

PRESIDENT-ELECT'S COLUMN

Silvio Waisbord, President-Elect (George Washington U)

Scholars at Risk: What Role for ICA?

As you make plans for the upcoming Gold Coast conference, I wanted to bring your attention to two panels that will address the issue of scholars at risk.

Barbie Zelizer (U of Pennsylvania) and **Hanan Badr** (U of Salzburg) have organized the panel *Scholars at Risk: Dangers, Patterns, Resistance*, which will take place on Sunday, June 23, at 16:30, featuring **Cherian George** (Hong Kong Baptist U), **Dariya Orlova** (National U of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy) and **Yoel Roth** (Independent Scholar). A reception will follow the panel. The other panel is *Scholars Under Attack: Political Pressures on Communication Scholarship*, which will take place on Saturday, June 22 at 15:00. Speakers include **Rebekah Tromble** (George Washington U), **Claudia Riesmeyer** (LMU Munich), and **Michael Wagner** (U of Wisconsin); **Claes de Vreese** (U of Amsterdam) will serve as moderator.

I greatly appreciate the

organizers' efforts to highlight the issue of attacks and pressures on communication scholars around the world in our conference. The panels will focus on different aspects of this important issue in the context of anti-academic, anti-intellectual, and authoritarian trends in the world.

The issue of "scholars at risk" refers to situations in which researchers are vulnerable to various forms of violence, generally by governments. Cases range from situations in authoritarian regimes determined to squash academic dissent to illiberal democracies where officials verbally harass and threaten scholars. Scholars have experienced attacks and intimidation, in the form of insults and doctored videos on social media, abusive online campaigns, and subpoenas, lawsuits, and requests from government officials.

As we continue to further

continued on page 14

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Eun-Ju Lee, President (Seoul National U)

On Cultural Diversity

After serving on the faculty for over six years and securing tenure at UC Davis, I returned to my alma mater in South Korea. Soon after, when I met with my ICA friends, who are mostly based in the U.S., they often asked how I managed the disadvantages of being a young (well, it was a long time ago!) female professor. Regrettably, their concerns were legitimate, given that South Korea's gender gap index score was—and still is—one of the lowest.

However, I couldn't respond immediately. Yes, I was the youngest and only the second female professor in the Department. Yet, I rarely, if ever, felt marginalized or denied access to resources and opportunities because of my age or gender. If anything, being a female professor at SNU led some to think that I must have been exceptionally good to land a position there, "despite being a woman." (If you've seen *Squid Game*, you'll know that SNU is considered the Harvard of Korea :)).

What my ICA friends did not realize was that I always felt inherently disadvantaged while I was in the States. No, there was absolutely no discrimination based on my gender or ethnicity—and I am truly grateful to my former colleagues for that. Nevertheless, being a Communication professor "whose thick accent

continued on page 14

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow our social media accounts for the most recent news & updates!



CONTENTS

page	article title
01	President-Elect's Column Silvio Waisbord, President-Elect
01	President's Column Eun-Ju Lee, President
03	You Won't Believe These 14 Rules for Picking ICA Conference Locations! Laura Sawyer, Executive Director
04	Getting to Know Team ICA Karly Senesac, Member Services Coordinator
05	REACH-ing Out: ICA Indonesia Chapter 1st Anniversary Celebrating with Artificial Intelligence and Sustainability Nia Sarinastiti, ICA Indonesia Chapter
06	Membership Column ICA Member Services Team
07	Governance Spotlight: Saumava Mitra Julie Arnold, Director of Governance & Member Services
08	Member Spotlight: Hanjie Liu Karly Senesac, Member Services Coordinator
09	Student Column Dan Andrew, SECAC Committee Member
10	Reflecting on 50 Years of Theory in <i>Human Communication Research</i>: Where Do We Go From Here Dan Andrew, SECAC Committee Member

International Communication Association 2023-2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Committee

Eun-Ju Lee, President, Seoul National U
Silvio Waisbord, President-Elect, George Washington U
Noshir Contractor, Immediate Past President, Northwestern U
Mary Beth Oliver, Past President, Pennsylvania State U
Claes De Vreese, General Secretary, U of Amsterdam
Elisia Cohen, Treasurer, U of Minnesota
Laura Sawyer, Executive Director (ex-officio), ICA

Members-at-Large

Herman Wasserman, U of Capetown
Michael Kent, U of New South Wales
Shinsuke Eguchi, U of New Mexico
Soumia Bardhan, U of Colorado, Denver (ex-officio)
Rabindra Ratan, Michigan State U (ex-officio)

Student & Early Career Representatives

Yue "Nancy" Dai, City U of Hong Kong
Yuxi Cecilia Zhou, U of Massachusetts, Amherst

Division & Interest Group Chairs

Hanan Badr, Activism, Communication, and Social Justice, Paris Lodron U of Salzburg
Drew Cingel, Children, Adolescents, and the Media, U of California, Davis
Caleb Carr, Communication and Technology, Illinois State U
Cristina Mislan, Communication History, U of Missouri, Columbia
Luzhou (Nina) Li, Communication Law & Policy, Monash U
Richard Huskey, Communication Science and Biology, U of California, Davis
Annie Waldherr, Computational Methods, U of Vienna
Silje Kristiansen, Environmental Communication, SUNY
Mohan Dutta, Ethnicity and Race in Communication, Massey U
Esra Ozcan, Feminist Scholarship, Tulane U
Maxwell Foxman, Game Studies, U of Oregon
Saba Bebawi, Global Communication and Social Change, U of Technology, Sydney
Lourdes Martinez, Health Communication, San Diego State U
Chad Edwards, Human-Machine Communication, Western Michigan U
David Jeong, Information Systems, Santa Clara U
Michelle Violanti, Instructional and Developmental Communication, U of Tennessee
Sudeshna Roy, Intercultural Communication, Stephen F. Austin State U
Yan Bing Zhang, Intergroup Communication, U of Kansas
Jeffrey Hall, Interpersonal Communication, U of Kansas
Annika Sehl, Journalism Studies, U der Bundeswehr München
Todd Sandel, Language & Social Interaction, U of Macau
Lik Sam Chan, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Queer Studies, The Chinese U of Hong Kong
Sharif Mowlabocus, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Queer Studies, Fordham U
Dana Mastro, Mass Communication, U of California, Santa Barbara
Emily West, Media Industry Studies, U of Massachusetts, Amherst
Marieke Vanden Abeele, Mobile Communication, Ghent U
Boris Brummans, Organizational Communication, U of Montreal
Tanja Dreher, Philosophy, Theory, and Critique, U of New South Wales
Frank Esser, Political Communication, U of Zurich
Yupei Zhao, Popular Media & Culture, Zhejiang U
Steven Pike, Public Diplomacy, Syracuse U
W. Timothy Coombs, Public Relations, Centre for Crisis and Risk Communications
Michael Butterworth, Sport Communication, U of Texas at Austin
Saumava Mitra, Visual Communication Studies, Dublin City U

Editorial & Advertising

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

ICA Newsletter is published 10 times annually (combining January-February and June-July issues) by the International Communication Association.

ICA JOURNAL EDITORS

Annals of the International Communication Association

Herman Wasserman, *U of Cape Town*

annals.of.ica@gmail.com

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

Communication, Culture, & Critique

Melissa A. Click, *Gonzaga U*

click@gonzaga.edu

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

Communication Theory

Jörg Matthes, *U of Vienna*

joerg.matthes@univie.ac.at

<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>

YOU WON'T BELIEVE THESE 14 RULES FOR PICKING ICA CONFERENCE LOCATIONS!

Laura Sawyer, Executive Director

I've lured you in with this obvious, clickbait headline so I can reveal to you the "secrets" (that I'll tell anyone who asks) of how we pick future locations for ICA conferences. This may seem like a dry topic, but ICA members often have strong opinions about where their favorite associations go for conferences...and rightly so, as you're somewhat bound to follow us if you want to present your paper. It may seem at times as if locations are picked at random but there is more to the process than may be apparent from the outside. If you've ever been curious about the process, or felt the location wasn't a good choice, please read on.

