

Minutes of the Communication History Business Meeting

18 June 2013

Hilton Meeting Rooms 11 & 12, Hilton Metropole Hotel, London

1. Welcome

With approximately 30 members in attendance, the meeting was convened at 4.35 pm by CHIG/CHD Chair Philip Lodge, who welcomed everyone and introduced the officers: Rick Popp, Vice Chair; incoming secretary, Nicole Maurantonio; and outgoing secretary, Deb Lubken.

2. Minutes of last meeting (27 May 2012)

The minutes of the last meeting, held in Phoenix on 27 May 2012, were approved.

3. Chair's Report

a. *Divisional status*

Philip announced that the Communication History Interest group was no more, Divisional status having been approved at the ICA Board Meeting the previous day (17th June). This was excellent news, and Philip paid tribute to the outstanding work done by past-Chairs Dave Park and Jeff Pooley in establishing the area within ICA. He noted that the criterion for achieving and retaining Divisional status is having more than 200 members, and that we need to keep recruiting in order to remain above this threshold.

b. *Report from ICA Board of Directors Meetings:*

- *Seattle, January 2013*

Copies of this report, which had been posted on the CHIG website, were circulated.

- *London, June 2013*

- ICA is looking for feedback from its Divisions, to drive an increasingly bottom-up agenda. Philip encouraged members to send feedback that can be taken forward to the Board in preparation for Seattle 2014.
- There had been a higher number of proposals and higher rejection rates for the London conference. In January, it had been acknowledged that the Metropole Hotel was too small for the number of panelists and attendees. As such, it was not an ideal site for our purposes. However, this is the largest hotel within striking distance of London, so we needed to make compromises.
- Registrants for pre-conferences don't have to be ICA members. This is something we can consider for future events.
- Presentation formats: Due to increased pressure to accommodate higher numbers of papers, ICA is experimenting with different presentation formats. Suggestions for different formats are welcomed. Wendy Leeds-Hurwitz suggested

a high-density session of which she had had experience, in which 15-20 participants circulated papers ahead of time. Within this format, the discussion begins roughly 6 months prior to the conference. The pre-circulated papers are each 5 pages in length. The day of the panel each presenter began with 1 minute to say something. The benefit is that the conversation has already begun. This was something with which CHD might experiment.

- There was a feeling amongst the Board that ICA conferences shouldn't get any bigger. Numbers are a factor that will have to be 'managed'. Pre-conferences are growing, in part because they are not limited as Divisional groupings are. CHIG was allocated 10 slots for the London conference, and we did run a pre-conference.

James Hamilton asked why pre-conferences are growing. Discussion suggested that they attend to a need that the conference itself can't. It's a way to build working relationships.

There will naturally be differing views on this within the Board. Larry Gross had suggested that pre-conferences should be thematically from the main conference. ICA is looking for suggestions for the ways pre-conferences can work.

Rick Popp felt that alternative formats putting lots of people on single panels did not address the pre-conference issue. In fact, it could exacerbate it.

- Seattle 2014 Conference: The Board has decided to organise a formal ball. There was a call for a good live band for this.
- Barbie Zelizer had reported that the Association's finances are in good shape. Membership fees will be raised to \$195 and conference fees to \$245 for Seattle. Pitched against other conferences, ICA's rates will not be pitched in the middle of the range.

Louise Benjamin asked about fees for graduate students: Philip said it would be 75% of the membership fee/conference registration.

- Divisions are encouraged to send in newsworthy stories to raise our external profile. JP Gutierrez at Central Office is leading on this initiative.
- Plagiarism/self-plagiarism: There had been discussion of people presenting and re-presenting the same paper as a form of self-plagiarism. It had been determined that plagiarism should be replaced by the term 'academic integrity'. Where there are suspicions of academic dishonesty, there will be an appeals process involving the publications committee.
- Journals: It had been agreed that all ICA journals should be in an online format by 2018. This is because Wiley's contract with ICA journals ends in 2007.

c. *CHIG Financial matters*

The CHIG budget for 2012-13 was \$1034. We spent \$300 on the Top Student Paper Award (matched by ICA HQ to give a total prize of \$600), \$100 on web hosting, and had put the full balance towards our conference reception.

4. ICA Fellowship nominations

Divisions will be asked to nominate an ICA Fellow every year. Those nominees will go into the larger pool to be considered by the nominating committee.

