

ICA Political Communication Division 2015 Business Meeting Minutes (Puerto Rico)

1. Welcome (Jesper Strömbäck)

- Meeting called to order Sunday, May 24 at 4:30pm
- Approval of the 2014 Business Meeting Minutes (<http://www.politicalcommunication.org/2014ICAMinutes.pdf>; minutes approved)

2. Report from ICA Board of Directors meeting (Jesper Strömbäck)

- Midterm board meeting in DC in January 15 and regular board meeting in San Juan
- San Juan: 2,600 participants, 2nd or 3rd largest conference
- Acceptance rate 44%, up from 36%
- Conference format will remain the same, but perhaps the conference will be lengthened by a half-day or a day
- ICA financially healthy
- Publication royalties highly important
- Conferences break even
- Contract with Wiley running out: Discussion about APA vs Chicago style. APA will not necessarily be replaced, but there is discussion about allowing other styles. No decision has been made yet.
- Communication Yearbook will become an online journal, the new editor is David R. Ewoldsen. The name for the journal is not yet decided.
- Discussion on divisional structure (now 28). There is an argument for a large number of interest groups because it reflects the diversity of the field. Yet it also might be fragmenting the field; with more divisions, there are fewer session slots for each division at conferences. There was discussion about what should be required to become / remain a division, but no decisions yet.
- Discussion on conference reviewing. Some divisions think that the conference reviewing isn't working. The current division leadership didn't notice any problems, but invited people to talk to next year's program planner if they have any ideas. For now, the PolCom division is continuing to do the same thing.
- Discussion on Communication Theory Award. There was a proposal to give an award for communication theory, not an award related to the journal. At this point, no decision has been made. There is a recent move by the association to decrease the number of association awards. The members were encouraged to contact Jesper with any thoughts.
- Michael Haley, Executive Director of the ICA, is retiring. There is currently a process in place to find his replacement. The division thanked Haley for his service.
- Future conferences:
 - 2016 JAPAN
 - 2017 SAN DIEGO
 - 2018 PRAGUE
 - 2019 WASHINGTON DC
 - Japan: not near Fukushima; should feel safe to travel. Not the best known city in Japan. Really good location. Meeting at a Hilton – Seahawk Hilton. One of largest in the world. Facilities are about the same size of meeting rooms. All bedrooms have view of the sea. Not on the beach – there is a road in between the two. It is the ocean, but not a sandy beach. Haley got a good deal from Hilton. Room rate was agreed on Yen. Last time exchange rate was computed, it was about \$110 per night, including breakfast. There may be lunch included in the conference fees, and breakfast is included in the hotel room rate. Good

connections to Singapore, Beijing, Tokyo. Great transportation around Japan, particularly with bullet train. Encourage pre-conferences other places in Japan. The conference rooms will be available for pre-conferences in the conference city.

- Conference rate acceptance discussion: We know that the selectivity is important for some CVs/jobs. So they don't want to increase so much. Amy Jordan has encouraged people to use different, inclusive formats.
- The theme is "Communicating with Power." Different meanings to this, not just communication in law and policy; the theme is meant to be broadly open.

3. Annual Report of the Division (Jesper Strömbäck)

- 2014 Political Communication Summer School
 - 26 participants from 15 countries
 - Student presentations & feedback; skills discussions
 - Thanks to Gianpietro Mazzoleni, Magdalena Wojcieszak, Claes de Vreese
 - According to evaluations, this was a huge success
 - We can afford to do this because of the renegotiated contract with Taylor and Francis
 - The division has prioritized doing things for younger scholars
- Co-sponsor of pre- and post-conferences:

These pre- and post-conferences are helpful because they are a way to bridge gaps between divisions and allow us to know more about closely adjacent fields.

