxiao Zhu**, has well-established and enduring relationships with ICA, having hosted

ICA Regional Hubs in multiple locations within China over the past three years. In addition, many of the organizers have been active members of ICA, including serving in leadership roles over the past several decades. ICA China has identified three goals: (i) continue to host local conferences and workshops as part of the ICA Regional Hub, (ii) host distinguished speaker series inviting communication scholars, including those from ICA, to share their work, and (iii) to introduce the latest progress in communication studies to graduate students and young scholars in China.

Most recently, our **ICA Kenya Chapter** was inaugurated on April 5th, 2023, at Daystar University, Nairobi, at an event hosted by Daystar University Vice Chancellor Prof. Laban Ayiro. The event was preceded by a traffic-halting marching band procession down the busy streets of Nairobi with a street-wide banner heralding the inauguration of ICA Kenya. The inauguration ceremony was attended by over 70 individuals in person and another 150 online, including **former ICA President Claes DeVreese** and ICA Chairs from Indonesia, China, and Nigeria. The Chair of ICA Kenya, **Sister Professor Agnes Lucy Lando**, has long engaged with ICA, organizing, among other events, the 2016 ICA Regional Conference in Nairobi and three Regional Hubs in Nairobi alongside the ICA Annual Conferences since 2021. Her leadership team includes



ICA China Chapter



members from Aga Khan University, Daystar University, Koitaleel Samoei University College, Laikipia University, Multimedia University of Kenya, Tangaza University College, The Catholic University of Eastern Africa, and Africa Community Leadership and Development. ICA Kenya has already enrolled over 70 members who received their official ICA Kenya membership cards at the inaugural event. ICA Kenya seeks to provide a vital platform for communication scholars in Kenya and beyond to connect, collaborate, and share knowledge and expertise to advance this goal of improving the skillset of researchers in Africa and unleashing the latent academic

potential in Africa. Each event was the culmination of an enormous amount of effort by the local Chapter organizers. We also owe a debt of gratitude to the members of ICA's Regional Endeavors, Affiliate Conferences & Hubs (REACH) Committee, chaired by former ICA President Terry Flew, which evaluated the petitions submitted by each of these Chapters, provided them feedback, and made recommendations to the ICA Executive Committee on their selection. In addition, **ICA Executive Director Laura Sawyer** and her staff at ICA Headquarters guided protocols and branding, and **ICA Director of Conference Services Jennifer Le**

designed the ICA Chapter logos.

On a more personal note, it was especially gratifying to witness the enthusiasm and commitment at each inauguration event - and even more remarkably, the level of solidarity and camaraderie among these first four ICA Regional Chapters. To learn more about their experiences, challenges, and plans, please join us at a hybrid session during the #ICA23 annual conference, titled **Global Regional Chapter Pilot Project: Tales From the Field** on Sunday, May 29th, at 9 am Eastern in Grand Ballroom East (Sheraton) and online. Each of the ICA Regional Chapters is financially self-sustaining and, in most cases, charges their members very modest membership dues tiered by member status (undergraduate students, graduate students, faculty, etc.). We can only aspire that, in the not-too-distant future, one of those members who first entered the ICA COMMUNITY via an ICA Regional Chapter will be writing a future ICA Presidential Newsletter Entry.



ICA Career Center



Connecting Talent with
Opportunity

[SEARCH OR POST JOBS](#)