For many, the annual ICA conference is a place where, decade after decade, they return to reconnect with their mentors, mentees, and colleagues; to have a "reunion" with those they went through the PhD process with years ago who have gone on to do great things in various parts of the world; to connect with a potential new research partner; or to reconnect with a former student who may need to sit down for a cup of coffee and career advice. Some of our members have even met their future spouses at ICA, and at least one family has an adult child who is now presenting her own research at ICA every year! **More than any other association I've worked for or with, ICA is a true global community—one we work to make more open and inclusive every year.** The annual conference is a huge part of both ICA's identity and the value proposition we give our members, so we put a significant amount of thought, care, and effort into selecting the location, assembling the content, and ensuring the logistics are as seamless as possible.

First, the basics: The Annual ICA Conference is held over five days, usually the last weekend of May. In the past, ICA only ventured outside North America every third year, but ICA now follows a general pattern of meeting outside North America *at least* every other year (more if we can), with those years alternating between Europe and Asia/Oceania (this pattern is changing - read on for more detail). That pattern has been disrupted, obviously, by events such as the global COVID-19 pandemic (which led me to negotiate new contracts moving our 2020 Australia conference and our 2021 Denver conference to 2024 and 2025, respectively, without cancellation penalties).

The ICA community is mostly aware of that original rotation pattern, but much of the rest of the ethos behind our current conference decision-making may seem shrouded in mystery. The purpose of this article—a wholesale revision of a less-detailed version I wrote for the newsletter in 2017—is to **provide more information on the reasoning behind our**

continued on page 15

GETTING TO KNOW ICA STAFF

Karly Senesac, Member Services Coordinator

As we approach the 74th Annual Conference, we thought it would be a good idea to introduce ourselves to new members and share a bit about the people behind the scenes who make the magic happen. As a small staff organization of just seven hard-working individuals, we all take on a variety of responsibilities to make this organization run smoothly and serve the membership effectively. As you read our bios you will see who here does what, as well as a little bit of personal info! Please refer to our newsletter blog for the full version of each Q&A.

laura



Laura Sawyer
Executive Director/CEO

What are you responsible for at ICA?

I serve on the Executive Committee as the Chief Executive Officer of the association and report to the president of the association in coordination with a six-member executive committee and a 33+ member board of directors. I provide overall leadership and direction of all ICA activities to ensure the accomplishment of the organization's mission, vision, core values, and strategic initiatives. I oversee and facilitate the core activities of ICA, including a vibrant and innovative publishing program, a complex 4,000+ attendee annual conference, various global-regional initiatives (such as regional conferences, hubs, and chapters), and divisional priorities and activities. I develop and maintain key business and community partnerships and sponsorships, maintain and grow our relationships with universities and funders, enhance financial sustainability, guide strategic growth, and help shape policy that fosters high-quality research and dissemination of that research. I am also responsible for supervising and mentoring ICA's excellent headquarters staff, a team of seven talented and passionate individuals who are each fantastic at what they do.

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

Though I have an undergrad in communications and a grad degree in literature (I'm a big word nerd), I was a professional actor in Chicago

for most of my twenties - mostly on stage, but in several indie films and as a multi-season, recurring character on one major network television show.

What is your favorite song/band/movie/TV show?

Song: Oof, too many to mention. Anything by The National, TV on the Radio, or Prince.
Band: If I have to pick just one...The National.
Movie: I don't think I can narrow this to just one; different films are for different times of life, different moods. I love old John Hughes movies or romantic schlock from my middle school years like Dirty Dancing and Pretty Woman, because it's comfort food that takes me back to a simpler time....most recently, I loved BIUTIFUL and ROMA. At this year's Oscars my favorite films were Oppenheimer, Past Lives, and Poor Things.
TV Show: The Sopranos, Mad Men, Six Feet Under.

What is your most interesting/funniest past job?

As a teen, one summer I worked at the local funeral home and crematorium. Dickson Funeral Home had been around for generations, but their son and heir, Abner, was also a magician. He was fortyish, had no interest in the family business, and had lots of money, so he traveled the world collecting magic memorabilia such as a pair of padlocks used by Harry Houdini, etc. He hired me to inventory, clean, and organize his entire collection of magic ephemera, which was (unfortunately) all stored in the basement of the funeral home, among the coffin inventory and right next to the embalming room. It was a weird summer.

Are you team #dogsofica (or) #catsofica?

#dogsofICA! (I'm allergic to cats, sadly.)



REACH-ING OUT: INDONESIA CHAPTER

Nia Sarinastiti (ICA Indonesia Chapter, Sustainability and Circular Economy Consultant and Atma Jaya Catholic U of Indonesia)

ICA Indonesia Chapter 1st Anniversary Celebrating with Artificial Intelligence and Sustainability

To celebrate the **ICA Indonesia Chapter 1st Anniversary**, the Chapter organized a day of webinars on March 7th, 2024, with founders, members, affiliates, and other country chapters on **Artificial Intelligence and Sustainability**. AI has the potential to address major societal problems, including sustainability.

In the opening remarks from the Indonesia Chapter Chair, Prof. **Dorien Kartikawangi**, M.Si stated that although the chapter is only a year old, it has conducted and partnered with three main events and has close to 100 members. As the first chapter of ICA, there was initially pressure to ensure it could attract Indonesians' interest. But now, international exposure has been a value-added benefit for members.

The events were substantially intriguing in discussing the state of sustainability through AI implementation. The first panel, moderated by **Loina Perangin-angin** of Swiss-German University, featured a discussion with Prof. Dr. **Daniel Raichvarg** (ICA France Chapter and Emeritus Professor, Bourgogne U), **Riza Primahendra** (Strategy and Sustainability Management Specialist, Amerta Consulting), and Dr. **Nia Sarinastiti**, M.A. (ICA Indonesia Chapter, Sustainability and Circular Economy Consultant and Atma Jaya Catholic U of Indonesia). It focused on how AI can be an advantage for organizations in communicating businesses' value propositions. Helping make operational aspects and decision-making easier provides a better opportunity for human interaction - with communities, patients, and other stakeholders.

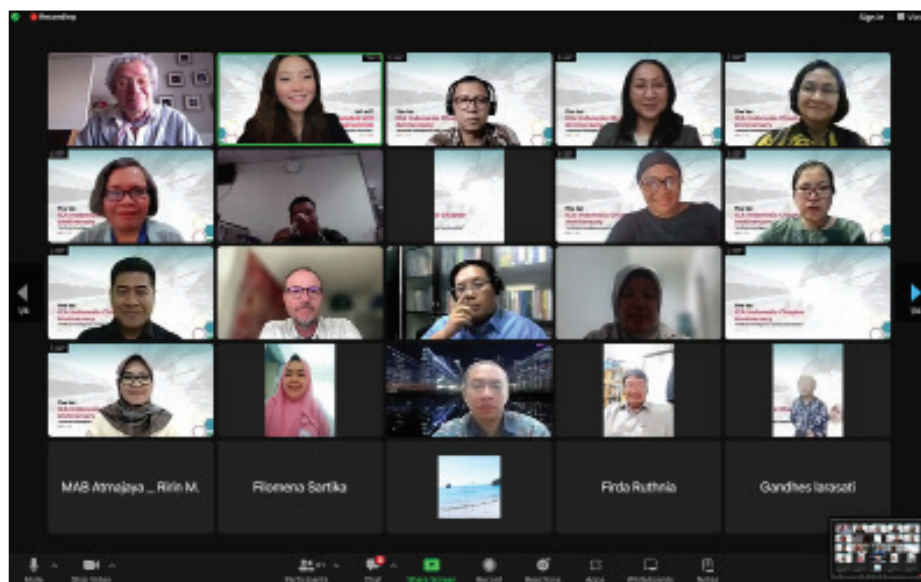
Panelists at the Inter-ICA Regional Chapter session, with representatives from Indonesia, Nigeria, and France, agreed that all countries - developed, emerging, and developing - face the same challenges regarding how AI can be adopted to help in education. People are still a bit wary of dealing with AI as an "assistant" or "new professional" therefore, the debate of human versus machine may take some time to resolve.

Ekaete George - the ICA Chapter Lead of Nigeria - stated that AI has started to be used in Africa, but

not all of it is at the same stage. Nigeria is still evolving compared to Egypt and Mauritius, which have a national policy and framework. AI is still developing and managed by the Ministry of Communication, Innovation, and Digital Economy through the National Information Technology Development Agency. **Philippe Bonfils** of the ICA Chapter in France and from Toulon U - shared how education research is being done in AI involving students. These include developing an immersive environment for simulations. An example is an electronic and digital environment for apprenticeship learning that evaluates using data and AI in the naval industries. Bonfils further emphasized the current research regarding immersive user experience, behavioral simulation implementation, and AI integration with learner data, code engine, and output solutions. Bonfils, underscored the importance for educators to develop hard skills and improve mass education, increase open database resources, adapt education content for mobile ability, and improve interactive systems for student involvement. But again, ethics, rules, and transparency need to be considered.