5. CHIG-sponsored Pre-Conferences:

a. *Report on New Histories of Communication Study 2013, London Metropolitan University*

Dave Park gave an overview of the idea as it had developed with Pete Simonson, and of the programme. The pre-conference had attracted over 80 delegates, who had attended 4 plenaries and 12 paper sessions over 2 days.

Philip noted that the pre-conference had been a really ground-breaking event, with high-quality contributions, and warmly congratulated Dave and Pete.

Papers are up on the CHIG website and available to those who registered for 6 weeks: then that site will close.

b. *Pre-conference proposals for 2014*

Philip asked anyone with proposals for a CHD pre-conference in Seattle to contact him for preliminary discussions.

6. CHIG ICA Conference 2013:

a. *Top Paper Awards*

Philip announced the presentation of our Top Paper Awards to:

- Top Paper Award: Carlos Scolari, U Pompeu Fabra: *Media Evolution: Emergence, Dominance, Survival and Extinction in the Media Ecology*
- Top Student Paper Award: Annie Rudd, Columbia University: *The Unobserved Observer: Humphrey Spender's Hidden Camera and the Politics of Visibility in Interwar Britain*

He warmly congratulated the winners, especially Annie who had won the Student Award for the second year running!

b. *Statistics for CHIG programming*

We are growing quickly. This year, we 90 papers and 12 panels were submitted, of which we were able to accept 4 panels and 6 paper sessions for the 10 slots we were allocated.

c. *High density session*

The introduction of a high density session had increased our paper acceptance rate to about 50%. Without this, it would have been approximately 30%.

d. *Family Breakfast*

Sheila Lodge gave details of the first CHIG Family Breakfast, to be held on Wednesday morning from 6.30 - 8.30 am. The venue was Patisserie Valerie, directly opposite the hotel, and all members were encouraged to attend, as it was hoped the event would encourage folk to get to know each other better and build a sense of the Communication History Family. Any family members travelling with conference delegates would be especially welcome.

e. *Joint reception*

Philip noted that there is an error in the Conference programme: this year, our reception will be held on Thursday 20th May from 6.30- 8.30 pm in Sandringham. We are holding this event jointly with Feminist Scholarship, Global Communication & Social Change and Philosophy, Theory & Critique. Tickets were distributed.

7. Secretary's post:

- a. Philip thanked Deb Lubken for all her work as CHIG Secretary.
- b. And welcome Nicole Maurantonio as the new CHD Secretary.

8. Election of Vice-Chair

The current Vice-Chair, Rick Popp, will assume the position of chair of CHD after the Seattle Conference. A new vice-chair will need to be elected in the autumn of 2013.

9. ICA Media Outreach programme (JP Gutierrez)

JP Gutierrez, Communication Director of ICA, joined the meeting to ask that we send him press releases on our research. This will help raise our profile and that of the ICA.

10. Seattle Conference 2014:

Michael Haley, ICA Executive Director, addressed the meeting at 4.57 pm, making the following points:

- The Prague Conference in 6 years is already being planned.
- Next year's conference will be held in Seattle at the Sheraton Hotel. The programme Chair is Peter Vorderer, and the theme is *Communication and the Good Life*.
- The Sheraton has a number of small rooms set up with fixed tables. Although we cannot use them for sessions, a new concept will be trialled, with research interests being brought together to bounce ideas that might enable collaborations. Rooms will be available for more structured interactions as well. These sessions will be outside normal submission process, and details will be announced in due course.
- Evaluation of this conference (London 2013) is important. ICA wants to know what worked, and what didn't. Michael asked that we consider the following questions: How do you feel about a Friday full day? Are 30 pre-conferences the day before a good or a bad thing? Do we need to go back to 2200 people? If we do, what will that mean? What if we have 4000 submissions?
- Upcoming ICA conference venues will be:

- 2015 San Juan, PR
- 2016 Fukuoka, Japan
- 2017 San Diego, CA
- 2018 Prague
- 2019 Washington, DC

11. Announcements / AOCB

Philip thanked all who had reviewed papers for the London Conference: their work had been invaluable, and was much appreciated. He encouraged all members to sign up to review papers for next year. It was noted that some divisions have award for top paper reviewer: this is something for the Division to consider. He confirmed that graduate students can review for CHD.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 5.45 pm.

Nicole Maurantonio,
Secretary, CHD