

Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC)
International Communication Division (INTC)
Annual Report: June 15, 2018

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Research Liaisons for Sub-Saharan Africa: Sally Ann Cruikshank, Auburn University; Uche Onyebadi, Texas Christian University

Research Liaisons for Latin America and the Caribbean: Leonardo Ferreira, Florida International University; Victor Garcia, The University of Texas at Austin; Mariana de Maio, Lehigh University; Carolyn Walcott, Georgia State University

Research Liaisons for Europe: Betty Tsakarestou, Panteion University (Athens, Greece); Joanna Spiteri, University of Malta; Lea Hellmueller, University of Houston

General Statement

The state of the International Communication Division is strong. INTC continues to grow as an active and essential element of AEJMC. Membership (numbering 214 as of May 2018) is drawn from both students and faculty from around the world. Ever larger numbers of scholars are conducting communication research with international angles, and submitting their work to the Division’s paper competitions. INTC leadership is increasingly diversified, with current officers hailing from the United States, Iraq,

Montenegro, and India. As AEJMC has become more internationally oriented, INTC has received increasing numbers of submissions. Members of AEJMC are very likely to welcome this growing interest within the organization.

In general, the International Communication Division has had a vibrant year. INTC continues to cooperate with other divisions of AEJMC. The Division successfully organized and placed in the 2018 program 5 cosponsored panels with other AEJMC divisions, and is organizing other cross-networking efforts. INTC initiated several projects that allowed the Division's Executive Board to increase in size with activities centered on expanding efforts in the areas of research, teaching, and outreach. INTC 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 methods to expand these posts this coming year, to include more student outreach liaison work both inside and outside of the US.

INTC has revamped its website entirely, and expanded presence on social media through *Facebook*, *Twitter*, *LinkedIn*, and *Slack*. INTC has been continuously posting scholarly and professional announcements on its social media on regular basis. The Division has also seen an increase in engagement on all social media platforms, especially with cross-promotion of AEJMC-related content. Also, in addition to the annual newsletter of the Division, INTC started a new tradition, delivering a bimonthly newsletter to its members via listserv. A new officer position, Online Media Chair, has been designed and implemented to take the responsibility of the Bimonthly Newsletter, covering the achievements of INTC members.

The International Communication Division has been able to continue to offer faculty paper awards, student paper awards, *Asian Journal of Communication* paper award, *African Journalism Studies* paper award, Latino/Latin American communication research awards, multimedia international journalism awards, and teaching awards, in addition to the new poster awards. The Division this year has started a new award for best posters. This Best Poster Award aims at: First, appreciating and recognizing the efforts of those scholars who do great work with great poster presentations. Second, improving the quality of posters produced by scholars presenting their work in scholar-to-scholar sessions programmed by INTC. Third, encouraging higher participation in the Division's scholar-to-scholar sessions, to preserve high retention rates.

Within the same domain of attempted improvements, INTC is trying something different this year. The Division is willing to maximize the benefits for its members and engage them in a more meaningful way through a big and significant networking "Social Event" after the Business Meeting, organized jointly with the Law and Policy Division of AEJMC.

Research

For 2017-2018, the International Communication Division has sought to maintain the strength of the research it highlights at the midwinter and annual conferences. The abstract and paper selection processes remain competitive, and the range of topics and methods represented in the Division's sessions is consistently varied in terms of subject and geographic region. Demonstrating commitment to research in the international communication context, INTC this year dedicated Division's resources to program a research panel titled, "Displaced and Marginalized: The Implications of Digital Literacy, Digital Technology and Social Media Use by Immigrants and Refugees." INTC also programmed a preconference panel titled, "Global Migrations and Refugee Crises: Media Case Studies from Five Continents." We expect discussions generated by these sessions will help expand research on international communication.