Indonesia's **Sri Hastarjo**, who moderated the session, stated that the first application of AI in Indonesia is to interact with customers using chatbots, especially using women's voices rather than men's. The second development is on content creation, especially in producing scientific or journalistic work, but the question of ethics persists on originality.

At the last session on Ethical AI and Regulations, the Secretary of the Director General on Technology Application at the Ministry of Communication and Informatics, Dr. **Ir. I Nyoman Adhiarna, M.Eng** and Professor **Noshir Contractor**, Ph.D - Former ICA President agreed for the need to focus on ethics in addition to regulations. Moderated by **Yearry Setianto** (ICA Member and Lecturer at U Multimedia Nusantara), Adhiarna stated that regulations on AI are not the current target, but understanding the implications of AI is the highest concern. Contractor shared the current research on the application of AI to accelerate innovation, scaling up global health solutions, and preparing for human space missions to Mars.



MEMBERSHIP COLUMN

ICA Member Services team

New Members: Getting Started at ICA

Each year, leading up to the annual ICA conference, ICA welcomes an influx of new members, many of whom were enticed to join by member discounted pricing on conference registration. Some come to ICA with a built-in network of peers, advisors, or colleagues, that help you get started. For others, your ICA journey is just beginning, and it can be overwhelming learning where to start, how to make connections, and how to make the most of your ICA member benefits. Regardless of which category you fall into, we welcome you to ICA! Here are a few protips for getting started:

- ☑ **First-time attendees, review** the infographic guide on this page with specific tips for attending the annual ICA conference as a “newbie”
- ☑ **Access** [ICA's six scholarly journals online](#), including all previously published issues.
- ☑ **Follow** us on socials; keep up to date on all things ICA via [X](#), [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), [Linkedin](#), & [Mastodon](#).
- ☑ **Network** via ICA's engagement platform [The Link](#). Members utilize the platform in many ways such as: posing research questions, seeking feedback, and hunting for relevant literature. Don't forget to check out the [Public Channel](#) & [Latest News](#) channel to stay updated on everything ICA!
- ☑ **Join** another one of ICA's 33 [Divisions or Interest Groups](#). Every ICA member is required to join at least one division or interest group, but many elect to join more than one! They are a great way to customize your ICA experience based on your topic area(s) of interest. *Contact us at membership@icahdq.org for more info on how to add a new Division/Interest group outside of the online join/renew process.*
- ☑ **Introduce yourself** within your Division/Interest Group. **Start a discussion thread** or pose a question via The Link, each division and interest group has a community you can access under “[my communities](#).” **Reach out** to [division](#) and [interest group](#) leadership to introduce yourself as a new member. If you feel shy about reaching out, contact [Julie Arnold](#), ICA's Director of Member Services & Governance, who will happily connect you with leadership and introduce you as a new member. **Say hello** to ICA staff at the Onsite Registration during the conference booth, we love getting to know new members!
- ☑ **Explore** ICA [Engagement opportunities](#); **submit** an Expression of Interest during the open call period. Becoming part of a committee or task force helps get you on the radar of, and build connections with, ICA Leadership. If you're ambitious to advance within the leadership, volunteering for a committee or task

continued on page 20

NEW MEMBER/FIRST TIME ATTENDEE TIPS



BEFORE YOU GO

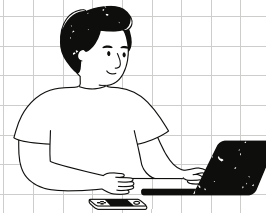
DO YOUR RESEARCH

- Read the PDF program
- Browse, download papers, and create your schedule through the mobile app
- Review the [Inclusion & Accessibility webpage](#)



COME PREPARED

TECHNOLOGY: Bring your own adapter, plugs, chargers/power banks, clickers, etc.



EVENTS TO ATTEND

- Opening Plenary
- Opening Reception
- Annual New Member Meeting/
- SECAC Orientation
- Poster Sessions
- Fellows' Sessions
- Meet the Editors
- Ice Cream Social

DURING CONFERENCE



- Closing Keynote
- Closing Toast

HELLO
my name is

NAME BADGE/ CHECK-IN

Come to the Registration area and check in using the email address you used to register. Have your registration receipt available just in case. Don't forget to grab a FIRST TIME ATTENDEE ribbon.

COMMUNICATE

SOCIAL MEDIA

For important updates and daily highlights during conference itself, follow ICA on Facebook and X. Follow and use the #ICA24 hashtag.

THE LINK

Learn “newbie” pro-tips, ask a question, find a buddy, set up a meet & greet, etc. by joining a designated community on the Link: [Conference Classifieds & Tips](#)



GOVERNANCE SPOTLIGHT ON ICA LEADERSHIP

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. This on-going series is coordinated by Julie Arnold, Director of Governance & Member Services.



Q & A

Saumava Mitra

Dublin City U

Chair, Visual Communication Studies Division

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

A. I have been an ICA member since 2018 and ICA 2018 at Prague was my first conference.

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

A. My research focus has been on the production and circulation of visuals of conflicts till now. But more and more, I see myself drawn to thinking about the creation and perpetuation of visible and invisible margins within global communication practice and scholarship. In both, my methodological approach remains grounded and bottom-up in how I observe, understand and question structures of entrenched power.

Q. What is your favorite thing about ICA?

A. The ICA conference, to a great extent, retains a focus on academic rigour and quality of scholarship, while also striving to become more inclusive.

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

A. A leader holds themselves

accountable to those in relatively powerless positions than they are in, rather than feeling responsible 'upwards' to those in relatively more powerful positions. This requires both flexibility and a moral compass. While not perfect, I try my best to cultivate both qualities.

Q. What advice would you offer members interested in leadership roles with ICA?

A. Leadership roles at ICA, like all other leadership roles, involve a lot of minutiae. They also come with set ways of doing things and expectations. I'd like to suggest to ICA leaders as representatives of a group of scholars that they use their skepticism and critical faculties when it comes to administrative responsibilities as much as they do as in their scholarly work.

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

A. I was nominated as a candidate to division chairship by a senior scholar whose work I admire and respect very much. I was subsequently elected and had the chance of working alongside other senior scholars whose work I admire

and respect. I felt privileged to be allowed to have this role.

Q. Tell us a little about the charge of your group, what goals are you working towards?

A. Our division is currently engaged in embedding various processes which hopefully will help in creating inclusion and recognition opportunities for both emerging scholars and senior scholars of visual communication. As a new-ish member of the ICA community, I retain a feeling of being an 'outsider within' as a current division chair. As such, I try to think through processes we adopt for decision-making at the division in terms of making them sustainable, broadly inclusive and most importantly fair and transparent.

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

A. The division has had a goal of becoming a broader tent than it already is by becoming more inclusive and diverse. Every little jigsaw piece of this enormous puzzle that I am able to slot into the right place during my short time in the

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

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. This on-going series is coordinated by Karly Senesac, Member Services Coordinator.

Q & A

Hanjie Liu

Ph.D. Student/Editorial Assistant for Journal of Communication
Michigan State University



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

A. I have had the joy of being an ICA member since ICA-Paris (2022), which was also my very first in-person conference!

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

A. I care about the influence of social media on vulnerable groups, especially those facing psychological stress (e.g., socially anxious individuals) or experiencing exclusion (e.g., victims of ostracism) within online relational environments. In my program of research, I employed quantitative surveys and experiments for understanding social media users' psychological processes. I study both explicit and implicit cues on social media, employing implicit measures such as IAT or response latency tasks.

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

A. I served as a Tech volunteer at ICA-Paris (2022 ICA conference), and it remains my favorite and most memorable experience. By assisting with the technology set-up, I had the opportunity to help and connect with chairs and moderators from different divisions. It was during this time that I realized facilitating a synchronous

online/offline conference is not easy; it is the result of collaborative efforts from many individuals. I received very kind thank-you emails from the chairs from the sessions I volunteered in, and I also had the chance to chat with scholars in various divisions. I got to know many outstanding peers who were also tech volunteers. I still keep in touch with some of them! This is indeed a lasting treasure for me.

