

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

**Annual Report**  
June 15, 2016

Current officers

<i>Head</i>	<b>Jeannine Relly</b> , The University of Arizona
<i>Vice Head</i>	<b>Ammina Kothari</b> , Rochester Institute of Technology
<i>Research Chair</i>	<b>Mohammed al-Azdee</b> , University of Bridgeport
<i>Student Paper</i>	<b>Lindita Camaj</b> , University of Houston
<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
<i>Reviewer Recruiter</i>	<b>Summer Harlow</b> , Florida State University
<i>Membership Chair</i>	<b>Kevin Grieves</b> , Whitworth University
<i>Social Media Chair</i>	<b>Vanessa Bravo</b> , Elon University
<i>Digital Chair</i>	<b>Ivanka Pjesivac</b> , University of Georgia
<i>Secretary</i>	<b>Jatin Srivastava</b> , Ohio University
<i>Research Liaison – Asia</i>	<b>Parul, Jain</b> , Ohio University
<i>Research Liaisons-Europe</i>	<b>Lea Hellmueller</b> , University of Houston
	<b>Betty Tsakarestou</b> , Panteion University (Athens, Greece)
<i>Research Liaisons-Latin America &amp; Caribbean</i>	<b>Leonardo Ferreira</b> , Florida International University
<i>Research Liaison-MENA</i>	<b>Victor Garcia</b> , The University of Texas at Austin
<i>Research Liaison-Sub-Saharan Africa</i>	<b>Shaheen Pasha</b> , University of Massachusetts-Amherst
<i>Multimedia Contest Chair</i>	<b>Sally Ann Cruikshank</b> , Auburn University
<i>CSW Liaison</i>	<b>Sandhya Rao</b> , Texas State University
<i>Journal Editor</i>	<b>Tania Rosas-Moreno</b> , Loyola University
	<b>Yusuf Kalyango Jr.</b> , Ohio University

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

### *General Statement*

The International Communication Division has had a vibrant year. We initiated several projects that allowed our Executive Board to nearly double in size with activities centered on expanding efforts in the areas of research, teaching and outreach. The ICD has moved toward building its membership base and collaborations around the world through research liaison positions for Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Middle East and North Africa, and Sub-Saharan Africa. The leadership on the Executive Board already has been discussing expanding these posts this coming year to include more teaching and outreach liaison work with interested members and their colleagues outside of the U.S.

The Head and Vice Head, this year, also met by Skype with individuals and groups within the Executive Board Members to discuss these and other new initiatives. The Vice Head also coordinated conference programming this year to include more members and co-sponsors with other divisions than the last few years. The result is one of the more robust ICD programs in recent years with four pre-conference and six conference sessions.

To expand outreach and interest in the Division, the ICD also launched its first teaching competition that is open to members and nonmembers. We also utilized responses from a membership survey from the previous year to continue to attempt to diversify programming, provide outreach during calls to ensure diversity and inclusion, increase opportunities for new recognitions, and provide growing support for interactions among Executive Board Members and the membership. For a second year, the ICD Membership Chair has taken a very active role in assessing membership needs and produced a report analyzing membership trends for the last 10 years. In addition, the Membership Chair reached out to former members and developed and implemented a strategic plan for outreach.

A spring 2016 update report from the ICD Membership Chair indicates the ICD had 221 members, which is relatively close to data reported from the same time of year in 2015 (when there were 225 ICD members). That noted, the report indicates that membership figures have had a gradual decline over the last decade with a high of 301 members in 2007. The Membership Chair, Head and Vice Head met to discuss possible explanations for the trend, followed by outreach through the Membership Chair with former members. The Membership Chair report includes several strategic steps that already have begun to be undertaken to stabilize and build membership in the coming years, including personal outreach by email to former members, increased outreach to graduate students with an initiative to invite more of these students into the ICD leadership posts with less demanding roles, increased social activities at the AEJMC conference (this year we will hold a social even to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the division's *International Communication Research Journal*, which will be hosted by the journal Editor). In the

outreach email to lapsed ICD members, the Membership Chair invited former members to reconnect and noted the division's home to research, teaching and service that transcends borders and the many activities at the upcoming conference and the new initiatives in the division.

We added a Research Recruitment Officer position as well this year, in an effort to grow the number of reviewers for the annual research competition. To further reach our members and those interested in the division, we also added a Social Media Chair post to our Board to join the Digital Chair (formerly Webmaster). Consequently, the ICD's social media feeds (Facebook and Twitter) have been more active this year along with the listserv, and we have a member colleague in Greece who has offered to assist with strategies to boost that reach further.