President-Elect's Column from page 1

This year at #ICA23, you will have access to a variety of “blue-sky” sessions that encourage and facilitate out-of-the-box thinking. Several sessions will address the challenges and opportunities communication scholars are facing more intensely than ever, due to rapid technological advancement. “AI in the Communication Discipline: Next Challenges and Opportunities” raises important questions about how recent developments in AI affect the way we teach, conduct research, define divisions, run our journals, among other areas, with a view to prioritizing future agendas for ICA. Then, some sessions will deal with technology-induced changes in various facets of our society as a research *topic*. For instance, “The Sociality of Working Robots: Researching How Robots ‘Work’ in Public” aims to extend social robotics research by developing a “framework for analysis and research collaboration examining the relationship between the public and working robots,” while “Tackling Synthetic Media with Content Authenticity: Insights from Civil Society, Academia, and Industry” highlights the threats posed by synthetic media and the strategies adopted by different sectors to rebuild trust in online content. Other sessions address technology-induced changes in research *practices*, such as ethical considerations when conducting research with digital artifacts (“Ethical Dilemmas in Research Using Digital Data: New Directions for Communication Scholars”) and the common issues when recruiting research participants through social media (“Managing Scammers, Bots, and Ineligible Participants from Social Media Recruitment”).

Another recurring theme that spans several sessions is diversification. Both “Globalising Research and Teaching of Media and Communication Studies: Building a New Network” and “Decolonizing Communication Pedagogy: Principles and Practices” critically evaluate the status quo of our discipline in terms of globalization and introduce ongoing efforts to redress remaining issues. While these workshops approach diversification from a de-Westernization perspective, “Institutional Support and Guidance for Multimodal Scholarship” workshop pursues diversification in the modality of knowledge production, by promoting the significance of multimodal scholarship that pushes “the boundaries of scholarly communication beyond written texts” and inviting discussion on what institutional strategies can support it. Similar attempts to transcend traditional boundaries are also found in “Workplace Communication Researchers Making Intradisciplinary Connections: A Blue Sky Workshop,” which will bring together scholars interested in “the communication practices that enable productive, collegial, collaborative, functional, and/or efficient work environments” from many different Divisions and Interest Groups of ICA to share and receive feedback on their ongoing research projects.

Last but certainly not least, the skills workshops on grant writing (“Show Me the Money: Grant Writing 101 in an Era of Shrinking Academic Budgets”) and network building (“Building your Academic and Professional Networks as a Student or Early Career Scholar”) will be particularly beneficial for the professional development of students and early career researchers. Unfortunately, I can’t elaborate on what all the blue-sky workshops have to offer in this limited space, so let me encourage you to search the conference program for more details and mark them on your calendar!

Membership Column from page 3

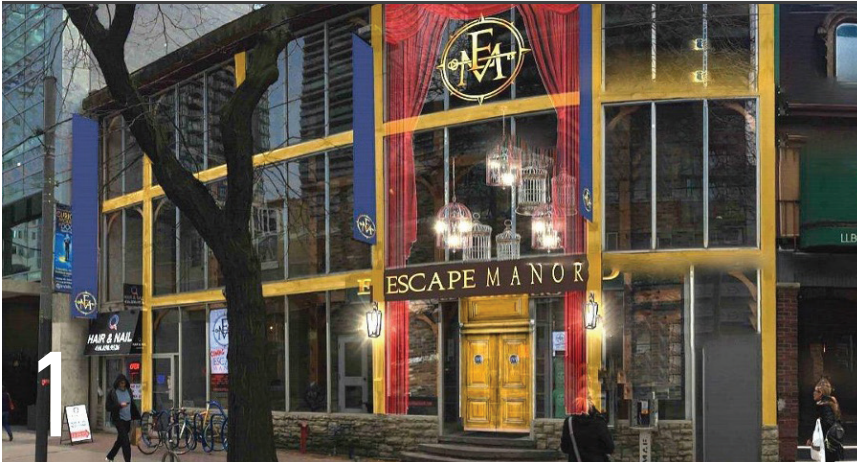
SUSTAINING MEMBERS

ICA deeply appreciates the support you’ve contributed on behalf of ICA student members. Your membership includes a regular membership, one conference registration, and a US\$40 donation to the Student Travel Fund.

This donation helps to sustain and support ICA’s grant program: Each year, the ICA President-Elect and Executive Director award grants from the Student Travel Fund to students who need financial support to attend the ICA conference.

We hope you’ll continue to renew and maintain this membership type and are happy to help you should you need any assistance.