Statistics for 2018 Midwinter Conference

- research paper abstracts submitted: 18
- abstracts accepted: 16 (2 withdrew before the conference; 14 included in schedule)
- acceptance rate: 89% (77% included in schedule)
- programmed sessions: 4
- reviewers total: 7
- number of reviewers per submission: 3

Demographics [gender and country of institution (US or Non-US)]:

- Presenters (authors): 14 (2 Females + 12 Males; all US)
- Reviewers: 7 (2 males + 5 females; all US)

Statistics for 2018 Annual Conference

Faculty paper submissions:

- Faculty research paper submissions: 74 (including 1 deleted: incomplete submission)
- Faculty research paper acceptances: 33
- Percentage accepted: 44.6

Student paper submissions:

- Student research paper submissions: 27 (including 1 deleted: incomplete submission)
- Student research paper acceptances: 11
- Percentage accepted: 40.7

Overall paper competition totals:

- Submitted: 101
- Accepted: 44
- Percentage accepted: 43.6

Judging:

- Number of reviewers: 95
- Number of reviewers per paper: 3
- Number of papers per reviewer: 3-4

Demographics [gender and country of institution (US or Non-US)]:

- Presenters (authors):
 - Gender: 29 Females; 15 Males
 - Country: 35 (US); 9 (Non-US: 5 Asia, 2 South America, 2 Europe)
- Reviewers:
 - Gender: 57 Females; 38 Males
 - Country: 77 (US); 18 (Non-US)

For the first time this year, INTC has established a Reviewers Bank. This database for reviewers currently includes information associated with 110 scholars who volunteered to serve as reviewers for the Division's conferences (Annual and Midwinter) and publication (*International Communication Research Journal*).

Teaching

Consistent with recommendations obtained from the Division's work in previous years, INTC has continued to emphasize the teaching aspect of the Division's interests. To that end, the Division's Syllabus Bank continues to grow with the goal of providing a service to AEJMC's membership, both within INTC and beyond. INTC anticipates growing this effort further in coming years. INTC has also worked to diversify the Division's programming beyond the presentation of selected research papers, prioritizing teaching. INTC has continued to fine tune a transparent, membership-wide process for solicitation of panel proposals, and has prioritized cooperative efforts with other divisions and interest groups. In 2018, INTC programmed 2 panels focused on teaching for the annual conference. The first panel is titled, "Culture in the Classroom: Focusing on Culture and International Education Programs in Today's America." The second panel is titled, "Teaching Data Journalism in a Global Context: The Best Tools and the Most Effective Tips."

PF&R

INTC programmed 2 panels focused on PF&R for the 2018 annual conference. The result has been a broader range of topics discussed and a more diverse array of participants involved in the program. Relying on previous recommendations that INTC should focus on PF&R, the Division prioritized PF&R in programming for 2018, paying particular attention to the incorporation of professional experience in addition to academic expertise. Within this vision, INTC planned a field trip to the facilities of *Voice of America* in Washington, DC. INTC is especially pleased that one of the PF&R panels the Division programmed this year is about the intersection between free speech and foreign propaganda on social media. The session is titled, "State-Sponsored Messaging and Freedom of Speech." The other PF&R panel programmed by INTC is titled, "Lessons from the Front Lines: Advice from Tenured Faculty for New Assistant Professors."

Other Activities

INTC's publication, the *International Communication Research Journal (ICRJ)*, continues to thrive. This year, the *ICRJ* started working on a special issue devoted to media coverage of the refugee crisis, which is a theme labeling a tangible part of INTC's work in 2017-2018. This special issue focuses on transcultural communication in the context of the current refugee crisis. The issue is considering studies that: (1) focus on transcultural links between institutions, texts, and experiences; (2) explain the role of cultural exchange between different participating entities, leading to cultural integration; (3) put media in their broader cultural contexts, illuminating what sociopolitical forces shape transcultural communication; and (4) move above and beyond the bipolar paradigms of "us against them" and "local versus global," toward the analysis of complex processes surrounding transculturalism.

INTC ran two expanded surveys, one for membership and one for students, to help elicit input from both faculty and students affiliated with the Division, exploring their experiences with INTC and their expectations for the Division moving forward. Information collected will be used to guide future decisions about INTC, to further improve the performance of the Division as one of the major units of AEJMC. To further engage students, strengthen membership ties, and cultivate new members, INTC organized a meeting with graduate students last year in Chicago, and is planning to hold a similar meeting in Washington, DC. The Division's investments in graduate students will continue to grow in coming years.