

**International Communication Division**  
Association for Education in Journalism & Mass Communication

**Annual Report**  
June 15, 2017

Current officers

<i>Head</i>	<b>Ammina Kothari</b> , Rochester Institute of Technology
<i>Vice Head</i>	<b>Mohammed al-Azdee</b> , University of Bridgeport
<i>Research Chair</i>	<b>Lindita Camaj</b> , University of Houston
<i>Student Paper</i>	<b>Jatin Srivastava</b> , Ohio University
<i>PF&amp;R Chair</i>	<b>Sally Ann Cruikshank</b> , Auburn University
<i>Teaching Chair</i>	<b>Anna Popkova</b> , Western Michigan University
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	<b>Joe Weber</b> , University of Nebraska
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	<b>Jae Sik Ha</b> , University of Illinois-Springfield
	<b>Rauf Arif</b> , University of Texas-Tyler
	<b>Yunjuan Luo</b> , Texas Tech University
<i>Research Liaisons-Europe</i>	<b>Lea Hellmueller</b> , University of Houston
	<b>Betty Tsakarestou</b> , Panteion University (Athens, Greece)
	<b>Joanna Spiteri</b> , University of Malta
	<b>Jessica Retis</b> , California State University-Northridge
<i>Research Liaisons-Latin America &amp; Caribbean</i>	<b>Leonardo Ferreira</b> , Florida International University
	<b>Victor Garcia</b> , The University of Texas at Austin
	<b>Jessica Retis</b> , California State University-Northridge
<i>Research Liaison-MENA</i>	<b>Shaheen Pasha</b> , University of Massachusetts-Amherst
	<b>Mohammad Abuljadail</b> , Bowling Green State University
	<b>Fatmaelzahraa M.A. Elsayed</b> , Cairo University
	<b>Sally Ann Cruikshank</b> , Auburn University
<i>Research Liaison-Sub-Saharan Africa</i>	
<i>Multimedia Contest Chair</i>	<b>Delwar Hossain</b> , University of South Alabama
<i>CSW Liaison</i>	<b>Enakshi Roy</b> , Ohio University
<i>Journal Editor</i>	<b>Yusuf Kalyango Jr.</b> , Ohio University

## **Statement of International Communication Division Activities**

### *General Statement*

The International Communication Division has had an exciting year. We increased research liaisons for Asia, the Middle East and North Africa, and Sub-Saharan Africa. The Executive Board had multiple virtual meetings throughout the year with various regional liaisons to discuss activities to expand our outreach efforts. The Division now has a database of over 60 media professionals and scholars from around the world who are interested in engaging with ICD members. The Head Skyped with individual officers in January to discuss various ICD initiatives and solicit feedback about areas for improvement. The Vice Head coordinated conference programming this year to include more members and co-sponsors with other divisions, including a pre-conference session. To expand outreach and interest in the Division, the ICD is planning a Twitter chat in July to engage with the wider communication community and promote some of the signature sessions at the annual conference.

For a third year, the ICD Membership Chair has taken a very active role in assessing membership needs and reaching out to past and current members. A summer 2017 update report from the ICD Membership Chair shows that the division has 228 members, making ICD the fifth largest division in terms of membership. The current membership numbers represent a slight increase from 2016 (221) and 2015 (225). While these numbers are down from a high point of 301 members in 2007, they indicate a break in the downward trend over much of the past decade. During the year, the membership chair and division head discussed various strategies to maintain current membership levels while identifying strategies for drawing new members to the division. The membership chair emailed lapsed/former members encouraging them to reconnect with ICD and renew membership. We also administered two surveys, one targeted towards current members and another reaching out to scholars from outside the United States via our research liaisons. The executive board will also be hosting a coffee hour during the annual conference to facilitate

We have expanded our presence on social media by adding a LinkedIn group page where our Social Media Chair has been regularly posting scholarly and professionals announcements on a regular basis. The division has also seen an increase in engagement on all our social media platforms, especially with cross-promotion of AEJMC-related content.

