



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Eun-Ju Lee, President (Seoul National U)

Crisis in Communication Education?

I must confess that I've never considered myself a particularly effective teacher. Although I was a good student (at least in terms of grades), and I'd like to believe that I'm a decent researcher, I humbly acknowledge my shortcomings in teaching – I tend to teach what I know best, rather than prioritizing what students are interested in learning. This gap seems to be widening, especially in undergraduate courses. Globally, a decline in the prominence and perceived value of humanities and social sciences within higher education seems evident, and communication is no exception, albeit to

varying degrees. At its core, there is a growing emphasis on education that directly leads to specific career paths. While communication skills are universally valued across professions, the academic discipline of communication often faces underappreciation in terms of its depth, breadth, and significance. This (mis)perception has an adverse impact on not only student enrollment, but also broader institutional support within the academic community. This challenge is closely tied to the shifting job market, where there is a growing emphasis on

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REACH-ING OUT: WARSAW CHAPTER

Nikki Usher (U of San Diego) & Eszter Hargittai (U of Zurich)

In Praise of ICA Regional Conferences

We both just returned from the ICA Warsaw Regional conference and have a critical takeaway for ICA: more, please.

And for ICA members: if your travel budget and calendar allow, support these conferences by submitting and attending.

For both of us, the ICA Warsaw conference presented an opportunity and an excuse to break out of our typical conference routines, be exposed to more research specific to the region than the main ICA conference allows, and gain a better understanding of the on-

the-ground challenges for scholars who find the main ICA conference out of reach.

The conference theme, "*Human Tech Transition: Crises in Mediatized Politics, Society & Economy*," attracted researchers representing several ICA divisions, including Journalism Studies, Political Communication, and Communication and Technology. A consortium of Polish and Lithuanian universities planned the three-day meeting. The first day was a pre-

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Don't forget to apply for your visa!

Many countries need to apply for a visa to visit Australia. Here is a quick "wizard" [here](#) that will give you an answer about whether you need a visa for Australia, in under two minutes: visit [this link](#), click the "visit & tourism" (blue box, top left of the page), on the next page choose "attending a conference or expo," and then enter your country and the system will tell you what type of visa you need (if any).



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STUDENT COLUMN

Dan Andrew (U of New South Wales), SECAC Committee Member

Welcome to the Land Down Under!

There are a lot of stories and misconceptions about what you can expect the first time you visit Australia. For many attending this year's conference on the Gold Coast, this will be their first trip to the land Down Under, so as a native I thought I'd share some tips and advice before you arrive.

First, the Gold Coast is a region made up of a collection of sprawling towns that connect including Coolangatta, Currumbin, and Surfer's Paradise. It is just north of the New South Wales border in Queensland, over one hour from Brisbane. It is a lush coastal area famous for its beaches. Even though it will be winter here in June, the Gold Coast is a popular winter holiday destination for many Australian families, as the average temperature in June is 11-21 degree Celsius (52-72F), which can be a nice break from the colder weather in the south.

As it will be winter you won't have to worry about the snakes and spiders. The first thing most people think about when they think about Australia are the dangerous animals that are all trying to kill you. The reality is that these are rare events and Australians tend to worry more about swooping magpies (only in October/November) than spiders and snakes. There are plenty of bush walks (hikes) you can do around the Gold Coast where you might encounter some of the local and unique Australian wildlife, just watch out for drop bears. Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary (towards the south of the Gold Coast) offers opportunities to meet koalas, kangaroos and even crocodiles in a safe environment.

Australian English can be difficult to understand as there are a lot of idioms and slang used as part of the daily. Fortunately, Aussies take pride in their linguistic idiosyncrasies, so don't be afraid to ask if you don't understand. Any true Aussie relishes the chance to explain Aussie terms. Mostly we just shorten words (Avo for avocado, Arvo for afternoon) but there are other terms, such as "wearing budgie smugglers" that I'll leave for you to discover on your own. Despite its use in many films and shows, "G'day" is not as commonly used greeting as you might expect, and you are more likely to hear "cheers" as a thank you or a goodbye (or both at once).

Coffee culture is strong in Australia. Aussie coffee drinkers tend to avoid the chains and go to one of a myriad of small cafes and hole-the-wall coffee places that are everywhere and offer some of the best coffee in the world. If unsure of where to go, don't be afraid to stop a local in the street and ask them where the best place to get coffee is, most will be happy to help.

Australia, by and large, is a safe place and Aussies love their reputation as a friendly nation and good hosts, so don't be afraid to ask for help if you need directions, advice, etc. Given how long it takes to get here, make sure to make the most of your time in Australia.

Cheers,
Dan

ARE YOU READY FOR AN ADVENTURE?