### **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
- Expand the work of the global liaisons on the Executive Board to include collaborations on research projects, connecting classrooms, and other outreach projects among the membership and non-member professionals and academics around the world
- Solicit ideas and feedback from ICD members on ways to retain and recruit new members (at the business meeting and through digital channels)
- Initiate new ways to reach graduate students
- 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
- Work with the Editor of the *International Communication Research Journal* to strategically map ways to ensure the journal's continued health

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

The ICD leadership will continue developing the following:

- Add new global liaisons to expand the reach of each region represented on the Executive Board
- Discuss organizing targeted global projects
- Request that global liaisons provide an annual update to the division on global activities
- Publicize the teaching competition to expand participation

### **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 continuing to globalize the organization.

#### *Research*

The ICD had a full discussion at the 2015 conference business meeting about the possibility of further defining the Division's call for papers. The division membership at the meeting voted to table the idea of revising the guidelines for the research paper competition call.

For the 2015-2016 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 nearly doubled.

At the annual meeting in San Francisco, the leadership appointed a Research Paper Recruitment Officer for the annual research paper competition. This proved to be a great addition to the Executive Board and decreased the workload of the Research Chair. The Reviewer Recruitment Officer reached out through email to the membership and others and worked well with the research chairs this year.

The division had a decline in the number of research paper submissions this year for the annual conference. The ICD had 121 faculty and student paper submissions in 2015 (73 faculty and 48 students) and 92 papers (54 faculty and 38 student) in 2016, a nearly 24 percent decline. In speaking with some of the membership, it was suggested that some ICD members attended other conferences in other parts of the world and did not have the funds budgeted for a second or third conference in the states.

#### **Statistics for 2016 Mid-Winter Conference**

- 15 research paper abstracts submitted
- 0 panel proposals submitted
  
- 14 abstracts accepted (93% accepted)
  
- 11 reviewers total
- 3 reviewers per submission

#### **Statistics for 2016 Research Paper Competition**

##### Faculty paper submissions

- Faculty research paper submissions: 54
- Faculty research paper acceptances: 27
- Percentage accepted: 50%

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### Student paper submissions

- Student research paper submissions: 38
- Student research paper acceptances: 19
- Percentage accepted: 50%

### Overall Paper Competition Totals:

- Submitted: 92
- Accepted: 50%

### Judging:

- Number of judges: 66
- Number of papers per judge: Between two and three papers per judge
- Division Head, Vice Head, Research Chair, Student Research Paper Chair, the Social Media Chair, and the Research Reviewer Recruitment Officer reviewed more than three papers to ensure that reviewers had three or less papers to review.

### 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 has programmed one pre-conference research session and two conference research panel sessions. The pre-conference research session is titled, “Risk and Crisis in Journalism and Communication: Research Applications.” The first conference research panel is co-sponsored with the Minorities and Communication Division and is titled, “The Race for the White House: New Research Models and Studies on Latinos and Latin Americans, News Media, and the 2016 U.S. Presidential Election.” The second conference research panel session is co-sponsored with the Cultural and Critical Studies Division and is titled: “Wedding Globalization Theory to Critical Cultural Media and Journalism Studies: Issues and Approaches to Research.”

The Editor of the Division’s *International Communication Research Journal* plans to have two special issues to mark the journal’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of publication. The plans will be announced this coming year.

### *Teaching*

The ICD leadership continued to focus on recommendations from the 2014 five-year review of the division and continued to emphasize teaching activities. The ICD programmed three pre-conference and conference teaching panels for the convention in Minneapolis. The division is sponsoring a teaching pre-conference session titled, “Innovating Public Diplomacy in the Digital Age: An International Multimedia

Collaborative Storytelling Experiment, Connecting Global Cities.” The ICD also is co-sponsoring two teaching panels with the Electronic News Division. The first one is titled “Using New Media Technology to Increase Student Engagement in Global Exchanges.” The session specifically addresses the teaching methods and the curricula areas of the Teaching Standards Committee focus; the panel also will discuss questions about the effects of using new communication technology on course content and assessment techniques. The second conference teaching session is titled, “Challenges of Teaching and Researching Broadcast or New Media Journalism around the World and in the U.S.”

In addition to the panel sessions on teaching programmed for the AEJMC 2016 convention, the ICD launched the Teaching Contest. The Division introduced the contest in an effort to promote teaching excellence and recognize innovative and effective approaches to teaching global/international communication. In the fall of 2015, the Division designed the contest and secured sponsorship for the contest awards through partnerships with the *International Communication Research Journal*, the Ohio University Institute for International Journalism, and the African Journalism Studies journal. In winter and spring of 2016, 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 five proposals and expects the number of submissions to increase in the following years after winners are recognized at the Division’s annual business meeting at the 2016 AEJMC convention.