### **Goals for the upcoming year**

Among the goals of the ICD this coming year, the leadership plans to:

- Continue to reach out to members and potential members around the world
- Reach out and mentor graduate students to increase their engagement with the division

- Add new global liaisons, especially graduate students who can connect with others students to expand the reach of each region represented on the Executive Board and increase participate from emerging scholars.
- Focus on targeted approaches to reach the membership and others through social media
- Continue to strive for diversity and inclusion in the ICD leadership posts, conference programming, and year-around outreach activities

### **Goals the group set this year that need to be developed**

The ICD leadership will continue developing the following:

- Discuss strategies to increase engagement of the global liaisons on the Executive Board to include collaborations on research projects and sharing of curriculum-related resources with members and non-member professionals and academics around the world.
- Streamline social media engagement efforts
- Discuss ways to increase submission of annual updates from the global liaisons
- Increase participation in the teaching competition and AEJMC-ICD student International Multimedia News Story Contest by increase publicity efforts via social media and targeted emailing to schools with journalism programs

### **Standing Committees/Assistance in achieving goals in coming year**

The ICD leadership is eager to work with the AEJMC leadership and/or Standing Committees in any outreach initiatives or plans aimed at fostering collaboration with media practitioners and scholars globally, especially in issues related to immigration and refugee crisis.

### *Research*

For the 2016-2017 year, the abstract and paper submissions were competitive and the areas of research, theory and methods were broad with a host of geographic areas represented. The number of abstract submissions for the Mid-Winter conference remained strong.

The addition of the Reviewer Recruitment Officer, appointed in 2015-16 has streamlined the review process by recruiting new and past reviewers for paper competitions this year, significantly decreasing the workload of the Research Chair. The division had a decline in the number of research paper submissions this year for the annual conference. The ICD had 92 faculty and student paper submissions in 2016 (54 faculty and 38 students) and 74 papers (49 faculty and 25 student) in 2017, a nearly 20 percent decline. In speaking with some of the members, it was suggested that some ICD members attended other conferences and did not have the funds budgeted for a second or third conference.

### **Statistics for 2017 Mid-Winter Conference**

- research paper abstracts submitted: 12 papers
- panel proposals submitted: 0
- abstracts accepted: 9 papers
- acceptance rate: 75%
- reviewers total: 8
- number of reviewers per submission: 2

#### Demographics:

**Presenters (authors):** 8 males and 12 females. 19 from U.S. academic institutions and 1 from non-U.S. academic institution (*Nigeria*).

**Reviewers:** 6 male and 2 females. All from U.S. academic institutions

### **Statistics for 2017 Research Paper Competition**

#### Faculty paper submissions

- Faculty research paper submissions: 49
- Faculty research paper acceptances: 27
- Percentage accepted: 55%

#### Student paper submissions

- Student research paper submissions: 25
- Student research paper acceptances: 13
- Percentage accepted: 53%

#### Overall Paper Competition Totals:

- Submitted: 74
- Accepted: 40
- Percentage accepted: 54%

#### Judging:

- Number of judges: 81
- Number of reviewers per paper: 3 reviewers
- Number of papers per judge: minimum of 1 paper and maximum of 3 papers

#### Demographics:

##### Presenters (authors):

Gender: 39 males and 52 female

Affiliation: 66 authors from U.S. academic institutions and 26 authors from non-U.S. academic institutions (*3 from China; 3 from Qatar; 2 from Cuba; 2 from U.K.; 1 from Chile; 1 from Spain; 1 from Mexico; 1 from Argentina; 1 from Brazil, 1 from Hong Kong; 1 from Germany; 1 from*

*Greece; 1 from Hungary; 1 from Ireland; 1 from Malaysia; 1 from Singapore; 1 from Poland; 1 from Switzerland; 1 from Finland; and 1 from India)*

Reviewers:

Gender: 35 males and 46 females

Affiliation: 62 from U.S. academic institutions and 19 from non-U.S. academic institutions (2 Chile; 2 Qatar; 2 Germany; 1 China; 1 Egypt; 1 Spain; 1 Kenya; 1 Mexico; 1 Cuba; 1 Ireland, 1 Hungary; 1 Tunisia; 1 Ghana; 1 Indonesia; 1 Malta; 1 Malaysia)