We are delighted to announce the return of **ICA-curated tours and excursions** for #ICA24, provided in partnership with Kiff & Culture, a local company that crafts immersive travel experiences, connecting guests with the region's best purveyors and artisans through bespoke tours. K+C's three main values are local knowledge, ethical eats, and "nature first" - they only work with eco-friendly providers and venues. Get ready to explore landscapes, taste local flavours, and engage in cultural activities, all guided by expert local staff! With tailored itineraries, award-winning venues, and over two hundred five-star endorsements (including nomination as the World's Best Sustainable Tour Operator in 2021), Kiff + Culture offer authentic and unforgettable adventures tailored to your unique preferences. ICA's selections for curated tours for our attendees include both adult-only and kid-friendly adventures, half day and full day experiences during the conference, and even longer trips to the surrounding areas that occur prior to or immediately after the conclusion of the ICA conference. Don't book your flight until you've checked on what K+C has to offer for our attendees! We are working with Kiff+Culture on a curated list of experiences as we speak, and we will launch the tours page--complete with pricing, excursion details, and reservation links--in the next month! Stay tuned....



Kiff & Culture

GOVERNANCE SPOTLIGHT ON ICA LEADERSHIP: DREW CINGEL

Julie Arnold, Director of Governance & Member Services

Leadership at ICA comprises a robust group of ICA members bringing together varied professional methodologies, expertise, unique talents, and diverse cultural influences, from around the globe. With a Board of Directors of fifty individuals, five elected leadership roles per thirty-three divisions and interest groups, and a number of standing committees and task forces, our association is truly member driven. We are guided by, and grateful to, those who contribute to the association's success through service. Periodically, we'll introduce you to some of ICA's leaders to give you an insider's look at who helps propel the ICA mission.



Q&A with Drew Cingel

U of California, Davis

Chair, Children, Adolescents & Media Division

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

A. I have been a member since 2012 when I was a Master's student. My first conference was in Phoenix.

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

A. I study the intersection of human development, media use, and media effects. I am interested in how we can design media for children and adolescents to support healthy growth and development.

Q. Describe your ICA leadership journey (where did you start, what roles have you held prior to your current role/s).

A. I started reviewing for CAM as a graduate student. Once I got tenure, I decided to run for Chair/Vice Chair, and was elected on my second attempt.

Q. Which goal of your group do you find most invigorating or rewarding, and why?

A. I, along with the rest of the CAM leadership team, am very interested in increasing the diversity of voices in our division in many different areas. We have made great strides over the past few years and it has been exciting to watch.

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

A. I am very proud of the Children, Adolescents, and Media Division's sense of purpose and community. We are a diverse group, but our membership is always ready to step in and help, particularly regarding mentoring the next generation of amazing CAM scholars!

Getting to know Drew on a more personal level:

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

A. It has always been my life's dream to be a theater actor.

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

A. It would be something in the wine industry, maybe as a winemaker or sommelier.

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

A. I do three crosswords (at least) a day, and have a 10-year streak going of completing the daily New York Times crossword. This is admittedly only a superpower that an academic would be proud of!

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

A. I grew up on a farm in central Pennsylvania, and helped my Dad sell Christmas trees every winter!

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

A. As a proud corgi dad, I am obviously team #dogsofica



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: JEFF NIEDERDEPPE

Karly Senesac, Member Services Coordinator

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 Chaim Noy

Professor and Department
Chair

Bar Ilan University

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

A. I joined ICA exactly a decade ago, and the first conference I attended was in Seattle.

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

A. My academic focus was from the start on language and communication – or in ICA terminology: Language and social interaction (LSI)– that is, on the different contexts and material conditions through which language, whether spoken or written, serves as modes and means of communication. and the semiotic and power-

relations related implications of these conditions. An additional initial focus was a bit idiosyncratic, and concerned museums as agents of mediation. This focus later became helpful as I transitioned to the analysis of SNSs, resting richly on museum-related terminology such as collecting and curating practices, display and performance, archival and retrieval practices, and so on.

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

A. Of course I have! In addition to making new colleagues, I enjoy an intellectually vibrant community, where I am able to serve and participate and help shape the future of the organization through membership in various communities. So it has been a positive and enriching academic experience.

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

A. I really like dancing and traditionally, at least before COVID, ICA would hold at least one dance party during the annual conference, where I could and would dance energetically and freely. Dancing is enormously enjoyable for me, because it is a way to loosen up and perhaps more than that, a way to be nonsensical. In this sense it is very gratifying, as the conferences center on a sensible and rational way of thinking and inquiring, and

dancing allows one to peak or sense a different type of sensibility.

