

Proposal for the Creation of the **Facilitating the Advancement of Integration and Representation (FAIR) PolComm Fund**

Political Communication Division of the International Communication Association

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PURPOSE

The International Communication Association's annual conference brings together scholars from around the world with the aim of exchanging ideas, networking, and promoting international exchange. Such a congregation presents an especially important opportunity for scholars belonging to or studying marginalized and underrepresented communities to come together. At the Political Communication Division, we aim to take advantage of this opportunity by proposing the Facilitating the Advancement of Integration and Representation (FAIR) fund. The purpose of this initiative is to create a scheme where members of the Political Communication Division can request resources to support events aimed at the inclusion and promotion of underrepresented communities in the Division during ICA. This fund, therefore, aims to facilitate bottom-up leadership, where members can identify what spaces are needed within the community, and receive logistical, promotional, and financial support from the Division to create these spaces.

Specifically, the FAIR fund supports events aimed at bringing people with diverse backgrounds together and supporting their development. The call is broad in scope, including, but not limited to, networking events, short workshops, and pre/post-conferences. Here, underrepresented groups are broadly defined as those who have been historically marginalized from the mainstream academic research community, including ethnic, regional, religious, and linguistic groups, neurodiverse people or people with disabilities, the LBGTIQ+ community, as well as scholars studying these groups. Also welcome to apply are scholars with critical, applied, or other research perspectives that are underrepresented in the Division. Both individuals and existing organizations are encouraged to apply.

The goals of the FAIR fund are to:

- Bring members of underrepresented communities together during the annual ICA conference.
- Raise the visibility of these communities within the Division.
- Facilitate the internationalization of the Division.
- Promote initiatives originating from or supporting early career scholars.

APPLICATION AND EVALUATION SCHEME

To request consideration for FAIR funding, applicants will be asked to provide the chair of the Political Communication Division with a 600-word proposal detailing:

- A description of the event, including what the event aims to achieve, the community this event is aimed at, and how the proposal meets the stated goals of the fund.
- A tentative schedule which includes speakers and/or activities. Applicants should highlight their relevance to the Political Communication Division of the ICA.
- The applicant(s) ties to inclusion and representation or to the community/group the event is aimed at.
- A detailed estimation of costs associated with the execution of the event, including the number of expected participants, with a maximum funding request of \$1,500 USD.
- A plan describing how organizers will reach out to members of this community and encourage participation.

The Division will evaluate the proposals internally for the first two years (2024, 2025). In 2026, the Division should consider the establishment of an external committee for the evaluation of proposals. Proposals will be evaluated both based on their quality and how well they can serve underrepresented communities in the Division. This includes:

- Feasibility of the proposed event with the requested financial support.
- Existing support structures to the target community/group within the Division.
- The applicant(s) self-described ties to inclusion and representation and to the community/group the event is aimed at.
- Ability of the Division to support numerous proposals aimed at different groups.
- The applicant(s) existing access to funds and resources, with priority given to those who are understood to be less available for funding (e.g. students).
- Quality and substance of the proposal and its promised benefits.

DIVISION ACTION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

To implement this fund, in preparation for every ICA Annual Conference, the Division will:

- Decide on the budget allocated to the FAIR fund. For the pilot implementation for ICA 2024, the budget will be \$3,000 USD.
- Focus on the wide distribution of the proposal. Research has shown that underrepresented communities are less likely to self-nominate – the Division should aim to counter this with a concerted publicity campaign, such as directly reaching out to community members.
- Set up the financing flow where successful applicants can claim expenses in coordination with ICA headquarters.
- Design an application template for applicants to use.