

COMMUNICATION HISTORY INTEREST GROUP (CHIG) GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING
*at the annual meeting of the International Communication Association
 in Boston on Friday, May 27, 2011*

The meeting began at 4:30 p.m. with approximately 40 members present.

1. Approval of 2010 minutes

Members present unanimously approved the minutes from the interest group's 2010 general business meeting in Singapore.

2. Report of the Chair

Membership and activities

As of May 26, the interest group had 229 members. If membership remains above 200 for two years in a row, CHIG will qualify for division status.

Due to the uptick in membership, CHIG received programming space for ten panels and paper sessions at this year's conference in addition to an interactive poster session. Thirteen proposals for panel sessions were submitted; five were accepted (a rejection rate of 61%). Fifty-eight papers were submitted; 30 were accepted (a rejection rate of 42%). All told, a total of 102 papers were submitted, including those proposed as part of pre-constituted panels. Forty-eight were accepted, for a rejection rate of 52.9%.

Pooley encouraged members to visit and respond to the virtual panel, noting that the virtual conference is supposed to be an overlay of the on-site conference. Although ICA leadership is confident that members successfully multitask between on-site and virtual conferences, a dearth of comments in the virtual overlay suggests that participation may not be so enthusiastic. Pooley solicited comments from the membership about their experiences with the virtual conference.

- Deb Lubken suggested that ICA negotiate with official conference hotels for cheaper in-room internet access.
- Sheila Lodge noted that the virtual overlay provided opportunities for remote members to participate in conference activities.
- Caroline Jack suggested that particularly valuable feedback about the utility of the virtual overlay might be solicited from members unable to attend the Boston conference.

The CHIG budget increased to \$887 this year. Expenses include \$250 for the top student paper award and \$400 for the interest group's joint reception with three other ICA sections (\$237 remaining).

CHIG sponsored two preconferences this year: Mediating War and Technology, and Post-Rorty Pragmatism: The New Wave of Pragmatism in Communication Research (co-sponsored by the Philosophy of Communication division).

CHIG launched a new website in April 2011 (with both full and mobile formats) and may also be followed on Twitter.

Report from ICA Board of Directors meeting

Next year's annual meeting will foreground immigration issues. Each division and interest group will get one extended session (three hours) for activities related to the conference theme, and ICA wants each section to recognize one or two papers related to the theme. Pooley requested ideas for how to use the three-hour session.

- Sharrona Pearl suggested a workshop on innovative methods featuring historians at various levels.
- Ben Peters seconded the idea of a methods workshop, noting that an emphasis on evidence would provide a useful platform for members to (1) learn about data sources that have recently become available and (2) see how other members bring together evidence and methods to make arguments.
- John Laprise suggested that the gains from the workshop might be permanently featured on the CHIG website.
- Giovanna Dell'Orto suggested that gaining access to archives off the beaten path might be a way to highlight the conference theme.

ICA has been considering China as the 2016 conference site, which has raised concerns about Internet censorship and extraordinarily high costs. Given these concerns, Fukuoka, Japan is ICA leadership's first choice, and Gold Coast, Australia is an alternative site.

The induction of ICA Fellows has not kept pace with international diversity or gender; the number of Fellows has stayed small even as the organization has grown. One reason for this trend may be that the Fellows are self-selecting.

An ICA task force on internationalization has recommended that every interest group and division make a concerted effort to welcome international participation. The Board of Directors passed a policy to re-orient at-large Board members as "ICA Ambassadors" to the regions that they represent. Pooley noted that CHIG's membership has hovered around 80% North American and asked for members' input on internationalization and the interest group's policy of discouraging single-country panels, which may counter internationalization efforts.

- Sharrona Pearl noted that allowing single-country panels may make it more difficult for graduate students to forge international connections. As an alternative, Pearl suggested an explicitly comparative preconference in Phoenix.
- Dave Park remarked that history may be more difficult to internationalize than other areas of communication research.
- Menahem Blondheim suggested approaching other historical associations. John Laprise mentioned IAMCR and ICOHTEC. Pooley added the Communication History section of the European Communication Research and Education Association (ECREA).
- Edgar Simpson suggested that the CHIG website might emphasize upcoming international conferences.
- Jose Vicente Arizmendi Correa (Pontificia Universidad Javeriana) offered to serve as an informal CHIG ambassador. Pooley encouraged Jose Ortiz of Panamerican University to also consider serving as an informal CHIG ambassador.
- Sharrona Pearl asked if there might be a way to offer CHIG membership to scholars who cannot or do not wish to come to ICA. Dave Park noted that ICA's Political Communication division offers joint membership with the American Political Science Association.

Pooley reported that although the ICA budget is currently very healthy, a large portion of the budget comes from journal royalties. There is concern that the association's budget may recede with open access.

ICA will be hiring a Communication Director in the near future.

Pooley reported that the Board of Directors passed a conference submission limit of five papers per person. Although the vote was twenty-four to four in favor, the measure is controversial.

3. Announcements from ICA Executive Director Michael Haley about ICA 2012 in Phoenix

The submission process will open on September 1 and close on November 1. Preconference suggestions are due by September 1. The theme, "Communication and Community," will specifically address issues related to Phoenix as a controversial site: immigration, refugees, human rights, etc. A plenary featuring the Lost Boys of Sudan is in the works. The Sheraton in downtown Phoenix will be the official conference hotel, with a rate of \$115 per night. Arizona State University's Cronkite School of Communication is located directly across from conference site and may also be a resource.

4. Top paper awards

Congratulations to the 2011 recipients of the CHIG top paper awards!

Top Student Paper: "'Predatory Interests' and 'The Common Man': Scripps, Pinchot, and the Nascent Environmental Movement, 1908 to 1910," by Edgar Simpson (Ohio University)

Top Paper: "To Give the Gift of Freedom: Gift Books and the War on Slavery," by Meaghan Morissa Fritz (Georgetown University) and Frank E. Fee, Jr. (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)

5. Concluding remarks from the Chair

Reminder to sign up to review papers for next year's conference.

Reminder of upcoming election for CHIG Vice Chair.

The meeting adjourned with an invitation to attend the CHIG reception.