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

A. Most persistently Language & social interaction (LSI), but often also Communication & technology, LGBTQ, and critical dimensions of communication

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

A. I would suggest beginning by "thinking big" and seriously, which is to say that communication and media are not an element of modernity or even a prevalent part of our lives today. But much more than that. We as species have always been essentially communicative creatures in our nature. Long before SNS and even writing. Like many other organisms, we are dependent on continuous flow of communicative practices. And furthermore, importantly, communication is not about "the transfer of information from point a to point b". Indeed, what communication is, and how media play into the role of mediators and channels, should be defined are challenging questions that are constantly on the table.

Q. Which was your favorite ICA

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74TH ANNUAL ICA CONFERENCE

PRE/POSTCONFERENCE CALLS FOR PAPERS

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in Australia
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President's Column from page 1

fields directly linked to employment, particularly STEM and business. Students and their families increasingly view education as an investment towards a specific career path, and thus, prefer majors with clear and direct job prospects. Communication studies, with their broad focus on skills such as critical thinking, writing, logical reasoning, and cultural awareness, often struggle to demonstrate their direct applicability and relevance in the job market. Today's media landscape, characterized by rapid technological advancements, further complicates this, as many communication programs find themselves caught between traditional theoretical foundations and the need to equip students with cutting-edge practical skills.

Financial constraints add another layer of complexity. Like other humanities and social sciences disciplines, communication departments often face budgetary pressures, which limit their ability to access the latest technological tools, support research activities, and offer specialized courses. This resource limitation hinders the development of innovative curricula aligned with the evolving media landscape.

Addressing the apparent crisis in communication education requires a delicate balance between maintaining the discipline's core values and adapting to the changing media and technological landscape. It is often suggested that updating curricula to include more digital media, social media strategies, data analytics, and other emerging fields is crucial. Strengthening ties with the industry to provide students with hands-on, practical experiences is also recommended. Can these approaches help mitigate the challenges we face? It involves not just curricular changes but also a potential shift in the overall approach to communication education to ensure that communication studies remain as an integral part of higher education. As a leading scholarly association, ICA should be a platform where our own successes and failures in educational experiments are openly shared, as we grapple with the crucial question of how best to prepare our students for their future. I look forward to a deeper engagement with these topics at the Blue Sky: Pedagogical Workshops at ICA24 and beyond!



THE TWO VENUES FOR #ICA24 ARE CONNECTED BY A PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE AND ARE BOTH RECOGNIZED AS "ENVIRONMENTAL CHAMPIONS." YOU CAN VIEW THE CONFERENCE CENTER'S SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES [HERE](#), AND THE SUSTAINABILITY PAGE FOR OUR HEADQUARTERS HOTEL [HERE](#).

ICA AFFILIATE JOURNALS



The ICA affiliate journal program is designed to build bridges throughout the international communication community and to connect our membership with communication research published in non-English high-quality journals. The program helps publicize the finest communication research done throughout the world, giving our members access to new and diverse audiences while supporting our colleagues throughout the world who are hoping to expand their audience and intellectual contributions to our field.

- ⑤ *Communication & Society*
- ⑤ *Cuadernos.info*
- ⑤ *Problemi dell'Informazione*
- ⑤ *Revue Française des Sciences de l'Information et de la Communication*
- ⑤ *Studies in Communication and Media*

Affiliate journal status is voted on by the ICA board in recognition of journals published in non-English languages support of regional scholarship. Criteria and procedures for submission consideration as an affiliate journal can be found by scanning the QR code.



Calls for Papers

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



ICA Career Center



Connecting Talent with Opportunity

SEARCH OR POST JOBS

Warsaw from page 1



conference on computational social science held at POLIN: the Jewish Museum of the History of Polish Jews, with a two-hour tour of the museum capping off the day. The following two days at the University of Warsaw featured two morning keynotes and [three sessions of five parallel tracks](#).

The conference was right-sized small, such that each gathering opportunity gave a chance to meet new people but also a chance to deepen connections made in panels. Coffee breaks with snacks, lunches, dinners, and even an optional tour on the Saturday morning following the event were included. The on-site lunches guaranteed attendees would be ready for the afternoon sessions. The offsite dinners gave participants glimpses into local culture and cuisine, such as bigos, a rich stew of cabbage, and sauerkraut (yum!). We enjoyed delicious local specialties at a beautiful historical venue on the first night while listening to a string quartet. The second night made for camaraderie over local beer and a brewery tour.

From an academic perspective, the conference offered a deep dive into the region's communication scholarship. A strength of the programming was the location itself: bringing together scholars working in or researching former Soviet satellite countries with the lived

experience of nearby autocracies whose governments sanction disinformation, propaganda, and censorship. But papers were not restricted to the region. There was a mix of presenters from across the globe, including scholars from Belgium, Canada, Switzerland, Czech Republic, Germany, Spain, the United Kingdom, Georgia, Ireland, Israel, India, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Singapore, Slovenia, and the United States.