Related competitions & awards

- Markham Student Paper Competition (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> place)
- Stevenson Open Paper Competition (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> place)
- African Journalism Studies Award for Best Journalism Research Paper Award
- Asian Journal of Communication Research Paper Award
- Latino-Latin American Communication Research Awards

The ICD also programmed one pre-conference research session and two conference research panel sessions. The pre-conference research session is titled “Mediated Public Diplomacy: Case Studies from Five Continents.” This panel brings together scholars and professional journalists from five countries (Bangladesh, China, Russia, Rwanda, and Uruguay) to consider the role of leadership in mediated public diplomacy. The first conference research panel is co-sponsored with the Electronic News Division and is titled, “Going ‘Instantly Live’: Global and domestic impacts of Facebook Live, broadband access, and digital transformations.” The second conference research panel session co-sponsored with The Commission on the Status of Women is titled: “Women, Politics and Media: Perspectives from Africa, Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe.” Drawing on the feminist scholarship of media and politics, panelists will address the status of current research, from evaluating case studies focusing on countries of different regions of the world—Eastern Europe, Africa, Latin America, and South Asia.

One of the ICD’s research related activities this year focuses on mentoring graduate students by offering guidance on research, conference presentations, and publishing in peer-reviewed journals. Executive officers will hold a coffee hour on Wednesday, August 9<sup>th</sup> to meet with graduate students whose papers have been selected for presentation at the annual conference to answer questions and offer insights about research and engagement with the division.

*Teaching*

The ICD leadership continues to focus on recommendations from the 2014 five-year review of the division and is committed to emphasizing teaching activities. For the annual conference, the division has programmed a teaching panel titled, “Teaching Media in the Middle East: Negotiating Gendered Expectations and Differences,” which is co-sponsored by the Commission on Status of Women. In addition to the panel session, the division is continuing with the Teaching Contest started in 2016. The contest is sponsored by *International Communication Research Journal*, the Ohio University Institute for International Journalism and the African

Journalism Studies journal. In spring of 2017, the Division solicited the submission of class-tested activities (larger or smaller projects, assignments, games and/or simulations, service learning projects, or assessment techniques) that address one or more specific learning objective(s) in the context of teaching international/global communication/global journalism studies. The Division received three proposals and expects the number of submissions to increase in the following years as the contest is promoted on social media and the website. After peer-review, all three submissions were selected for an award. The 1st place award went to Tokunbo Ojo, Department of Communication Studies, York University, Toronto, Canada, with the project titled *Corporate Profile: A Case Study Analysis of Multinational Communication/Media Companies*. The 2nd place award was given to Dawn Pysarchik & Joe Grimm, School of Journalism, Michigan State University for their project titled *100 Questions and Answers About Immigrants to the U.S and the third-place award went to Bonnye Stuart, Department of Mass Communication, Winthrop University, for her project titled *Adopt-a-Country News Articles and International Journalist Project*.*

The Teaching Contest complements another out-of-convention teaching project – the Syllabus Bank. The Syllabus Bank was launched in 2014 and now has 14 syllabi submitted by ICD members. The division has also been promoting the Syllabus Bank on social media and hope to expand the resource with the inclusion of more syllabi from other universities around the world. The division is committed to promoting resources and research on pedagogy to advance teaching of global/international communication within journalism and mass communication departments both nationally and internationally by sponsoring teaching sessions at the annual conferences and through the teaching contest, where innovative and teaching excellence in highlighted at the business meeting, on social media and on the ICD’s website.

#### *PF&R*

The ICD leadership continues to focus on issues related professional freedom by incorporating professionals with academics on various panels. This year we received three proposals that were evaluated for Professional Freedom and Responsibility and selected for programming for the annual conference. The proposed panels feature diverse ideas and panelists from across the world. Panel subjects include conceptualizing freedom of expression in Sub-Saharan Africa, media regulations and reforms in Latin America, and public diplomacy case studies from five continents. The Division is co-sponsoring two sessions with Law and Policy division focusing on freedom of expression among journalists and researchers in Sub-Saharan Africa and media regulations in Latin America. The session titled “Global Inequities in Health: The Ethics of Forgotten Communities” is co-sponsored with the Communicating Science, Health, Environment, and Risk division. All of these sessions fulfill the PF&R Committee’s focus on free expression, ethics, media criticism & accountability, as well as cultural inclusiveness.