 - "Advancing Public Diplomacy Research: Bringing together Political Communication and Public Relations" (Candace White)
 - "Public Sector Communication: The Challenge of Building Intangible Assets" (Maria José Canel & Vilma Louma-aho)
 - "Social and Semantic Networks in Communication Research (Wouter van Atteveldt, Christian Baden & Jana Diesner)
 - "Climate and Sustainability Campaigns" (Lucy Atkinson & Merav Katz-Kimchi)

Division members were encouraged to think of pre and post conferences for the future.

- Graduate Student Workshop
 - Thursday full day @ Caribe Hilton
 - 17 participants from 5 countries
 - Student presentations & feedback
 - Skills (publishing, building a CV, networking)
 - Thanks to: Regina Lawrence, Kimberly Gross, Peter Van Aelst, & Jesper Strömbäck
- Division membership and finances
 - Secretary and treasurer: Natalie Stroud
 - Membership stable: around 700
 - Division is financially healthy
 - 2013: first 'new' royalties from T&F (app \$30K)

- 2013: decision to focus on graduate and young scholar activities; first summer school in 2014, next in 2016
- Special Political Communication fund (2014: \$9,836)
- Most important is the renegotiated contract with T&F
- Agreement with ICA that we can carry over from one year to another

- Budget overview

INCOME 2015		EXPENSES 2015	
\$4,980	ICA	\$3,150	Travel grants
\$3,750	T&F stipend	\$750	Awards/plaques
\$1,000	T&F reception	\$10,000	Conference (business meeting & reception)
\$30,055	Royalties (03/15)	\$3,550	Grad Student Pre-Conference
		\$1,000	Website redesign
\$39,785	=TOTAL INCOME	\$18,450	=TOTAL EXPENSE

- Expected result 2015: \$21,335 + Budget from last year / Royalty funds: \$9,836 = Expected fund per 31-12-2015 \$31,171

- Future

- Summer school 2016: will probably organize it similarly to last time with the University of Milan, exact dates haven't been specified. Format will be approximately the same. As soon as the specifics are decided, they will be put into the newsletter. Encourage graduate students to apply.
- The division is happy to co-sponsor additional events. Co-sponsor is sometimes financially, but not always, but can sponsor with the name of the division.
- If you have ideas for pre-conferences for the Japan conference, please let Peter Van Aelst (vice chair and program planner) know

- Journal Report (Claes de Vreese)

- New team September 1, 2014
 - Editor: Claes de Vreese
 - Associate Editors: Kim Gross, Tamir Sheafer, Jesper Stromback; the journal has installed an associate editor structure. Great asset to the journal, shares work burden, but also greater access to eyes when making decisions.
 - Update editorial board (3 y terms)
 - Pleased about board: female participation on board is 45%
 - Also new on editorial board is 3 year renewal
 - Grateful to the people who said yes – said they would review at least 5 manuscripts a year, good line up of political science and communication.

- Changes and Plans
 - Online first access - Did not have online first access until this year, encouraged to visit journal site more frequently
 - Special issue call – There is a tradition for special issues. Digital politics special issue has been accepted and the call for papers is out. These special issues tend to generate a lot of readership. We haven't committed to doing special issue per year, but there will be a call next year. Could also be full special issue or something more like a symposium.
 - DART initiative - Data Access and Research Transparency Initiative. There is a website with details. Increase transparency in the work that we do and share data more easily. Data available to the community for sharing and replication purposes. Also increase tradition of citing data. Still looking into details (e.g., content analysis). Moving in this direction with the journal. Claes encourages this development.
 - Book reviews - Jill Edy's term is ending. Publication committee discussing the search for a new editor and the idea of book reviews altogether (some have dropped, some have put them online, some have put together thematic book reviews). Approach Claes with ideas.
- Numbers
 - Backlog app 1 year
 - De facto acceptance rate in past year: 15%
 - Since 1/9-14: 9% R&R, 30% desk reject
 - Desk reject is not un-normal. Think the desk reject is helpful (and has gotten thank you notes) because authors know quickly.
 - Average time submission to decision: 48 days
- General
 - Thanks to Shanto for helping with the manuscripts that came in during his tenure
 - Encourage community to utilize the journal as an outlet for the work
- Political Communication Report & Social Media (Eike Mark Rinke)
 - <http://www.politicalcommunication.org/newsletter.html>
 - We share our online presence with APSA's Political Communication Division
 - Social media = Kevin Barnhurst
 - Facebook: ≈ 1300 members; Increase in visibility as an online resource for pol com research. Membership on FB has increased 50% in the last year
 - LinkedIn: ≈ 4500 members; Most LinkedIn users are practitioners
 - Twitter (poli_com): ≈ 600 followers
 - All relevant pol com information is posted on FB and Twitter, so people who aren't members/don't follow should join
 - New website design to come later this year! In the process of designing a website that should carry through a few years without needing another redesign. Will be more interactive. Major innovation is a database of opportunities for communication resources, will be a searchable and current space.
 - Make sure to subscribe to our information services! Submit if you have anything you want the membership to see.
 - Jesper and the membership thank Eike for his service.