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Local Host Article from page 1

Escape Rooms

If you enjoy the idea of solving a series of intricate puzzles that multiple people must solve while racing against time, Toronto's got quite a few escape rooms that you will want to peruse. Check out one of these puzzle palaces when you're in town.

(1) [Escape Manor](#), 383 King St W, Toronto, ON, M5V 1K1

Located Near King and Spadina, Escape Manor has five horror-themed rooms, including a lounge equipped with a bar, terrific food and a selection of board games. They also have an axe throwing venue on site.



[Imaginarium](#), 116 Tycos Dr. Unit #4 North York ON, M6B 1V9

Located just a short walk from Glencairn station, the three escape rooms here offer well-designed puzzles and creative themes that have you exploring ancient Egypt or a haunted mansion.

(2) [Escape Casa Loma](#)

The beautiful "castle" in downtown Toronto, Casa Loma (detailed in an earlier newsletter), is also host to a series of delightful and highly detailed escape rooms, complete with live actors! The [Escape Casa Loma](#) series of games running right now include a prohibition-era bootlegger-themed game, a Murdoch Mysteries-themed detective game, a medieval-themed game, a WWI-themed code breaker game, and a spy thriller game.

Comedy Shows

Toronto is home to some of the world's most renowned comedy geniuses. And if you'd like to get a glimpse of where these comedic stars are forged, you'll want to check out some of the city's local comedy clubs, including YukYuks, Second City, Comedy Bar, and several others. Also, if you're a fan, you can catch [Jimmy Carr's Terribly Funny tour](#) at Meridian Hall on May 25.

[Second City Toronto](#), 1 York Street

Second City's new Harbourfront location for this renowned club is the place to go if you want to see critically acclaimed comedy with a world-class reputation.

[YukYuks](#), 224 Richmond St W

Yuk Yuk's has hosted the world's best and most popular stand-up comics, from Dave Chappelle to Dustin Diamond. Shows range from \$11-20, and their roster of comedians ensures that the audience gets their money's worth.

[Comedy Bar](#), 945 Bloor St West & 2800 Danforth Avenue

Comedy Bar is dedicated to the development of new and established comedic talent, and aims to provide the best Sketch, Improv, Alternative and Stand Up Comedy in Toronto. The stages at their 2 venues host over 150 shows monthly. Comedy Bar has fostered the talents of ample Canadian comedians, comedy writers, and performers. They have hosted famous comedians including Tim Meadows (Saturday Night Live, Mean Girls), Janeane Garofalo (SNL, Wet Hot American Summer), and Mark Maron (WTF Podcast).

Live Theatre and Concerts

There are quite a few terrific Broadway musical productions that are playing in Toronto that you may want to check out. You will want to check out what's playing at the Ed Mirvish Theatre and the Princess of Wales Theatre. The Ed Mirvish Theatre began its life in 1920 as a combination of vaudeville and motion picture theatre in the Pantages theatre circuit. And The Princess of Wales is the first privately owned and financed theatre built in Canada since 1907 - and the first anywhere in North America in over 30 years.

(3) [Hamilton](#), Princess of Wales Theatre, 300 King Street West

The Hamilton musical takes another shot at Toronto as part of Mirvish's 2022/23 season. The show ran briefly in 2020 before it was forced to close early due to the pandemic, which means Toronto audiences who've been waiting for it for the last three years finally have the chance to experience the groundbreaking show live. If you can manage to get tickets to the show, it is worth being in the room where it happens!

Concerts

Beyonce, Shania Twain, Sam Smith and Ed Sheeran will all be performing at sold-out concerts in Toronto this summer, but unfortunately, they won't be playing

the week the ICA conference is headlining! You may want to check out these artists instead:

(4) [Dean Lewis: The Future is Bright Tour 2023](#), Danforth Music Hall Theatre, May 26

You're in town when Australian pop star Dean Lewis is going to be touring Toronto, you might want to check out a show on The Future is Bright Tour playing at the Danforth Music Hall.