In an effort to involve ICD members in the selection of the off-site PF&R visit in Chicago, we held a Google Poll asking members to vote on three international media outlets. Options included *The India Tribune*, an English weekly that’s been publishing since 1977, *Reklama*, a Russian Magazine based in Chicago, and *FilAm Weekly* and a local publication focusing on the

Filipino community in Chicago. While *Reklama* was the most popular choice, due to scheduling issues, members will be visiting *The India Tribune*, which was the second choice. The weekly newspaper launched in 1977 in Chicago and now publishes three editions in Chicago, New York, and Atlanta. It reaches a readership of more than 125,000. The tour will include a meeting with the publisher and a question and answer session with reporters.

The International Communication Division promotes the principles of professional freedom and responsibility through awards for faculty and students, competitions, activities, and initiatives. The Division also provides resources for educators to encourage free expression, ethics, media criticism and accountability, racial, gender, and cultural inclusiveness, and public service. Currently, ICD grants three awards for research to encourage racial, gender, and cultural inclusiveness. The Latino/Latin American Communication Research Award (LARA) was launched in 2014 and recognizes research conducted by authors of the Latino, Hispanic, or Latin American community. Submitted papers must also contribute to scholarship on Latino, Hispanic, and/or Latin American journalism and mass communication studies and is open to faculty and students. ICD partners with *African Journalism Studies* for the Best Paper Award for Journalism Research. The award promotes research in global journalism, including media ethics, gender, and race. The *Asian Journal of Communication* Best Paper Award is presented to an outstanding paper focusing on mass communication research on the Asia-Pacific region.

For faculty, this year ICD continued with the “International Communication Division Teaching Contest” to recognize innovative approaches to teaching international communication, including global news engagement, de-westernizing journalism studies, and comparative studies research. For students, ICD holds the annual Student International Multimedia News Story contest. The award recognizes students for excellence in reporting on international issues and encourages students to explore issues surrounding cultural diversity.

Regarding gender, ICD appoints a liaison to the AEJMC Commission for the Status of Women. This position allows the Division to collaborate with CSW on panels and projects promoting international gender equality and research. For the annual conference in Chicago, the Division is co-sponsoring a teaching panel with CSW focusing on how journalism and mass communication professors in the Middle East can maneuver and overcome cultural differences, expectations, and obstacles that frequently hinder female students from studying and pursuing careers in media. We also have a research panel, co-sponsored with CSW which will highlight feminist scholarship focusing on women, politics and the media in advanced democratic societies. The ICD’s expanding research liaisons initiative continues to promote collaboration and interaction with faculty from around the world. For this year’s annual paper competition, we had faculty from 19 non-US academic institutions volunteer as peer reviewers increasing the scope of research expertise in the Division.

### *Other Activities*

The AEJMC-ICD student International Multimedia News Story Contest—2016-17 received only two entries, both from Arizona State University, Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass

Communication. The judges decided that all the two entries were well-written stories supported by multimedia elements such as videos, links to relevant stories, and photographs, and deserved to win. Ms. Netsch secured the first position for her story titled 'Separated by the War', a portrayal of how an Iraqi family was split while crossing borders through the Balkans. Ms. Netsch described her story as, "Echoing the path of many modern day refugees, Rafo Yousef and his family fled Iraq and traveled through the Balkans to reach safety and security. His family was split due to the confusing process of refugee life while crossing borders." Ms. Atanackovic won the second prize for her story titled, 'Women and Children in Kutina' which focuses on how volunteer organizations provide language training and organize fun activities for kids and women in a refugee center in Kutina, Croatia.

Finally, this report is supplemented with the ICD annual spring newsletter. The newsletter contains the highlights of the initiatives from the 2016-2017 leadership, membership, conference programming and other activities, along with awards and recognitions.