Most sessions had three or four papers, giving more time for questions and answers than a panel of five. Participants seemed comfortable asking questions because these were held in classrooms rather than imposing large hotel conference rooms. With coffee or a meal following in the adjacent atrium, conversations started during Q&A could then continue in a more social setting.

When attending the main annual ICA conference, we have been known to prioritize scheduled conversations over attending panels (cough). In contrast, a smaller conference presented the opportunity to go to panels outside our main research areas, and - well - ditching panels to have coffee just felt wrong with a smaller group of participants. Plus, having dedicated coffee sessions made such panel absences

unnecessary, even when wanting to have more in-depth conversations.

Nikki has attended most ICA annual meetings since 2008 and Eszter since 1999. While it is lovely that now ICA feels like hanging out with old, treasured friends and scholarly collaborators, an essential aspect of such meetings is expanding one's networks, hearing new perspectives, and making new connections. These more focused regional meetings seem like the venue to make everything happen.

Challenges and Opportunities for ICA Internationalization

Many people we met pointed to the expense and size of the main ICA annual conference as an impediment to their participation. The regional conferences make it logistically and financially easier for international scholars living a train ride or "low budget carrier" flight away. These factors can make it easier to attend with a crew of one's colleagues, as many at this venue did, which can help first-time conference-goers or early career scholars feel more comfortable.

The regional conferences also make it more feasible for students to participate. It was an excellent opportunity for one of Eszter's Master's students to present work that would have been cost-prohibitive for the main ICA venue.

Local hosts have to balance the awkward hosting tension of keeping close friends engaged while using the opportunity to make connections beyond local networks. But these audiences are not mutually exclusive. While hosting is exhausting, and it can be tempting to retreat to a quiet corner for a coffee with a friendly face, local hosts should do their best to build bridges between their existing collaborators and scholars visiting from across the globe.

The timing flexibility for regional conferences may also accommodate more scholars as these become institutionalized - ICA's calendar sticks to the global north summers, but even conferences in off-season Europe stand to present opportunities for reduced costs and calendar space. While some venues won't offer their best touristic side during colder months, many places also have plenty to show off at other times. Bonus: no crowds.

For these conferences to become institutionally meaningful as part of ICA culture, scholars who do not think twice about attending ICA every year—including senior scholars with broad name recognition—must show up and be present even if they are not keynoting.

In sum, these regional ICA meetings have a ton of potential, and we encourage others to attend them. We can't wait to see where future ones will take place and look forward to participating!

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Don't forget to book your airport transportation! Thanks to our sponsors, ICA24 attendees can either book shuttle transportation or a ride with Airtrain at a discounted price!

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ICA PRESENTS

**Architects of
Communication
Scholarship**

Architects of Communication Scholarship - Ronald Rice, How Communication Technology, Networks, and Mentoring published May 22, 2023

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Jeff Niederdeppe from page 6

conference you've attended, and why?

A/ I can't say I have a clear preference

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

A. The best way to answer this question is intrinsically, saying that I am focused on accomplishments, and more with moments where I feel am able to think creatively and reach in my thoughts places and ideas that have not been there or elsewhere earlier. And when I lay them on the paper – by myself, or as part of my mentorship and research with graduate and postgraduate students – it is one of the most rewarding and at the same time humbling experiences in academia and beyond.

Q. Who is your mentor/who inspires you and why?

I have been inspired by very many in the extended academic community, mostly through reading articles and books. I would perhaps now mention Bruno Latour, and with him, standing as background, the rich critical tradition of French structuralism.

Q. Have you published in an ICA journal?

A. Yes. I have published in several ICA journals. Here's a [reference] for one of the pubs, where I was still working on museums as agents on mediation, and yet within their spaces there are also other agents that serve this purpose.

Noy, C. (2017). "Participatory Media and Discourse in Heritage Museums: Co-constructing the Public Sphere?"
Published in:
Communication, Culture & Critique
DOI: 10.1111/cccr.12160

Getting to know Chaim on a more personal level:

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

A. Run administrative errands; there are always emails to reply to...

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

A. Georges Perec, clearly, who was a Polish-French-Jewish writer/philosopher

Q. What is your favorite album, song, movie, tv show or book?

A. As a teenager I liked the movies of Bergman and Fellini, and also, later, Stanley Kubrick and of Francis F. Coppola, which helped me "understand the medium" of the cinema. I was eclectic about music, and could love anything from Jazz to classical, and from pop to rapping. Still, I love Paul Simon's career work, and would listen to

his hidden gems anytime.

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

A. Embodiment: how we live and experience our body and what types of pressures are put on us through our embodied experience and so on; Also cinema; Also dancing:)

Q. What is one talent or skill that you wish you had?

A. Wow. Sharp and lasting memory.

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

A. That at my core I am nonsensical and performative

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

The latter in practice and the former in theory



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