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

A. I cherish every ICA conference I have attended—the remarkable scholars, the warm community, and the supportive environment all contribute to why I always look forward to participating in ICA conferences. Each year at ICA, I reconnect with old colleagues and friends and also have the pleasure of getting to know new peers and scholars. The end of May has become my best summer memories because of ICA! If I were to pick a favorite, I would say the next one (wink wink).

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

A. Whenever this question pops up, my instant answer is always "Dave!!" Dr. David Ewoldsen isn't just a mentor; he is the most inspiring and supportive sunshine in the journey of academia (and trust me, I can almost

hear thousands of Comm students nodding in agreement as I type this). It was when I was designing studies and writing papers that I realized how Dave has been influencing me with a strong, theory-driven mindset and dynamic thinking of the psychological process. He is the one who is always there with wisdom and words of encouragement. If you have the pleasure of meeting him, you'll know he's got a cup that proudly declares 'I am the sunshine' - that cup isn't exaggerating - Dave is the living, breathing embodiment of sunshine in the comm world!

Getting to know Hanjie on a more personal level:

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

A. Playing guitar :)

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

A. Probably my younger self. I'd tell her, "invest in Nvidia!" =D

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

A. Friends is always my go-to tv show.

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

A. Teleportation!

STUDENT COLUMN

Cecilia Zhou (U of Massachusetts Amherst) and Nancy Dai (City U of Hong Kong),
co-chairs of the Student and Early Career Advisory Committee of ICA

Introducing the ICA Student Track

Greetings, student and early career scholars!

First time attending ICA and in need of ideas on which sessions or events you should go to? Please allow us to introduce the Student Track for the ICA's 74th Annual Conference, which contains a series of handpicked sessions recommended for students and early career scholars. These events are open to all and would provide you great opportunities to socialize with other fellow students, connect with senior scholars, and professionalize yourself into ICA and the academic world.

Thursday: Inaugurate Your Experience

On Thursday, begin your journey with the profound Opening Plenary discussing the intersection of communication and human rights, illuminated by the insights of Profs. **Mary Graham**, **Rosalind Croucher**, and **Libby Lester**. Continue the evening with the vibrant Opening Reception, where you can nurture connections that might shape your career.

- **ICA24 OPENING PLENARY: A Conversation About Communication and Human Rights in Australia and the World:** 5:45 PM-7:15 PM, Arena 2 (GCCEC Ground)
- **ICA24 Opening Reception:** 7:30 PM-9:30 PM, HALL 3 (GCCEC Ground)

Saturday: Staying Tuned with the Early Career Scholar Committee

Saturday is all about bridging gaps and connecting with the student and early career community at ICA. Start with a blue sky workshop on bridging the research-practice gap, followed by orientation sessions that connect you with the ICA community and the Student & Early-Career Advisory Committee. In the afternoon, you will find sessions that offer interesting discussions about navigating the academia and workplace as student and early career scholars.

- **Blue sky workshop:** The Research-Practice Gap: Finding Common Ground, Sharing Ideas, 9:00 AM-10:15 AM, Kirra Boardroom (Star L2)
- **ICA New Member and Student & Early-Career Scholar Orientation:** 10:30 AM-11:45 AM, Room 7 (GCCEC Upper)

- **ICA Student & Early-Career Advisory Committee (SECAC) Business Meeting:** 12:00 PM-1:15 PM, Room 7 (GCCEC Upper)
- **Student Success as Human Right: Lessons from Universities in Africa, North America, and Middle East:** 1:30 PM-2:45 PM, Kirra Boardroom (Star L2)
- **Interpersonal Communication II: Early Career Newcomers' Conceptions of Workplace Relationships:** 3:00 PM-4:15 PM, Central A (GCCEC Ground)
- **ICA24 Presidential Address, Fellows' Induction, Awards Ceremony, and Business Meeting:** 4:30 PM-5:45 PM, Arena 2 (GCCEC Ground)

Sunday: Exploring Global Horizons, Celebrate, and Socialize

Sunday's blue sky workshop provides a global perspective on the academic job market, which might be of particular interest for those of you who are on the job market. After that, we invite you to join a conversation with this year's inducted fellows where they will share their insights about their careers and their visions of the field's future. At the top paper session in Organizational Communication, you will catch an interesting presentation about getting socialized in academia as an early career scholar. And, don't forget to drop by the ICA Student & Early-Career Scholars' Reception and end the day on a high note with music, dance, networking, and lots of fun!

- **Blue sky workshop: Global Perspectives on the Job Market in Communication:** 9:00 AM-10:15 AM, Currumbin Boardroom (Star L2)
- **HYBRID: ICA24 Sunday Fellows' Session:** 12:00 PM-1:15 PM, Arena 2 (GCCEC Ground)
- **Top Papers in Organizational Communication: Getting Socialized but Trying Not to Get Stuck: Early Career Professionals' Liminality in Dual Socialization Processes:** 3:00 PM-4:15 PM, Central C (GCCEC Ground)
- **ICA Student & Early-Career Scholars' Reception:** 8:00 PM-10:00 PM, Central A (GCCEC Ground)

We hope this student track will inspire your selection of sessions at ICA 2024. And we look forward to seeing you at Gold Coast soon!



Reflecting on 50 years of theory in *Human Communication Research*: where do we go from here

Mary Beth Oliver ^{1,*}, Homero Gil de Zúñiga ^{2,3,4}, Tamara D. Afifi ⁵

¹Department of Media Studies, Pennsylvania State University, Pennsylvania, USA

²Democracy Research Unit, University of Salamanca, Salamanca, Spain

³Department of Media Studies, Pennsylvania State University, Pennsylvania, USA

⁴Centro de Investigación en Comunicación, Literatura y Observación Social (CICLOS), Universidad Diego Portales, Santiago, Chile

⁵Department of Communication, University of California Santa Barbara, California, USA

*Corresponding author: Mary Beth Oliver. Email: mbo@psu.edu

Abstract

This essay is an introduction to the special issue on “Rethinking and Expanding Communication Theories on *HCR*’s 50th Anniversary.” We begin by arguing that communication research has expanded substantially since *Human Communication Research*’s inaugural issue. However, in light of changes in communication technologies, political discourse, means of engaging in interpersonal communication, and awareness of the importance of diversity and inclusion, this special issue takes note of our current theorizing and ways to build as we look toward the future. The essays in this special issue, reviewed in this article, will undoubtedly prompt us to re-think, re-envision, and renew our commitment to the importance of communication theory, both in terms of where we have been and in terms of where we can progress.

Keywords: human communication research, communication theory, persuasion, communication technology, media use/selection/effects

As one of the most influential scientific outlets in our field, *Human Communication Research* (*HCR*) is focused on the development, refinement, and critique of communication theory and beyond. In celebration of the 50th anniversary of this foundational journal, we are proud to serve as guest editors for this special issue, “Rethinking and Expanding Communication Theories.” In a moment in history replete with rapid changes in how and what we communicate, we believe that the timing of this special issue could not be more apt.

Our field has matured significantly over these last 50 years. However, we found ourselves living in tumultuous times marked by fast-paced technological changes, transformations in political discourse, evolutions in interpersonal communication, and a greater appreciation of the importance of diversity and inclusion. As a result, variables once deemed important may now play different roles in our contemporary society. Our models may require revision, new concepts await exploration, and novel ways of understanding and explaining communication phenomena merit careful consideration. This special issue not only highlights our past theoretical contributions in *HCR*, but also gathers the collective wisdom of scholars showcasing their theoretical development, critique, and expansion. We believe that the contributions of our authors will prompt us to re-think, re-envision, and renew our commitment to the importance of theory by providing greater understanding and vision for the future.

In our call for abstracts, we encouraged scholars to focus on theory development rather than providing a review of existing theories. In particular, we asked contributors to concentrate on theorizing as a means to provide a roadmap for scholars. The roadmap integrated into this special volume aims to enhance our understanding of communication,

considering the evolving communication landscapes and promoting inclusivity regarding issues relevant to our global and diverse societies. Although *HCR* is often perceived as a social scientific journal, we welcomed scholars of all methodological and epistemological approaches, noting that interdisciplinary ways of theorizing about communication phenomena often lead to greater nuance and inclusivity.

Our initial call for extended abstracts resulted in 158 submissions. Each co-editor individually read and rated each paper for its appropriateness and scholarly potential. Together, we discussed these ratings and invited the authors of 21 papers to submit their full manuscripts for review by two to three scholars. Out of these submissions, 15 were accepted for publication in the special issue. These essays cover a wealth of topics, and they employ a variety of approaches in furthering theory in the discipline, highlighting important issues pertaining to our changing media, cultural, and technological environments, and undoubtedly providing rich frameworks and lenses that will guide our future research.