4. Program planner's report (Peter Van Aelst)

- Individual submissions: 312

- Panel submissions: 8
- Total: 320 submissions (286 and 16 in Seattle 2014; 319 and 29 in London 2013)
- Acceptance rate individual submissions: 149 papers= 47% (Seattle: 44%)
- Acceptance rate panel submissions: 3 panels= 37% (Seattle 25%)
- 34 sessions + business meeting and reception + interactive poster session
- The division sometimes included 5 papers on a panel instead of 4. Let Peter know if you have feedback.
- Number of reviewers: 251! (Seattle: 208; London: 182)
- Average of 3 reviews
- The number of reviews per person were kept down because more people signed up, PhDs were allowed to review (the division voted that PhDs could be the third review on submissions), and people were given reviews who didn't sign up for them and most of those people still did the reviews.
- THANKS TO ALL REVIEWERS FOR VOLUNTEERING, particularly those who did 5, 6, and 12 reviews and the special team who did a few reviews at the end.

5. Awards

- Travel Grants: Rachel Reis Mourao, Magdalena C Saldana Villa, Tea Mietinnen, Bingjuan Xiong, Tim Wood, Shannon Mcgregor, Elie Friedman, Thomas J Billard, David Clementson
Note that there is funding available for these grants (aren't too competitive)
- Best Paper Award

Why Do Partisan Audience Participate? Perceived Public Opinion as the Mediating Mechanism by Shira Dvir-Gvirsman (Tel Aviv University); R. Kelly Garrett; (Ohio State U); and Yariv Tsfati (U of Haifa)
- Student Paper Awards
 1. Mark Boukes (and colleagues); University of Amsterdam, "It's Fun! But is it Effective?: The Appreciation, Processing, and Persuasiveness of Political Satire"
 2. Lotte Melenhorst, Leiden University, "The Media's Role in Lawmaking: A Case Study Analysis"
 3. Eran Amsalem (and colleagues) The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, "Political Systems, the News Media, and the Integrative Complexity of Politicians"
- Best Poster Award (included because the paper was strong with good reviews, but didn't fit into a paper session)

Rianne Subijanto; University of Colorado Boulder, "Openbare Vergaderingen and the Communist Anti-Colonial Struggles in the Dutch East Indies"
- Kaid-Sanders Award
 - Committee Members: Sebastián Valenzuela (chair), Arjen van Dalen, Lauren Feldman, Myiah Hutchens, Rens Vliegthart
 - Roughly 1,300 articles in 2014; roughly 350 classified as "political communication"
 - Procedures:
 1. All eligible articles were divided among the committee.
 2. Each member read \pm 70 articles and nominated a short list of 3.

3. This process produced 15 nominated articles which were read by all committee members and ranked.

– One honorable mention...

