2020 and Beyond: The Future of the Annual Meeting

Amy Jordan, President-Elect, U of Pennsylvania

In February 2014, then-ICA President Francois Heinderyckx (U libre de Bruxelles) assembled a task force charged with the following mission: "Explore the different options that can be contemplated in the face of the increasing number of submissions and participants." He noted that "corrective measures should be considered in the short term (for the conferences up to Washington in 2019) and in the longer term (for conferences to be organized as of 2020 for which venues have not yet been booked)."

Sound daunting?
It was! But we assembled an amazing task force (which I had the pleasure to chair) and we got the job done. You've already heard about some of the corrective measures that we implemented for Puerto Rico (http://www.icaehdq.org/MembersNewsletter/SEP14_ART0007.asp). In this column, I'll lay out our approach for considering longer-term solutions.

But first, let me publicly acknowledge and thank the Task Force. These are the dedicated folks who put so much time, effort, and expertise into deliberations over the future of the annual meeting: Stephanie Craft (U of Illinois), Wolfgang Donsbach (Dresden U of Technology), Jonathan Gray (U of Wisconsin-Madison), Adrienne Shaw (Temple U), and Ted Zorn (Massey U). Michael Haley served as ex-officio member. Thank you all!

The main recommendation from the 2014 Task Force Report? Survey the membership.
In the Task Force Report delivered to the ICA Board of Directors in May 2014, we recommended that members be surveyed in a way that would allow for informed decision making among a set of difficult choices that we knew confronted us as we plan for future conferences. The BOD approved, and an online survey was developed (with input from the Executive Committee as well as the Chairs of ICA’s divisions and interest groups) and ultimately launched in October/November, 2014.

So we surveyed the membership.
My very tenacious and talented research assistant Holli Seitz (U of Pennsylvania) - who is skilled at both survey design and survey analysis - gathered the results of 1,436 respondents (those who had been members or conference attendees within the past 5 years were eligible to participate). Happily, the contours of the survey sample - geography, career stage, division membership - very nicely reflected the contours of ICA’s membership. In addition, we held in-depth discussions with ICA members in Brisbane (at the ICA Regional Conference), Chicago (at the National Communication Association meeting), and in Lisbon (at the European Communication Research Association meeting).

In a nutshell, here’s what we learned:

1. People are pretty satisfied with the annual meeting. On the whole, survey respondents were mostly to very satisfied with the annual meeting (mean = 4.22, SD=.82, range = 1 (very dissatisfied) to 5 (very satisfied)). Most survey respondents also felt that the conference size is "about right" (69%). Participants in the group discussions also had generally positive feelings about the annual meeting, with the majority saying that changes that are made should not be so dramatic that they change the character of the conference.

2. The acceptance rate is unacceptable to nearly half of those surveyed.
When asked whether the current acceptance rate of 35%* is too high, too low, or about right, respondents were almost evenly divided, with 47% saying it is too low and 49% saying it is about right (4% said it is too high). Concerns over the low acceptance rate were articulated in the open-ended comments in the survey and in group discussions. One common theme: Travel funding is tied to acceptance into the program. Nearly 75% of the survey respondents said that they must be listed as a presenter in the program in order to receive funding from their institution. A second common theme: The review process is "broken." At the January Board of Directors meeting, we voted to establish a new Task Force on the Review Process and we look forward to hearing their suggestions.

3. It's better to make small adjustments than to make major changes.
As part of its work, the Task Force got creative and developed alternative structures and formats for the annual meeting. These included moving to a convention center model, using two hotels instead of one, and lengthening the conference. These options were presented to the survey and group discussion participants, along with the option of "no change." The respondents' rank ordering of the different structures (no change, two hotel, one hotel/longer meeting, convention center) reveals a preference for the single hotel/longer meeting structure, as the majority of respondents (62%) ranked the longer meeting structure as their #1 or #2 choice, followed by holding the meeting in two hotels. The convention center option was the least favored choice. Participants in the group discussions were more open to the idea of two hotels, in part out of concern that a longer meeting would yield higher costs and that 3 days is about the maximum that attendees would want to be away from their institutions or families.