To chart the future of theory in our discipline, it remains essential to reflect on our past. Shue et al. (2024) examined all of the manuscripts with empirical data published in *HCR* from 1974 to 2022, identifying named theories mentioned in the abstract, keywords, or section headers to determine popular trends. Shue et al. provide trends in theories over time, noting the remarkable growth in theories throughout the journal’s history. They also observe the continued practice of “theory shopping”—using a theory once and exploring a wide variety of other theories. Shue et al. also detail how researchers have developed and tested theories. In contrast, Levine and Markowitz’s (2024) essay provides an important critique of theory development in our discipline. The authors contend that there might be an overemphasis on developing

theory for “theory’s sake” and raise questions about the necessity and timing of many theories. They challenge readers to adopt a more forward-thinking approach to the essential role of exploratory research, cautioning against dismissing its relevance or importance due to a lack of theory.

Other authors in this special issue challenge past “taken-for-granted” assumptions about the ways data are analyzed, viewed, and collected by scholars in the field of communication. Kim’s (2024) essay draws upon a growing area of research that applies a critical/cultural perspective to quantitative data or quantitative criticalism (QuantCrit). For most of our field’s history, scholars did not believe that critical/cultural and post-positivist approaches could be used together. In fact, these approaches were often thought to be mutually opposed in their epistemological and methodological orientations. Kim discusses the value of using a critical cultural approach to quantitative data, but more importantly, she shows examples of how scholars have accomplished this in their work. Going a step further, Ramasubramanian and Dutta (2024) outline their CODE[^]SHIFT model, which provides a framework for how researchers can collect and analyze data from a social justice perspective. Their community-engaged framework allows researchers to conduct research with principles of equity-mindedness, collective impact, purposiveness, and systemic change in mind.

Perhaps not surprisingly, technology is another important theme in this issue. Lee’s (2024) essay encourages us to think critically about how we interact with machines. Her overarching goal is to reconcile two strands of argument—that we treat computers as social actors or that we treat machines differently. In so doing, Lee presents a new theoretical approach regarding human–machine communication in which machine heuristics function as a conditional moderator.

Entertainment theory is also a notable theme in this special issue. Rather than conceptualizing entertainment in terms of its diversionary pleasures, the two essays focus on how entertainment serves as a source of information and can be leveraged for persuasion. In their essay, Bartsch et al. (2024) challenge the notion that fictional content lacks informative value and argue that it forms an important part of knowledge acquisition. Rather than suggesting that audiences simply accept any factual information contained in entertainment, Bartsch et al. present a model of audience acceptance or rejection of knowledge from entertainment as a social process involving verification of information. Moyer-Gusé and Wilson (2024) also theorize about entertainment, but their work focuses on narrative persuasion. Specifically, these authors argue that narrative persuasion models would benefit from considering eudaimonic entertainment and the persuasive role it may provide. These authors present two models illustrating meaningful narrative experiences (inward-focused) and self-transcendent narrative experiences (outward-focused), noting the important mediating mechanisms that are thought to predict story-consistent attitudes and behaviors.

The importance of user response to information is also evident in Amazeen’s (2024) essay in which she presents the Misinformation Recognition and Response Model (MRRM). This model guides the reader from the audience’s initial exposure to misinformation to the ultimate cognitive, affective, and behavioral outcomes, noting the importance of audience recognition of misinformation when it is encountered. She then provides an outline for possible future research which will serve to validate and extend the model.

Another theme in this special issue is making the work of communication more transparent. Donovan and Hazlett’s essay (2024) sets forth an integrated theory of work, specifically grounded in the area of health. In this piece, the authors discuss the difficulty people have managing and communicating about their medical conditions to others. Communicating about one’s illness can be particularly emotion-laden and laborious and often involves “communication work.” The authors provide a typology of work tasks and future directions in this area of research.

Holbert et al. (2024) engage in a much-needed theoretical discussion to assess the role of empirical mediated interactions in communication research. In past decades, the advancement of mediated models and interactions in the field of communication has experienced a substantial transformation. It can easily be expected that this trend will be even more accentuated in the future. The study helps readers understand why there is a need for solid theorizing when proposing these types of models to avoid sub-optimal explication of any proposed constructs. It also emphasizes the importance of improving measurement strategies and refining construct operationalization. By doing so, forthcoming research will be better positioned to report models with indirect and moderation effects more accurately. Ultimately, based on Monte Carlo simulations, this article provides important theoretical support to reject the MacArthur approach (Kraemer et al., 2008), which limits third variable roles based on time, advocating for a more expansive view. It also encourages a better assessment of curvilinear relationships, including quadratic and cubic associations.

As Holbert et al. (2024) emphasized the importance of theorizing about complex media effects, Hoewe and Ewoldsen (2024) paid attention to similar complexities when it comes to understanding individuals’ media habits. Specifically, the authors introduce the MUM, or *media use model*, based on a metatheoretical framework that attempts to encompass *why* and *how* individuals use media. Their piece cleverly explains that media users have diverse expectations, motivations, and even some individual constraints when selecting the media they want to be exposed to and when comprehending the content of those messages. This constraint satisfaction approach also lends theoretical space for a nuanced understanding of a holistic cognitive process of media messages. Likewise, another interesting feature of their model lies in the expectation that media messages operate on a continuum of coherence and incoherence, where media users may reach different interpretations of the same media content.

Gong and Huskey (2024) also address complementary media selection theories. These authors argue that most current and past communication theoretical models are ill-equipped to cope with peoples’ contemporary media selection strategies. First, they posit that the way individuals choose media today is not necessarily tied to a specific point in time but rather involves a sequential time-dependent process. In this process, individuals select future content based on what they have previously consumed. Taking advantage of computational methods, this article proposes a theoretical framework named “value-based decision-making” with five distinct mechanisms. These mechanisms better serve the purpose of clarifying sequential dependencies in media selection. Overall, this article underscores the importance for researchers to be mindful about these non-stationary media choices. The choice of which mechanism to use also depends on whether the goal is predicting future media choices or other outcomes.

As the field of communication continues to grow and the research expands in more diverse ways, there might also be the need for a clearer set of scientific principles to guide future studies in maximizing internal and external theory coherence. This is precisely what Demetriades et al. (2024) propose in this essay. The authors argue that the field currently has the necessary theoretical foundations to achieve this goal, but unfortunately, it hasn't fully embraced the current range of available ideas as a collective goal. The essay then becomes a systematic attempt to lay the groundwork for this process to thrive using two specific scientific principles in communication. A *pragmatism principle* showcases a goal-oriented approach researchers need to adopt by thinking beyond the originally planned effects of their studies and to consider the potential outcomes of their research beyond its immediate impact. In contrast, a *causality principle* will help researchers not focus solely on generating newer theories based on empirically obtained results but also facilitate the appreciation of communication effects that can and will change over time.

In an attempt to advance and guide future research in the realm of social norms and persuasion, Chen et al. (2024) draw from 85 studies to generate a theoretical framework that facilitates paying attention to the effects of social norms and why they matter for persuasion mechanisms. They inductively developed a theory that helps readers understand how specific messages about social norms ultimately affect people's behavior. Given the mixed findings in prior research linking social norms and behaviors, this theoretical piece clarifies factors that make messages more or less effective in persuading others, creating new grounds to better understand individually targeted messages based on social norms. In doing so, the authors claim that, for the most part, prior research focuses on using theories that deal with social norms, and instead, we should pay more attention to understanding the roles of these norms, particularly in relation to peoples' behavior. Their approach diminishes the potential confusion between norm-based messages and what people generally perceive as the norm.

