

International Communication Division
Association for Education in Journalism & Mass Communication

Annual Report
June 15, 2015

Current officers

<i>Head</i>	Emily Metzgar, Indiana University
<i>Vice Head</i>	Jeannine Relly, University of Arizona
<i>Research Chair</i>	Ammina Khotari, Rochester Institute of Technology
<i>Student Paper</i>	Mohammed al Azdee, University of Bridgeport
<i>Secretary</i>	Jatin Srivastava, Ohio University
<i>PF&R Chair</i>	Lindita Camaj, University of Houston
<i>Teaching Chair</i>	Joe Weber, University of Nebraska
<i>Membership Chair</i>	Kevin Grieves, Ohio University
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Anna Popkova, University of Minnesota
<i>Webmaster</i>	Rodrigo Zamith, University of Minnesota

Statement of International Communication Division Activities

General Statement

The state of the International Communication Division is strong. ICD continues to thrive as an active and growing component of AEJMC. Membership (numbering 272 as of September 2014) is drawn from students and faculty from around the world. Ever larger numbers of researchers are conducting research with international components and submitting their work to the Division's paper competitions. Leadership of the Division is increasingly diversified, with current officers hailing from the United States, Tanzania, Russia, Iraq, Kosovo and India.

As AEJMC has become more internationally oriented -- manifested most recently in the theme for the 2015 conference "Global Bridges" -- the International Communication Division has received increasing numbers of submissions. Of course, all members of ICD welcome this growing interest within the organization! However, while most submissions to ICD's annual paper competition contain an international element, a growing number of submissions stray pretty far afield from the realm of "international communication" as understood in the academic literature and as originally intended with the creation of Division.

We receive increasing numbers of papers that address a range of journalism and mass communication subjects in a non-U.S. context, but that do not necessarily deal with international communication per se. As ICD thinks about revising its call for papers to more clearly state the Division's parameters, we would like to initiate an AEJMC-wide discussion about where internationally-oriented research fits in AEJMC overall. This is because we realize any changes we make will affect other divisions and interest groups.

One possibility we might consider would be a more specific declaration in ICD's annual call for papers that the Division's interests are primarily focused on international communication, communication dynamics in the international environment, comparative studies between 2 or more countries, global and regional communication issues, and related topics. With such a change, we would also recommend that studies not meeting these parameters be submitted to other divisions or interest groups within AEJMC. For example, a study focused on social media use in country X; health communication in country Y; or journalism practices in country Z would not necessarily be considered appropriate to the International Communication Division. We would therefore encourage the submission of such papers to, perhaps, Communication Technology; Health Communication; or Mass Communication and Society respectively. An important criteria for review of ICD submissions would be how well a paper fits within these newly articulated parameters. This would mean that papers failing to meet these parameters would not be accepted by the Division for inclusion in a conference program and that is where the impact on other divisions and interest groups might be felt most acutely.

With reviewers at a premium and space on the conference program a limited commodity, ICD leaderships believes we need to more carefully articulate the types of research that we consider most appropriate to the International Communication Division. It is worth noting that ICA's Global Communication and Social Change Division has introduced similar revisions to its call for papers for 2015.

We recognize that changes to ICD's call for papers will necessitate adaptation, not just for members of the Division, but also for other divisions and interest groups in the organization. Therefore, rather than taking unilateral action, ICD would like to encourage an organization-wide discussion about the place of internationally-oriented research within AEJMC. ICD would be happy to take the lead in initiating these discussions.

Research

For the 2014-2015 membership year, the International Communication Division has sought to maintain the strength of the research it highlights at the mid-winter and annual conferences. The paper and abstract selection process remains competitive and the range of topics and methods represented in the Division's work is consistently varied in terms of subject and geographic region.

STATISTICS FOR 2015 MID-WINTER CONFERENCE

- 8 abstracts submitted
- 1 panel submitted

- 4 abstracts accepted (50% accepted)
- 1 panel accepted (100% accepted)

- 9 reviewers total
- 3 reviewers per submission

STATISTICS FOR 2015 RESEARCH PAPER COMPETITION

Faculty paper submissions

- Faculty research paper submissions: 73
- Faculty research paper acceptances: 41
- Percentage accepted: 56.6%

Student paper submissions

- Student research paper submissions: 48
- Student research papers acceptances: 22
- Percentage accepted: 45.8%

Overall Paper Competition Totals:

- Submitted: 121

- Accepted: 52.1%

Judging

- Number of judges: 74
- Number of papers per judge: 3
 - NB: Division head, vice head, research chair, and student paper competition chair reviewed in excess of 3 papers each to ensure that we kept our promise of 3 papers for other volunteer reviewers

Related competitions & awards

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

Teaching

Consistent with recommendations offered as a result of the division's five-year review in 2014, ICD has continued to emphasize the teaching aspect of the Division's interests. To that end, this year the Division created a syllabus bank with the goal of providing a service to AEJMC's membership, both within ICD and beyond. We anticipate growing this effort further in coming years.

