

Minutes of the 2017 ICA Political Communication Division Business Meeting

67th Annual ICA Conference
May 28th 2017, San Diego, 17 - 18:15pm

Division Chair: Peter van Aelst (U of Antwerp)

Vice Chair: Kimberly Gross (George Washington U)

Secretary: Thomas Zerback (LMU Munich)

Student and early career representative: Shannon McGregor (U of Texas)



1. News from the ICA

- 3042 participants registered at the San Diego conference
- ICA is financially (very) healthy
- A new interest group was founded: Activism, Communication and Social Justice
- In the future everyone submitting a paper will also be asked to review
- The division is happy to announce that Barbara Pfetsch, Claes de Vreese, and Daniel Hallin are among the 18 new ICA fellows.
- ICA has given an overview on the upcoming Annual conferences:
 - 2018 Prague
 - 2019 Washington DC
 - 2020 Gold Coast Australia
 - 2021 Denver
 - 2022 Paris (needs to be confirmed)
 - 2023 Toronto
 - 2024 Asia (city will be announced)
- President-elect Patricia Moy introduces the upcoming ICA Annual conference from 24 to 28 May in 2018 in Prague: There will be three conference hotels all hosting panel sessions. The hotels will be within 15 min walking distance. Program planning will avoid that participants will have to present in two consecutive sessions taking place in different hotels.
- It is pointed out that the Annals of the ICA (former yearbook) serves as a valuable publication outlet for research (literature reviews 11000 words, review essays, topic book reviews 6000 words). Division members are encouraged to

recommend the journal to their local university libraries if not available there. As a reading tip, David Karp's article "Digital politics after Trump" is recommended.

2. News from the division

- The Department of Social and Political Sciences of the University of Milan (Italy) and the Political Communication Division of the International Communication Association (ICA) have organized the 5th edition of the International Summer School of Political Communication and Electoral behavior (Milan, 18-23 July, 2016). The theme of this year's edition was "Changing Media Environments, Changing Democracies". With 32 participating PhD candidates from 17 countries and 12 eminent speakers the summer school has been a tremendous success again. The division especially thanks Gianpietro Mazzoleni, as chief organizer.



- The division served as a co-sponsor of 7 pre- and post-conferences at this year's ICA Annual Conference:
 - *Populism, Post-Truth Politics and Participatory Culture: Interventions in the Intersection of Popular and Political Communication*. Organizers: Cornel Sandvoss (U of Huddersfield) and Stephen Harrington (Queensland U of Technology)
 - *Ordinary Citizens in the News*. Organizers: Christina Peter (LMU Munich) and Thomas Zerback (LMU Munich)
 - *Normative Theory in Communication Research*. Organizers: C.W. Anderson (City U of New York), David Karpf (George Washington U), Daniel Kreiss (U of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), Rasmus Kleis Nielsen (Oxford U), and Matthew Powers (U of Washington)
 - *Media Performance and Democracy – The Debate Continues*. Organizers: Josef Seethaler (Austrian Academy of Sciences) and Linards Udris (U of Zurich)
 - *Online and Newsworthy: Have Digital Sources Changed Journalism?* Organizers: Sophie Lecheler (U of Vienna), Sanne Kruijkemeier (U of Amsterdam), Sarah Van Leuven (Ghent U), and Liesbeth Hermans (Radboud U)
 - *Political Communication in the Online World: Empirical Findings and Theoretical Perspectives*. Organizers: Gerhard Vowe (Heinrich Heine U of Düsseldorf), Barbara Pfetsch (Free U of Berlin) Patrick Rössler (U of Erfurt)

- *Political Communication PhD-conference*. Organizers: Peter van Aelst (U of Antwerp), Kimberly Gross (George Washington U), Thomas Zerback (LMU Munich). The conference hosted 22 participants, organized in 3 groups, where they presented papers and their dissertation projects and received feedback from senior scholars as well as advice on CV building and publishing in international journals. The division thanks all senior scholars for their valuable contributions (Kim Gross, Michael Xenos, Thomas Zerback, Claes de Vreese, Kjerstin Thorson, Peter Van Aelst, Kate Kenski, Sebastian Valenzuela).