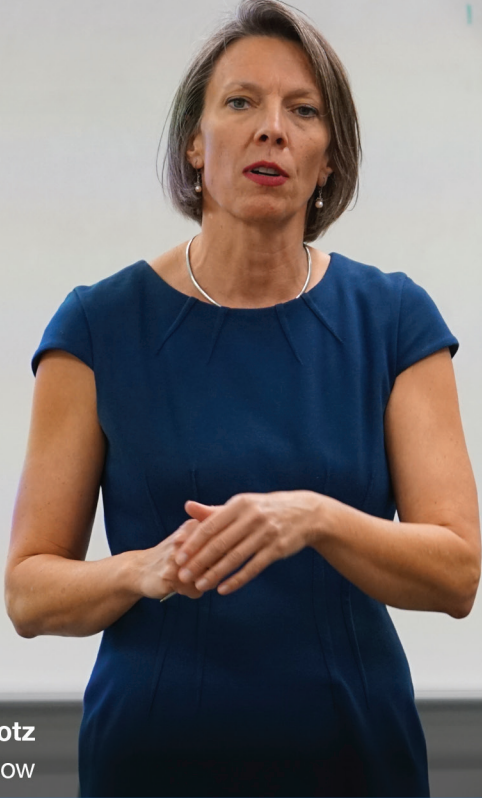
Likewise, building communication theory within the scope of the effects of persuasive messages, Keating (2024) proposes a cleverly streamlined theory that contributes to a better understanding of how persuasive messages function in society. In short, the author argues that based on a set of four lines of argumentation, an overarching persuasion theory may be advanced. The first set of argumentation centers on causality. Specifically, theorists should elaborate on the expected causal order of effects and then do a better job explaining the basic principles that will clarify that particular causal order of effects. Then, the article advocates for researchers' latitude in deciding which cognitive persuasive causal orders may be too complex to be explored. Thus, it contends that it might not be necessary to excessively delve into a sequence of complicated causal order processes. The third and fourth sets of theoretical arguments revolve around the explication and use of 'beliefs' in persuasion theory. The essay argues for the assumption that beliefs may be treated as separate entities when it comes to persuasion, asserting that persuasive messages may work best when they activate and change whole groups or networks of connected beliefs.

Given the careful insights that these articles provide, we feel certain that readers of *HCR* will find them helpful in encouraging greater nuance in our development, critique, and use of theory in the field. It is apt, then, that they form the

basis of a "Happy 50th Birthday" message to one of the discipline's most respected and innovative journals.

References

- Amazeen, M. A. (2024). The misinformation recognition and response model: an emerging theoretical framework for investigating antecedents to and consequences of misinformation recognition. *Human Communication Research*, 50(2), 218–229. <https://doi.org/10.1093/hcr/hqad040>
- Bartsch, A., Mares, M.-L., Schindler, J., Kühn, J., & Krack, I. (2024). Trust but verify? A social epistemology framework of knowledge acquisition and verification practices for fictional entertainment. *Human Communication Research*, 50(2), 194–207. <https://doi.org/10.1093/hcr/hqad036>
- Chen, J., Xia, S., & Lin, T. (2024). A framework of moderators in social norm-based message persuasiveness based on a systematic review. *Human Communication Research*, 50(2), 285–298. <https://doi.org/10.1093/hcr/hqad043>
- Demetriades, S. Z., Walter, N., & Holbert, R. L. (2024). Ushering in an age of scientific principles for communication research. *Human Communication Research*, 50(2), 276–284. <https://doi.org/10.1093/hcr/hqad038>
- Donovan, E. E., & Hazlett, A. D. (2024). The labor of communicatively coping: toward an Integrative Theory of Communication Work. *Human Communication Research*, 50(2), 230–239. <https://doi.org/10.1093/hcr/hqad049>
- Gong, X., & Huskey, R. (2024). Consider the time dimension: Theorizing and formalizing sequential media selection. *Human Communication Research*, 50(2), 264–275. <https://doi.org/10.1093/hcr/hqad051>
- Hoewe, J., & Ewoldsen, D. R. (2024). The Media Use Model: A meta-theoretical framework for media processes and effects. *Human Communication Research*, 50(2), 254–263. <https://doi.org/10.1093/hcr/hqad044>
- Holbert, R. L., Song, H., Ellithorpe, M. E., LaMarre, H. L., Baik, E. S., & Tolan, C. M. (2024). Pulling the field out of a "One Variable, One Role" mindset: maximizing the theoretical value of interaction terms in communication's mediation models. *Human Communication Research*, 50(2), 240–253. <https://doi.org/10.1093/hcr/hqad046>
- Keating, D. M. (2024). Persuasive message effects via activated and modified belief clusters: toward a general theory. *Human Communication Research*, 50(2), 299–308. <https://doi.org/10.1093/hcr/hqad035>
- Kim, Y. (2024). Quantitative criticalism for social justice and equity-oriented communication research. *Human Communication Research*, 50(2), 162–172. <https://doi.org/10.1093/hcr/hqad048>
- Kraemer, H. J. C., Kiernan, M., Essex, M., & Kupfer, D. (2008). How and why criteria defining moderators and mediators differ between the Baron & Kenny and MacArthur approaches. *Health Psychology*, 27(2 Suppl), S101–S108. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0278-6133.27.2>
- Lee, E.-J. (2024). Minding the source: toward an integrative theory of human-machine communication. *Human Communication Research*, 50(2), 184–193. <https://doi.org/10.1093/hcr/hqad034>
- Levine, T. R., & Markowitz, D. M. (2024). The role of theory in researching and understanding human communication. *Human Communication Research*, 50(2), 154–161. <https://doi.org/10.1093/hcr/hqad037>
- Moyer-Gusé, E., & Wilson, J. (2024). Eudaimonic entertainment overcoming resistance: an update and expansion of narrative persuasion models. *Human Communication Research*, 50(2), 208–217. <https://doi.org/10.1093/hcr/hqad042>
- Ramasubramanian, S., & Dutta, M. J. (2024). The CODE^SHIFT model: a data justice framework for collective impact and social transformation. *Human Communication Research*, 50(2), 173–183. <https://doi.org/10.1093/hcr/hqad050>
- Shue, C. K., O'Hara, L. L. S., & Stamp, G. (2024). Fifty-years of theory-driven research in HCR: prominence, progress, and opportunities. *Human Communication Research*, 50(2), 146–153. <https://doi.org/10.1093/hcr/hqad045>



Professor Amanda Lotz
ICA Fellow

DIGITAL MEDIA RESEARCH CENTRE

The QUT Digital Media Research Centre (DMRC) conducts world-leading interdisciplinary research for a flourishing digital society. As one of the top Australian centres for media and communication research, the DMRC investigates the:

- digital transformation of the media industries
- challenges of digital inclusion and governance
- growing role of AI and automation in the information environment
- role of social media in political polarisation.

3

ICA fellows

4

research programs

5

current Australian Research Council fellowships

Find out more



54

investigators

68

HDR students

the university for the real world®

President-Elect's Column from page 1

globalize ICA, we also need to discuss our role in this matter that affects many members and colleagues. We should think creatively about ways we can provide support. Some universities have residency programs that host scholars at risk, and provide much-needed temporary relief, as well as opportunities to resettle and reset their personal and professional lives. ICA, of course, does not have the capacity to set up or manage such programs, so we must focus on what we can do within the context of association work.

Given our mission, scope, structure, and resources, what could be our unique contributions? Should there be similar interventions across countries and regions, or should they be adjusted to local needs and circumstances? Are there specific needs given the particular areas of work (e.g. disinformation, science communication, human rights, environmental issues)?

A necessary step is to know the experiences of scholars in various contexts and understand their views on how professional associations can help (or if they should provide any assistance given political sensitivities in many situations). Listening and learning are critical for us to discuss how we could make a difference, and determine what kind of support we could provide to colleagues.

I encourage you to attend both of these sessions. If you cannot make it to the sessions or the conference and would like to share your experiences and ideas, please contact me at waisbord@gwu.edu.

President's Column from page 1

interfered with her teaching" made it nearly impossible not to view my identity as a handicap. Lacking cultural knowledge was another non-trivial challenge in classroom settings as well as in daily interactions. Ironically, it requires a certain level of self-confidence to openly acknowledge one's ignorance, which I didn't have (I think Socrates could publicly declare his ignorance, for he knew that others were even more ignorant than he was). I was always very tense, feeling constrained and inferior. These were feelings I might not have known had I not left my home country, but they forced me to see things from another perspective.

The World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development is celebrated globally on 21 May every year. It was declared by the UN General Assembly in 2002, following UNESCO's adoption of the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity in 2001. It "celebrates not only the richness of the world's cultures, but also the essential role of intercultural dialogue for achieving peace and sustainable development." For communication scholars, this day serves as a gentle reminder to reflect on the importance of diversity in our discipline and to reassess our roles in facilitating dialogue and understanding across cultures. Let us remember that diversity is not just an abstract concept to be studied, but a reality to be lived in our everyday professional practices. At its core, promoting cultural diversity is none other than respecting our shared dignity. It reflects a commitment to human rights, aptly captured in the #ICA24 conference theme. At ICA, I become highly conscious of how different I am from others, but still feel safe, welcomed, and respected. I do hope you feel the same.