The benefits of the Teaching Contest will extend beyond the conference, as the winning projects will be featured on the Division’s website, social media, and the newsletter. This out-of-convention aspect of the Teaching Contest will complement another out-of-convention teaching project – the Syllabus Bank. The Syllabus Bank was launched in 2014, and the Division sustained it through 2015 by updating the Bank with six new syllabi submitted by the Division’s members. Additionally, the Division increased its efforts at promoting the Bank among its members and soliciting new submissions by featuring the Bank more prominently in the Division’s social media feeds. Because of the diversity of projects submitted for the Teaching Contest and syllabi submitted for the Syllabus Bank, these two projects broadly fulfill the Teaching Standards Committee’s focus on curriculum, leadership, course content, teaching methods and assessment.

The primary teaching goal of the International Communication Division of AEJMC is to promote research on teaching and pedagogy and further develop pedagogy to advance the teaching of global/international communication within journalism and mass communication departments. To fulfill this goal, the Division channels its efforts in two key directions. First, it sustains its previously established projects such as the annual session on teaching offered during the convention and the Syllabus Bank maintained and updated throughout the year. Second, it searches for new ways of promoting teaching excellence and recognizing innovative and effective approaches to teaching global/international communication during and outside of the annual convention, as exemplified by the introduction this year of the Teaching Contest and the global liaisons

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initiative, which has included discussions about global initiatives among/between classrooms.

### *PF&R*

The ICD leadership continues to be cognizant of the five-year review recommendations that the ICD focus on PF&R and incorporate professionals with academics on panels and in other programming. Our Global Bridges panel titled “Global Bridges Over Troubled Waters: Communication in the Wake of Humanitarian Crises,” which was co-organized with the Public Relations Division, was a success at the conference in San Francisco and included a speaker from the United Nations and participation of respected scholars from both divisions as supporting participants. The Editor of our division’s *International Communication Research Journal*, plans to make a call for a special issue related to the theme of the panel.

The ICD has programmed a PF&R panel for the pre-conference titled, “The Shrinking Public Sphere’: Growing Restrictions on Press Freedom in South and South East Asia.” The ICD also is co-sponsoring two PF&R panels for the conference. The first PF&R panel, co-sponsored with the Law and Policy Division, is titled “The Freedom of Information Act 50 Years Later: The U.S. Law Still Serving as the Touchstone?” and marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the FOIA in the U.S. and the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Swedish Constitution, the first legal guarantee of the right to information. The ICD Head applied for and will receive funds (gratefully) from the AEJMC to bring in globally known legal expert Toby Mendel, the executive director of the Centre for Law and Democracy in Nova Scotia, for the panel. The second PF&R panel is co-sponsored with the Law and Policy Division, as well, and is titled, “The Internationalization of Media Law & Policy.”

One of the ICD PF&R activities this year focuses on public service, as members and others will be visiting Minnesota Public Radio. MPR is one of the nation’s premier public radio stations, and it operates a 45-station radio network broadcasting throughout Minnesota and the surrounding states. As stated on its website, the Vision of MPR is to “be an indispensable resource for our audiences and an essential public service for our communities.”

The tour will include the broadcast studios of MPR’s news service and the International Control Center. News staff will also be available to meet with tour participants to discuss the issues they face in the field, along with how they develop programming that serves the community. The activity will also include a discussion on racial, gender, and cultural inclusiveness, as MPR reports on diverse communities and employs 40 translators.

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.

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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 launched 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. ICD also provides a syllabus bank online that is open for all faculty. Faculty have provided syllabi on courses that focus on international affairs, including classes aimed at teaching students how to understand and report on issues of cultural and racial diversity. 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. Further, the new ICD initiative for research liaisons focused on different regions of the world (Middle East and North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, Latin American and the Caribbean, Europe, and Oceania) aims to promote collaboration among faculty and students from different cultures and backgrounds around the world. It also intends to grow diversity within ICD and AEJMC membership.

### *Other Activities*

The Editor of ICD’s journal, the *International Communication Research Journal*, is hosting a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the publication in Minneapolis on the eve of the conference. We also have a pre-conference talk scheduled for PBS Newshour correspondent Fred Sam de Lazaro, who is executive director of the Undertold Stories Project.

The AEJMC-ICD student International Multimedia News Story Contest—2015-16 received only three entries. The judges decided that all the three entries were well-written stories supported by multimedia elements such as videos, links to relevant stories, and photographs, and deserved to win. Two stories were tied for top place and one entry received the second place award.



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Finally, this report is supplemented with the ICD annual spring newsletter. The newsletter contains the highlights of the initiatives from the 2015-2016 leadership, membership, conference programming and other activities, along with awards and recognitions.