- Division membership and finances overview (Peter van Aelst): The Political Communication Division is financially among the wealthiest ICA divisions. It currently has 686 members (2016), which is less than two years ago (2014: 862). The loss of members is most likely caused by a general fragmentation of ICA Divisions and interest groups, because a similar trend can be observed in other divisions as well.
- Budgeted overview 2017 (Peter van Aelst):
 - The division had the following incomes: \$5,500 ICA, \$32,000 royalties Taylor & Francis, \$1,000, T&F reception (total income = \$37,500)
 - The division had the following expenses: \$3,500 travel grants, \$2,000 awards/plagues, \$8,000 conference (business meeting and reception), \$4,000 summer school Milan, (\$5,500 PhD conference) (total expenses = \$22,500)
 - The expected budgeted for 2017 will be \$15,000. Adding the budget from last year and royalty funds (\$15,000) results in a total budgeted of \$30,000 on the 31st December 2017.
- Budgeted plans: Some of the positive balance will be used for:
 - Financial support to the program planner for the upcoming conference (e.g. for student support)
 - A special reviewer award for the upcoming Annual Conference
 - Further proposals (not decided yet) may include: increased amount amounts of awards (not best paper awards) and an increase of the travel grants budget.

3. Website and social media (Peter van Aelst)

- Björn Buß (Leuphana U of Lüneburg) is introduced by Peter van Aelst as the division's new online and social media representative, taking over from Eike Mark Rinke (U of Mannheim). The division is very grateful for Eike's fantastic job over the last years and the very smooth transfer of the tasks to Björn.
- The new Division website went online. Under www.politicalcommunication.org all information relevant to the ICA Division, the APSA Section, the journal, the Political Communication Report, and recent calls can be found in a new design.
- The Political Communication Report (PCR) can also be found on the news website including its latest issue (Fall 2016) featuring the following contents:
 - Fresh Perspectives in Political Deliberation Research (six short articles by authors from Australia, Brazil, Finland, Germany, and USA)
 - Interviews with winners of APSA + ICA Best Paper Awards 2016
 - Teaser for six ICA PolComm Preconferences
 - Tribute to Kevin Barnhurst (former ICA PolComm chair)
 - However, it is not clear, if the PCR will be continued. The format had its unique advantages when founded, but meanwhile its key features (e.g. calls) are covered by the Division's social media sites and website. This point will be discussed in the near future.
- Based on Björn's input, Peter van Aelst gives an overview on the impact and reach of the Division's Twitter and Facebook sites from Jan 1st 2016 to 24th May 2017: On average there were 26 tweets per month (2016: 58) and 31,250 impressions per month (2016: 42,133), with peaks during the ICA and APSA Annual conferences. Most Twitter followers come from the US (38.6%), followed by the UK (13.7%) and several other (mostly) European countries (Germany: 5.9%, Canada: 3.9%, Netherlands: 3.5%, Italy: 3.1%, Austria: 3.0%). The numbers of Twitter followers and Facebook group members are increasing (1,677 twitter followers and 2,419 Facebook group members (growth between Jan 1st 2016 and 24th May 2017: twitter 11.5%, fb 10.8%))
- The Division thanks Eike Mark Rinke for his excellent job during the past years. Eike was responsible for the Division's online and social media sites and has contributed to both in an exceptional way. The division is highly grateful and honors Eike with a gift of money.

4. Working of the division (Peter van Aelst)

- In the past, the distribution of work within the division's leadership was relatively unbalanced. While the chair and in particular the vice chair were confronted with high amounts of work, the secretary was hardly involved. Also, the webmaster had a high workload throughout the year. This is going to change, by expanding the tasks of the secretary and by supporting the vice chair in planning the division's program for the ICA Annual conference. Additionally, a student and early career representative is introduced. The chair, vice-chair, secretary, student/early career representative, and webmaster plan to operate a bit more as a team.
- The division welcomes Shannon McGregor (U of Texas) as its first student and early career representative, covering a two year term starting from now. If successful, it is planned to make the job an elected position in the future. Shannon's tasks and plans include:
 - Support the organization of the PhD pre-conference
 - Contribute to the division newsletter