ARE YOU READY FOR AN ADVENTURE?

GET READY FOR ICA-CURATED TOURS AND EXCURSIONS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH KIFF & CULTURE: EXPLORE LANDSCAPES, TASTE LOCAL FLAVORS, AND ENGAGE IN CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, ALL GUIDED BY EXPERT LOCAL STAFF! KIFF & CULTURE OFFER AUTHENTIC AND UNFORGETTABLE ADVENTURES TAILORED TO YOUR UNIQUE PREFERENCES.

BOOK NOW



Kiff & Culture

Conference Locations from page 3

decision-making and shed some light on what the future holds.

As one might imagine, it is not as simple as choosing from a list of desirable locales: **a place that may have been a fantastic location for your most recent holiday may not be compatible with hosting a conference of ICA's size. There are political and logistical issues to consider, and the financial constraints of our members—either working within university budgets or paying for their travel on their own—are always at the forefront of our minds. One part of my job as Executive Director is to foresee every potential issue that could affect the success of a conference and steer the ship accordingly.**

How do we define success? A

successful ICA conference is defined as an event in which the majority of those who want to attend are able to do so—either with or without ICA's financial assistance—and those who do attend come away from the conference with

- new personal and professional connections,
- a sense of having truly experienced the host city,
- newly acquired knowledge or insight in one or more areas of focus, and
- a strong positive intention towards continued participation in the ICA community, whether that means a student deciding to join, or a seasoned professor deciding to run for ICA office or take on a new mentorship role.

“Success” can also mean that we don't lose money on providing the conference, but as we are a nonprofit and **any “profit” we make from the conference goes right back into promoting the mission**, I consider breaking even or making a profit a *baseline requirement*, not a success metric.

Where have we been so far? A full listing of ICA conference locales can be found [here](#)). You will notice that ICA's conference was in North

America much more frequently in the past than it is now.

While conference planning is largely a logistics issue and therefore handled at headquarters, the final selection of each host city is a decision made by the Executive Committee (EC) of the Board of Directors based on the advice and recommendation of the Executive Director, because the success of the ICA conference is a huge part of the association's success as a whole.

How the host city selection process works at ICA:

- A. The RFP stage.** There are three pathways for the creation of a bid (after this first step, the process is the same regardless of how the bid originated).
 - Headquarters-driven (most common): I send out a Request for Proposal (RFP) to various cities in the general region we are targeting (South America, for example) with all of the criteria you'll find in this article, plus more detail, as well as our preferred dates and the specific year we're in the market to book. These go directly to each city's Convention & Visitors' Bureau (CVB).
 - Destination-driven (rolling basis year-round): CVBs often reach out to me directly to propose their city as the locale for our next conference.
 - Member-driven (least common): An ICA member approaches ICA with a bid. In such cases, the Bid Committee will often write letters of support detailing their pledges of university space for pre- and post-conferences (in-kind donations) or even financial contributions from universities.
- B. Analysis and presentation of the shortlist.** I compare all potential sites for a given year

and submit this to the EC with my recommendations for a “short list” to be explored. The EC approves the shortlist with or without modifications; this way, we don't waste resources on a trip to a city the EC would not ultimately approve.

- C. Site visits.** I conduct the site visit of each finalist city, often bringing along one or two of my conference staff to mentor them in how to manage this process and negotiate contracts.
- D. Final recommendation.** After the site visits, I prepare a report for the EC with my recommendation(s), sometimes for multiple years, comparing the pros and cons of each location.
- E. Vote.** The EC votes on the recommended city for each year under consideration.
- F. Operationalization.** I take that decision and enter contract negotiations with each destination, with the goal of a signed contract within two months.

What are the criteria on which potential cities are judged? There are fourteen major categories, encompassing 50+ individual criteria. In no particular order, the fourteen categories are summarized below (*a longer version of this list, with more detail on each bullet point, is [here](#)*).

1. Viability of the sleeping room block in terms of quantity of rooms
2. Affordability for attendees
3. Availability, layout, and cost of meeting space
4. Affordability for ICA
5. Technical capabilities, including for hybrid sessions
6. Ease of travel to and from the city
7. Attendees' daily experience of the venue and city
8. Sustainability
9. Human rights, inclusion, and safety
10. Venue-related inclusion considerations
11. Ease of visa acquisition
12. Opportunities for cultural

dialogue and exchange

13. A strong local communication community
14. The attractiveness of the destination, generally

What if you can't have all the things on the list?

No city on earth will have all the perfect conditions to satisfy each of these fourteen categories, so we try to get as close as we can, giving more weight to the more important things, of course, like attendee room rate affordability, human rights issues, inclusion and accessibility, and access to tourist visas. Sometimes, things change between when we contract the conference locale and the year the conference takes place; we deal with those eventualities as they arise.

Where are we going in the future?

ICA is nearing the end of a year-long strategic planning process that may add some additional strategy here, but for now, know that we are:

- ...not giving up on a South American ICA annual conference in the next few years (more than a year of efforts to bring a Buenos Aires or Santiago conference to fruition for 2026 were ultimately not successful, but we haven't given up!)
- ...working on a great new destination for ICA26 (that we cannot disclose yet without damaging the negotiation process).
- ...contracted for ICA27 in Chicago, IL (US) in May 2027.
- ...determining what the "sweet spot" is for the right number of hybrid rooms.
- ...pressuring our hotel partners to expand their menus to provide more sustainable options.
- ...thinking of our global rotation as fluid and open to substituting Global South locations where we can make them work.
- ...exploring ways in which the ICA community is willing to be flexible about our established "norms" for housing, technological capabilities, etc. to further expand our footprint

globally.

- ...continuing to provide the robust accessibility and inclusion program we have offered since 2017.
- ...continuing the absence of giveaway items that end up in landfills and continuing our on-demand ICA brand store, reducing waste by only printing items once they are ordered.
- ...continuing the provision of the conference app as a central repository of all schedule information, including links to hybrid sessions.
- ...continuing our partnerships with all global regional entities.
- ...continuing to hone our spending for technology and other "big-ticket" items so that we remain good stewards of ICA's resources.
- ...continuing our tradition of providing over US \$75,000 each year in travel grants to Tier B and C scholars, students, early-career scholars, and those who identify as economically disadvantaged as a result of systemic access issues, as a member of an ethnic, religious, or linguistic minority (a group that is numerically non-dominant) or an otherwise equity-seeking group in their country of residence (regardless of tier); or undergoing a period of financial hardship.

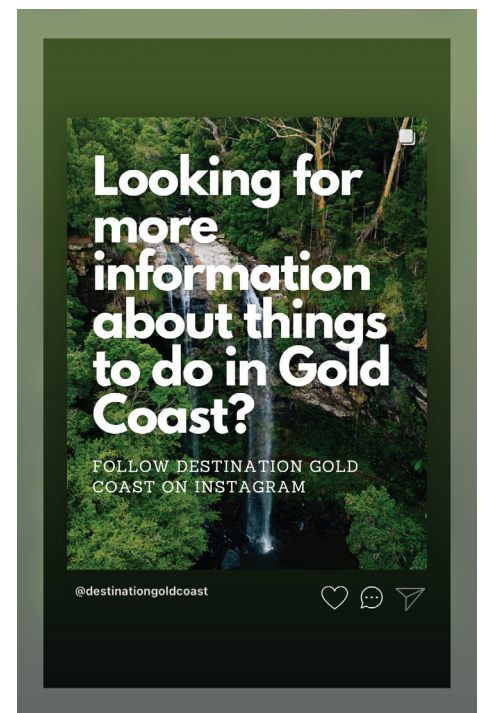
While all of the details can be time-consuming, organizing the annual ICA conference isn't *just* a matter of logistics. Our job is not only to create the perfect atmosphere for the conference to take place and keep it all organized but to provide divisions and interest groups with the right tools to attract and create the best content. Putting together the program and working with divisions to make each conference the best one yet are at the heart of my work as Executive Director and the goal of every staff member here at ICA headquarters in DC. It's not just about the tourist attractions! **High-quality content and the sense of community shared among attendees at ICA are what set this conference**

apart, no matter where it is located.