We have also worked to diversify the Division's programming beyond the presentation of selected papers, prioritizing both teaching and PF&R. To that end we have continued to fine tune a transparent, membership-wide process for solicitation of panel proposals and have prioritized cooperative efforts with other divisions and interest groups. For 2015, ICD received 8 proposed panels focused on teaching for the annual conference.

Demonstrating our commitment to teaching in the international communication context, we dedicated Division resources to sole sponsorship of a session titled "Integrating International News Coverage into Other Journalism Classes – Best Practices, Case Studies, Pedagogical Resources, and Cautionary Strategies." We expect discussion generated by this session will help expand interest in and utility of the aforementioned syllabus bank. Participants in this session are instructors who regularly incorporate professional experience earned abroad into classroom discussion of international reporting specifically and international communication more generally.

PF&R

As part of the panel solicitation process noted above, ICD received 7 proposed panels focused on PF&R for the 2015 annual conference. The result has been a broader range of topics discussed and a more diverse array of participants involved in the programming. Mindful of the five-year review's recommendation that ICD also focus on PF&R, we

prioritized PF&R in programming for 2015, paying particular attention to incorporation of professional experience in addition to academic expertise.

We are especially pleased that one of our PF&R-oriented panel proposals, submitted with the Public Relations Division, has been selected as one of the three Global Bridges panels for the 2015 conference. The session is titled “Global Bridges Over Troubled Waters: Communication in the Wake of Humanitarian Crises.” We worked closely with the Public Relations Division to organize this panel, including identification of a primary speaker from the United Nations and participation of respected scholars from both divisions as supporting participants. Preparation of this panel was truly a joint effort, with exceptional leadership demonstrated by ICD vice head Jeannine Relly and PR vice head Tiffany Gallicano.

ICD has also co-sponsored a PF&R panel with the Political Communication Interest Group titled “The Ethics of ‘Global Journalism’ with Purpose.” Although ICD leadership participated in early discussions about the creation of this panel, the Political Communication Interest Group took the lead in organizing this session. Participation is evenly divided between members of both groups. Some participants are members of both divisions.

Another session, co-sponsored with Communicating Science, Health, Environment and Risk Division Divisions is titled “Reporting Crises in Africa: From Arab Spring to the Deadly Ebola Virus.” Participation is evenly divided between members of both groups. Some participants are members of both divisions. All participants hail from Africa.

Given considerable interest and expertise in Latin America in ICD, the Division also chose to act as sole sponsor for a PF&R panel titled “Social and Political Forces Impacting the Practice of Journalism in Latin America and the Caribbean.” Participants are active journalism scholars and practitioners focused on Latin America. 5 of the 6 participants have roots in Latin America.

As part of ICD’s PF&R activities in San Francisco, the Division is sponsoring a tour of AJ+, the Al Jazeera innovation department’s digital-only video news network and community, headquartered in San Francisco. Participants in this tour will learn about Al Jazeera’s work in the United States generally, its emphasis on the digital front in particular, its efforts to practice journalism in the international environment, and the professional norms and routines of its journalists around the world.

In addition to conference programming, in support of future international journalists, ICD sponsors the International Multimedia News Story Contest, selecting top submissions from undergraduate journalism programs. Winners this year hail from Syracuse University, Michigan State University, and Kent State University. All winners receive cash prizes from ICD.

Other Activities

ICD's journal, the *International Communication Research Journal* (ICRJ) is under new leadership, with editor Yusuf Kalyango Jr. of Ohio University at the reins. Appointment of Yusuf as editor was highlighted in last year's annual report and was made official at the ICD business meeting in Montreal. The Division is excited to have enthusiastic leadership working toward growing ICJR in size and stature. An update from the editor is included in the accompanying newsletter.

ICD's new membership chair, Kevin Grieves, fielded an expanded membership survey to help elicit input from membership about their experiences with the Division and their expectations for the Division moving forward. Information collected will be used to guide future decisions about the Division, including ongoing discussions about refining the parameters of the Division given AEJMC's growing interest in international issues and the growing numbers of submissions received by the Division without commensurate increases in the number of reviewers or dues paying members.

Finally, as a supplement to this document, ICD's annual spring newsletter is attached to this report. It contains a summary of ICD events from Montreal and brief updates about other Division activities since then. It offers further evidence of the range of activities and interests of the Division's members.