Neuman, W. R., Guggenheim, L., Jang, S. M., & Bae, S. Y. (2014). The dynamics of public attention: Agenda-setting theory meets big data. *Journal of Communication, 64*, 193-214.

– And the “ICA Kaid-Sanders Best Political Communication Division Article of 2014” award goes to...

Hassanpour, N. (2014). Media disruption and revolutionary unrest: Evidence from Mubarak's quasi-experiment. *Political Communication, 31*, 1-24.

6. Other Business

• Graduate Student Preconference

- Should we have both a preconference and a summer school in the same year?
- Don't want too much overlap, and there is a lot of work. Talk to Jesper if you have any opinions.
- Discussion: Number of countries for summer school is higher than the graduate preconference. They strike me as distinct.
- Perhaps one reason that there were fewer countries this year because the Journalism Studies division started a grad school preconference this year

• Award Structure of the Pol Comm Division / Policy Best Student paper

- Right now, we have one award for best faculty paper, 3 for student papers. Should there be more for the faculty papers? Different division do things differently.
- Student paper: first author is a student (even if senior faculty are on the paper)
- Form task for the award structure – approval to form the committee. Motion to approve committee. Approved. No one against

• Guidelines for the Joint Publications Committee – The guidelines weren't clear, everything was in institutional memory. Guidelines were created and will be published on the website.

- The JPC will consist of a chair and six members (this codifies the term length)
- Three members appointed by ICA, three by APSA
- The chair appointed by APSA in 2014 and by ICA in 2017, passing back and fourth every three years
- Members and chairs appointed for three years
- Representatives for ICA appointed by the chair (creates a mechanism for ICA appointments)
- The JPC responsible for choosing editors of Political Communication and Political Communication Report
 - Member thought: committee is also involved in the contract negotiations last time, the chair is formally responsible

These guidelines were approved by the membership with no nays

• International Journal of Press/Politics Book Award – The IJPP journal has a new book award to a book published in the last 10 calendar years that significantly enhances our understanding of

news and politics. Chairs of Journalism Studies and Pol Com were on the committee. This year's award went to Shaping Immigration News by Rodney Benson.

- **PhD dissertation Award; next in 2017** - Decided not to hand it out because there was only one nomination this year, dissertation has to be in English
- **New election for officers (2016 and onwards)** – We will elect a new secretary/treasurer, and take over as Peter for program planner/vice chair. No better way to support the division, learn a lot, get to know the whole field than running for this position. Chair of nomination committee is Patricia Moy. If thinking about question, get in contact with Patricia and other officers
- **New Business**
 - Award task force considering the best article award? Perhaps nomination based? – Jesper more than happy to give that idea to the task force
 - Consider expanding the PhD award to non-English languages. Extremely unfair to exclude international dissertation.
 - Clarification: materials have to be in English, the dissertation can be in any language.
 - Counter argument: if truly international, has to be able to be read internationally
 - Chair of the division and chair of the PhD award committee talk.
 - Write Jesper with thoughts about this
 - Some universities require that the diss needs to be published in English, others don't require this. The division could have a hand in this if it makes this decision.
 - Give this to the committee
- **Thanks to all volunteers**
 - International Liaison
 - Sebastian Valenzuela (Catholic U of Chile)
 - Young Scholar Activity Committee
 - Sabine Geers (chair) (U of Amsterdam)
 - Eran Amsalam (Hebrew U)
 - Alex Curry (UT at Austin)
 - Graduate Student Representative
 - Christine Filer (U of Arizona)
 - Nominations Committee
 - Patricia Moy (chair) (U of Washington)
 - Lauren Feldman (Rutgers U)
 - David Nicolas Hopmann (U of Southern Denmark)

7. Next Year

- Jesper Stromback (Mid Sweden U), Chair
- Peter Van Aelst (Antwerp U), Vice Chair and Program Planner
- Talia Stroud (UT Austin) Secretary

8. Adjourn - 5:45 PM