I look forward to seeing all of you in June in Australia's "Surfer's Paradise" for what is shaping up to be a very well-attended conference! For updates, don't forget to follow ICA on social media and follow the hashtag #ICA24 to see what your colleagues are buzzing about!

See you at the beach...

Laura




International
Communication
Association


A landmark series in
communication studies research:

**The Wiley Blackwell-ICA
International Encyclopedias
of Communication**



Browse the full series

ICA Staff from page 4

tom



Tom Mankowski
Associate
Executive Director

What are you responsible for at ICA?

I am responsible for spearheading strategic direction initiatives as assigned by the Executive Director and the planning, coordination, and management of ICA's integrated marketing, public relations, and strategic communication programs. I also supervise the membership and governance team in addition to the ICA journals and publications broadly.

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

I have an identical twin brother.

What is your favorite song/band/movie/TV show?

Song: Bonzo Goes to Bitburg by the Ramones;
Band: Niacinamide;
Movie: Tron Legacy;
TV show: Forensic Files

What are you looking forward to most in Australia (outside of ICA24)?

My wife and I will be visiting Uluru in the Northern Territory; we'll be hiking, eating and learning. There is also a restaurant called Mabu Mabu in Melbourne we can't wait to try.

Are you team #dogsofica (or) #catsofica?

(refer to image to the right)



julie



Julie Arnold
Director of Governance
and Member Services

What are you responsible for at ICA?

I oversee governance and, together with Brad & Karly, make up the member services team. Some of the main pieces of my role include onboarding leadership, committee and task force management, the annual ICA election, ethics, bylaws, and membership recruitment and engagement efforts.

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

I enjoy exploring new local hiking trails during winter months (a snake phobia keeps me away during warm weather), batch cooking, and planning and working on DIY home improvement projects. My type A self loves organizing just about anything.

What is your favorite song/band/movie/TV show?

Picking any one "favorite" is a challenge. Music-wise, I gravitate towards 90's/00's hip hop. I enjoy *realistic* thriller/suspense movies (if it couldn't *actually* happen, it doesn't keep me engaged) and the only TV show I routinely watch is Jeopardy #nerdalert.

Are you team #dogsofica (or) #catsofica?

Undoubtedly #dogsofica. Pictured are Mojo (in loving memory, having just lost him in January) & our super snuggler, Sophia (aka "Bits").



jenn



Jennifer Le
Director of
Conference Services

What are you responsible for at ICA?

I coordinate and execute different aspects of the annual conference alongside the rest of the conference team, specifically leading the conference submissions, the mobile app, and preconferences. Just like any other non-profit, everyone wears many hats. Along with my conference duties, I am also Accounts Payable, Office Manager, and the in-house Graphic Designer.

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

When I have free time, I like to decompress by bothering my dog, catching up on TV shows, doing arts & crafts, or taking a disco nap.

What is your favorite food?

Growing up with Vietnamese food (and being Vietnamese), I have to say that it is probably my favorite cuisine. Japanese and Italian food are close runner-ups.

What is your favorite song/band/movie/TV show?

I enjoy a wide range of music and generally love to watch anything "feel-good," especially romantic comedies.

Are you team #dogsofica (or) #catsofica?

I am biased but #dogsofica.



katie



Katie Wolfe
Manager of
Conference Services

What are you responsible for at ICA?

I am a member of the conference team. I am responsible for the exhibitors and sponsorship. We wear many hats and work on so many items to make the conference successful!

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

I have a degree in Meteorology from Pennsylvania State University.

What is your favorite song/band/movie/TV show?

I love a good true crime documentary. When I want something more light hearted, I like to put on Ted Lasso.

What is your favorite food?

French fries, I can never say no.

What are you looking forward to most in Australia (outside of ICA24)?

The wildlife, I can not wait to meet a koala!

Are you team #dogsofica (or) #catsofica?

team #dogsofica



brad



Brad Brewer
Manager of
Member Services

What are you responsible for at ICA?

As a part of the member services team I help ICA better understand the trends of our members. Whether that be from research and data analysis or from directly speaking with members. I also help create the membership marketing campaigns as well as manage our online collaboration portal "The Link". I also create the ICA24 registration platform every year and manage the onsite registration process (from preparation to being at registration).

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

I have a MA in philosophy

What is your favorite song/band/movie/TV show?

The Big Lebowski

What is your favorite food?

Korean BBQ

What is your most interesting/funniest past job?

I worked as a personal provider for developmentally disabled individuals. Helping them with things like learning to ride a bike, play certain sports, as well as everyday activities.

What are you looking forward to most in Australia (outside of ICA24)?

Looking forward to seeing the Great Barrier Reef.

karly



Karly Senesac
Member Services
Coordinator

What are you responsible for at ICA?

I assist with a variety of member needs: email inquiries, conference registration, membership renewals, visa invitation requests, etc. I also manage the Student Volunteer program for the annual conference, the ICA Career Center, and the ICA Kid's Club.

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

I am an actual elected official, serving my 2nd term on our local public school district Board of Education.

What is your favorite song/band/movie/TV show?

I watch a lot of TV- some of my favorite shows are The Bear, Survivor, Parks and Rec, Marvelous Miss Maisel, Ted Lasso and Gilded Age. I love too many bands to call anything my favorite (totally depends on mood), but I love The Cure, My Chemical Romance, Pixies, Radiohead, Taylor Swift, and Vampire Weekend.

Are you team #dogsofica (or) #catsofica?

#dogsofica 100%





ICA PRESENTS

AFFINITY GROUPS

VIA THE LINK

JOIN ONE (OR MORE) TODAY TO CONNECT WITH PEERS, ASK A QUESTION, SHARE STRATEGIC ADVICE, SOLVE CHALLENGES, AND DEVELOP NEW APPROACHES.

- Academic parents of children ages 0-5 or children 6-18
- Caregivers to adult family members
- Black Scholars Caucus
- Climate Issues & Actions Forum
- Conference Classified & Tips
- Mentoring Forum
- Professional Development Resources
- Regional Academia
- Student & Early Career Resource Hub
- University Administrators Forum



<https://link.icahdq.org/communities/>

Membership Column from page 6

force is the place to start.

- ☑ **Browse** the [ICA Podcast Network](#) and [ICA Podcast Recommendations](#)
- ☑ **Search ICA's Career Center:** Create a profile, post, or search opportunities, and access the Career Planning Portal with helpful resources such as interviewing and resume tips.
- ☑ **Student & Early Career Member Info:** We have a relatively large contingent of student members at ICA, as they make up approximately a third of the overall membership. Student and Early Career members are represented at the Board of Directors level via two elected Board Student & Early Career Representatives (BSECRs). They lead programming and initiatives geared towards student and early career members organized by a standing committee called the Student and Early Career Advisory Committee. Each of ICA's 33 divisions and interest groups has an elected role of a Student & Early Career Representative (SECR). New ICA student and early career members could reach out to the SECR for whatever division/interest groups they join as a starting point to network
- ☑ **Contact** the [Member Services](#) team if you need help or have questions.

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

Governance Spotlight from page 7

leadership team gives me the most satisfaction. These are often small and invisible things in how decisions are made and prior assumptions are dismantled rather than visible and public initiatives by the division.

Getting to know Saumava on a more personal level:

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

A. I would like to learn how to drive a car. I have never had need to learn this supposedly basic skill and still don't think that it should be necessary to drive as part of everyday life but I would like to learn this skill so as to access those places where my own two feet and public transport cannot bring me.

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

A. I would be a food critic and/or a travel writer.

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

A. I can remember. As in, I have quite a long memory for things said and done, small or large.

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


A. I would have liked to meet the Bengali belletrist and raconteur Syed Mujtaba Ali whose works sadly have not been translated into any other language. I would also like to meet Ryszard Kapuściński, observer of humanity and writer, whose works thankfully have been translated.

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

A. I listen to history-related podcasts.

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

A. I can understand Kiswahili.



ICA PRESENTS

Architects of Communication Scholarship

Architects of Communication Scholarship - Stan Deetz, the Fundamental Flaw of Liberal Democracy
published May 24, 2023
[▶ LISTEN ANYWHERE](#)



BOOK YOUR GROUND TRANSPORTATION

Don't forget to book your ride from the airport. Thanks to our sponsors, ICA24 attendees can either book shuttle transportation or a ride with Airtrain from the Brisbane Airport (BNE) at a discounted price!

[BOOK NOW >>](#)

ICA

ADDRESS

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