

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION DIVISION: ANNUAL REPORT, 2009-2010

1. List of ICD Officers for 2009-2010

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2. **Demographic form:** As in the past, our officers had difficulty completing the demographic information form. Partly, this is because some of the categories overlap (for example what is the difference between “international” and “Asian”?), and also because it is irresponsible to guess someone’s ethnicity based on appearance only. In panel proposals, we asked for demographic information of participants. I recommend that in the future we ask for demographic information together with information about research interests. From the incomplete information in the attached sheet, it appears as if females made up two-thirds of participants, with males making up one-third of participants. In addition, it appears from the known information that most participants were white. (Please note that in the attached sheet, we list co-sponsored panel presenters for the annual convention but paper presenters for the mid-year meeting). For the annual convention, we have 68 people in total (including all multiple authors, poster and high-density, minus duplicates if 2 papers accepted), of which 29 are male (42.6%), 30 female (44.1), and 9 unknown (13.2%). [See attached demographic form and list of judges.]

3. **Overall statement of activities:** Our division’s goals for 2009/2010 were based on information obtained at our members’s meeting. [See attached minutes from meeting.] The activities of the ICD this year can be divided into 60 percent research, 30 percent teaching and 10 percent PF&R.
 - a. **To increase communication and networking for members:** One of our main goals was to increase communication and networking opportunities for ICD members. As a result, we launched a new ICD Newsletter (the former International Communication Bulletin initially served the purpose of a newsletter but morphed into a scholarly journal). The first edition appeared in Fall 2009, followed by a second edition in Spring 2010. A link to the newsletter was placed on the ICD website and then members were notified through our listserv that a new edition was available. That

way we prevented overloading people's mailboxes with a heavy PDF document. In addition, ICD developed a social media presence with a new Facebook page, which currently has 92 fans. It is not clear whether all FB fans are members of the ICD. Our website went through a redesign and incorporated a new look and feel. The website now also provides a platform for transparency for the division with the launch of our division's archive: a repository of the division's previous documents from annual reports to newsletters and more. We continued to use our listserv for announcements, calls for judges, and call for papers. [See attached copies of ICD Newsletter, Facebook page, and website.]

- b. To revamp the International Communication Bulletin:** Zeny Sarabia-Panol was elected as the new editor of the International Communication Bulletin when Yorgo Pasadeos retired as editor after 22 years. Sarabia-Panol accepted this position with enthusiasm and undertook a major revamp of the journal. The name was changed to International Communication Research Journal (ICRJ) and the publication now features a new, modern design. Access to the journal's previous issues also went digital so that members can access past issues through our division's website. [See attached the contents of the Spring 2010 edition.]
- c. To organize an excellent program for the Denver convention,** including a successful research paper competition. ICD has prepared an innovative and interesting program for the Denver convention, as can be seen through our various activities:
- two pre-conference teaching workshops;
 - a high-density research session, a scholar-to-scholar session, two refereed research panels and a joint poster research session,
 - three co-sponsored teaching panels, three co-sponsored research panels, two co-sponsored and one solo-sponsored PF&R panels,
 - an off-site social meeting, a past-heads breakfast meeting, and our members' meeting

In particular, we are excited about our off-site meeting that is hosted in collaboration with the Colorado European Union Center for Excellence from the University of Colorado-Boulder. ICD members will have to opportunity to hear the latest news and perspectives on US-EU relations from Denver's consular officers from several EU countries. We are also looking forward to meeting with 22 past ICD heads during a breakfast session. The aim of this meeting is to strengthen ties with former heads and to plan together for the future. [See attached ICD Off-site Event information.]

- d. To encourage research, teaching and professional freedom and responsibility** through various out-of-convention activities: These activities will be discussed in more depth below.

4. Planning and evaluation of goals

a. Most important goals for the coming year:

- i. To retain and recruit members to our division. Incoming head Amy Schmitz Weiss and secretary Tania Cantrell Rosas-Moreno already started planning for a membership initiative in 2010/2011. According to our membership figures, ICD currently has 332 members. We are planning on asking members to fill out a membership survey as to improve our activities in the following year. Our division did not have a membership chair this year, and we should increase efforts to recruit an officer for this position. [See attached the ICD membership report and proposed membership survey.]
- ii. To communicate and reach out to our membership throughout the year.
- iii. To continued opportunities for our members to interact and collaborate with each other via digital platforms such as the website and Facebook.
- iv. To improve the research competition review process with more reviewers assigned with fewer papers each. We would like to require from each member to review at least one paper.
- v. To improve efforts to attract officers who would accept responsibility for important roles in division.
- vi. To increase PF&R activities in our division.

b. Goals this year we could not reach

- i. Providing more out-of-convention activities: During our five-year division review, we were encouraged to provide more activities for membership throughout the year and not only at the convention. While we had several activities, we believe this could be improved upon.

c. **Standing committees:** As in the past, we had very little interaction with any of the standing committees. It remains unclear how these committees can help our division, however, it seems as if mentoring from the PF&R committee might be helpful.