(5) [Hayley Kiyoko](#), Danforth Music Hall Theatre, May 27

Hayley Kiyoko is hitting the road in 2023 in celebration of her second album 'Panorama'. Since Kiyoko is bringing her intoxicating synth-pop sound to Toronto!

(6) [Hot Chip](#), Danforth Music Hall Theatre, May 29

English synthpop band Hot Chip's Toronto stop also happens to fall on the same week, if you'd like to check them out.

Karaoke, Live Music & Dancing

The Horseshoe Tavern 370 Queen St W, Toronto, ON M5V 2A2

Karaoke is a popular pastime in Toronto, and you'll find several nice places to perform with your conference buddies (both public and private rooms). See [this list](#) and [this list](#) for details. There are also plenty of places that offer fantastic live music in the downtown area, including the beloved Toronto institution [The Horseshoe Tavern](#), which has been around for over 75 years! See [this list](#) for more details.

(7) [Poetry Jazz Cafe](#) 1078 Queen St W, Toronto, ON M6J 1H8

The [Poetry Jazz Cafe](#) is a cozy live jazz venue located in the center of the Kensington Market neighborhood. The venue hosts many of Toronto's up and coming jazz musicians, which you can enjoy



The Horseshoe Tavern 370 Queen St W, Toronto, ON M5V 2A2

over a drink at their fully stocked bar, or on their back patio.

Supermarket Bar 268 Augusta Ave, Toronto, ON M5T 2L9

(8) [Supermarket Bar](#) has been a staple of Kensington Market since 2004. This casual restaurant & bar offers Asian small plate tapas, plus late-night dancing & concerts, and is located at the northern end of Augusta Avenue in Kensington Market.

Arcades and Games

Rec Room, 255 Bremner Blvd. Toronto, ON M5V 3M9

The [Rec Room](#) located in the Roundhouse across the street from the CN tower has a variety of fun activities. It includes a restaurant and bar but also a video game arcade, ping pong, and shuffleboard. Challenge fellow conference-goers to a race in the race car simulator or a friendly game of pool.

(9) [Zed 80](#), 185 Danforth

Check out the games list at [Zed 80](#) located in the East End near Broadview station. A \$5 cover gets you all-you-can-play vintage arcade and pinball games. A fun place for families to visit during the day, after 8pm the crowd becomes 19+ with an on-site bar.

Freeplay Toronto, 300 College Street, Toronto ON M5T 1R9

Located in the downtown core at College and Spadina is [Freeplay Toronto](#). Check the website for the daily special, gather up a group and for a cover charge enjoy classic arcade and midway games. Grab a Princess Peach Slushie and level up!

Member Spotlight from page 4**Q. Who is your mentor/who inspires you and why?**

A. Mary Beth Oliver inspires me. She is an accomplished professor, has served as ICA President, and utterly kind. I want to be like her when I grow up.

Q. Have you published in an ICA journal? Is there an article or publication you would like to highlight?

A. No. The following article resonated with me and motivates me to organize the ICA Community in Nigeria in such a way as to foster community resilience.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/ccc/tcab027> Academic Caregivers on Organizational and Community Resilience in Academia (Fuck Individual Resilience)

Getting to know Ekaete on a more personal level:**Q. When you have 30 minutes of free time, how do you pass the time?**

A. I and my daughter watch our chickens play. They can be adorable.

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

A. I would want to meet Oprah. I would ask for a hug and say THANK YOU to her. She taught me as a teenager what gave me the courage to leave a physically abusive marriage as an adult. I remember thinking about what Oprah says about not letting a man abuse you more than once... and bearing up under an exhausting pressure campaign by family and others to stay in the marriage.

Q. Favorite album, song, movie, tv show or book?

A. My favorite song is Dolly Parton's "The Day I Fell in Love."

Q. What could you teach a whole class on that has nothing to do with your actual field of expertise?

A. Elder care

Q. Which talent would you most like to have?

A. Painting

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

A. That I am playful

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

A. #dogsofica

ADDRESS

1500 21st Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20036
Phone: +01.202.955.1444
Website: www.icahdq.org