RESEARCH

5. **Number of faculty research paper submissions:** 70; number of acceptances 31; 44.3 %
Not included in figures: 1 transferred and 3 deleted (did not meet requirements).
6. **Number of student research paper submissions:** 52; number of acceptances 19; 38.8 %
Not included in figures: 3 deleted (did not meet requirements).
7. **Overview of judging process:** In the previous year, ICD received 72 submissions to the open competition and 69 to the student competition (total of 141). As shown above, the total number of submissions this year was 122 papers, and the decrease in submissions took place in the student competition. This allowed us to increase the low acceptance rate of 37.5 percent to 41.3 percent this year. According to AEJMC statistics, ICD had the

lowest acceptance rate of all divisions in 2009/2010, and this is a concern. Even the 41.3 percent acceptance rate is low compared to other divisions. Our division should consider how the acceptance rate could be increased.

As in the past, it was very difficult for the two research chairs to find paper judges, despite early and repeated requests to members. Our division typically has only two judges to review one paper instead of three. To rectify the situation we changed a previous rule that barred paper submitters from also judging papers. This year, the original assignments were 3-4 papers per judge, but a number of judges did not come through as promised. Therefore, the research chair had to review 14 papers and the Markham chair 8. This is a serious problem and we are considering making paper judging a prerequisite for ICD membership.

8. **Total # of judges:** 56; # 1-8 papers per judge
9. **Other type of refereed competition:** In addition to the faculty and student paper competitions, ICD continued two other competitions as part of our call for papers:
 - a. *Ecquid Novi: African Journalism Studies* Best Paper Award
 - b. *Asian Journal of Communication* Best Paper Award
10. **Convention activities related to research:** ICD will offer the following at the convention: a high-density research session, a scholar-to-scholar session, two refereed research panels, a joint poster research session, and three co-sponsored research panels.
11. **Out-of-convention activities related to research:**
 - a. Participated in midwinter conference: Number of research abstract submissions: 29; number of acceptances 13; 44.8 %. Total # of judges: 22.
 - b. ICD past-head Elanie Steyn continued to work with the World Journalism Education Congress, and ICD encouraged members to participate in this event.
 - c. Article on how to review conference papers, ICD Newsletter, Fall 2009
 - d. Article about research on HIV/Aids and Gender, ICD Newsletter, Fall 2009
 - e. Article with submission tips for graduate students, ICD Newsletter, Spring 2010
 - f. Published a column, titled "What's new in cross-national comparative communication research" in DIG newsletter 43(3), 8-9. [See attached article.]
 - g. Publication of research journal, ICRJ
12. **Description of research goals and activities of division:** Unlike the previous year, ICD placed most of its emphasis on research activities. We will be offering an exciting convention program and members participated in the midwinter conference as well. The most pressing need here is to recruit more judges for the convention paper competitions. [See attached call for judges for WJEC, call for papers for midwinter conference, call for Denver convention, call for convention judges, and a full list of refereed research presentations scheduled for Denver.]

TEACHING

13. In-convention activities: ICD will offer the following activities related to teaching: two pre-conference teaching workshops and three co-sponsored teaching panels.

14. Out-of-convention activities

- a. **Facebook participation:** We requested suggestions for books and resources through our FB page to build up a resource for members teaching international communication. Unfortunately, this request received little participation from members.
- b. **International News Story Contest 2010:** ICD received only seven entries for the competition this year compared to 17 entries last year. The judges for the contest were Terry Scott Bertling, Assistant Managing Editor for features San Antonio Express-News and Beth Clark, journalism lecturer at Texas State University and former journalist. Entries were from California State University, Northridge; Marietta College; Arizona State University; and the University of Colorado at Boulder. Sandhya Rao, coordinator of the competition, would like to continue with the competition and notes that each year at least one or two new universities participate in the contest. The competition could be improved through increased publicity a few days before the deadline. Rao received requests to include multimedia stories in the competition, and would like to do so. However, authors should remain anonymous for the judging process. This matter could be discussed at the member meeting or online. [See attached News Story Contest entry form.]

15. Teaching goals and activities: ICD is actively promoting teaching in our division with several activities at the convention and a few out-of-convention activities.

PF&R

16. In-convention activities: ICD will be offering two co-sponsored PF&R panels and one solo-sponsored PF&R panel.

17. Out-of-convention activities: ICD did not offer any out-of-convention activities this year.

18. Description of PF&R goals and activities: While we will be offering three PF&R panels at the convention, ICD paid the least amount of attention to PF&R activities this year as well as in previous years. This should be a priority for the next year.

19. Attachments

- a. Demographic information
- b. List of ICD paper judges
- c. Minutes of business meeting
- d. ICD Newsletter Fall 2009
- e. ICD Newsletter Spring 2010
- f. ICD Facebook page
- g. ICD website
- h. International Communication Research Journal
- i. ICD Off-Site Event information
- j. ICD Membership report
- k. Proposed ICD membership survey
- l. ICD contribution to DIG news: March 2010
- m. Call for WJEC judges
- n. Call for midwinter conference papers
- o. Call for convention papers
- p. Call for judges
- q. ICD peer reviewed research convention paper program
- r. ICD 2010 Student International News Story Contest