The Task Force also developed alternative types of conferences, including the split meeting, the biennial meeting, the Division/Interest Group meeting, and no change. Here, respondents favored "no change" (69%) as their #1 or #2 choice, followed by a split meeting. Far fewer favored Division/Interest Group meetings or biennial meetings. Similarly, among those participating in group discussions, there was concern that the more dramatic alternatives could further fracture an organization that is already "siloed" by Divisions and Interest Groups.

4. Most important of all: The conference must be high-quality and affordable.
Finally, those surveyed and those who participated in our group discussions stressed the need to maintain the high quality for which the ICA conference is known while also keeping the cost of attendance reasonable. The solution that seems to best reflect the needs and preferences of the membership is to increase the length of conference days and maintain many of the other current conference elements, including staying in one hotel. Increasing the length of the day on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday will not seriously increase registration fees or hotel costs - an issue that came up often in our group discussions. If we add in one more time slot during the day, we could open an additional 25 sessions for planners. And extending the program through the end of the day on Monday could provide an additional 50 sessions. That's an additional 125 sessions. And that will
seriously improve the ability of planners to accept more quality work into their programs. Another plus of remaining with a single hotel/longer days model is that it allows ICA to maintain a strong bargaining position with conference hotels, in which sleeping rooms can be obtained at a deep discount and meeting rooms can be included for free as part of the package. Going forward, we will begin making these small adjustments in those sites that can accommodate longer days. I am sure Peng Hwa Ang (Nanyang Technological U) will have many excellent ideas for trying out this new model as he experiments with options for Fukuoka.

I am always delighted to hear members’ feedback, so please feel free to email me with any questions, comments, or concerns. I can be reached at ajordan@asc.upenn.edu.

*For San Juan, we were quite creative and managed to increase the acceptance rate to 44%, despite receiving more submissions than we did for Seattle!*

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### Spotlight on Preconferences

In each Newsletter leading up to the conference, we will highlight four different preconferences and postconferences that have been planned for San Juan, Puerto Rico. To learn more information about the other preconferences, visit [http://www.icahdq.org/conf/2015/preconferences.asp](http://www.icahdq.org/conf/2015/preconferences.asp). There are also a few preconferences that still have open call for papers.

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### Public Sector Communication: The Challenge of Building Intangible Assets

**Affiliation:** Political Communication Division and Public Relations Division  
**Time:** Thursday, 21 May 13:00 - 17:00 (half-day)  
**Location:** Caribe Hilton  
**Cost:** $50 USD (lunch not included)

Cosponsored by the Political Communication and the Public Relations divisions, this ICA preconference focuses on the role communication plays in building intangible assets for the public sector. Papers will address communication in the context of public sector organizations and institutions as well as individual citizens. Topics include a range of ideas around public sector and intangible assets from experiences, expectations, reputation, legitimacy, engagement, social capital, transparency, relationship building, engagement, leadership, and trust.

**Contact:** Maria Jose Canel (U Complutense de Madrid), mjcanel@ucm.es  
**Vilma Luoma-aho** (U of Jyvaskyla), vilma.luoma-aho@campus.jyu.fi

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### Stuart Hall and the Future of Media and Cultural Studies

**Division Affiliation:** Popular Communication; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Studies; Ethnicity and Race in Communication; Visual Communication Studies; Philosophy, Theory and Critique  
**Time:** Thursday, 21 May 8:30 - 16:30  
**Location:** Caribe Hilton  
**Cost:** $60 (lunch not included, participants on their own)
Ethnicity and Race in Communication, Stockholm U
Paula Gardner, Feminist Scholarship, OCAD U
Rashmi Luthra, Global Communication and Social Change, U of Michigan - Dearborn
Kevin Wright, Health Communication, George Mason U
Prabu David, Information Systems, Washington State U
Aaron Boyson, Instructional & Developmental Communication, U of Minnesota - Duluth
Hee Sun Park, Intercultural Communication, Korea U
Timothy Levine, Interpersonal Communication, Korea U
Matt Carlson, Journalism Studies, Saint Louis U
Theresa Castor, Language & Social Interaction, U of Wisconsin - Parkside
Craig Scott, Organizational Communication, Rutgers U
Amit Pinchevski, Philosophy, Theory, and Critique, Hebrew U
Jesper Stromback, Political Communication, Mid Sweden U
Melissa Click, Popular Communication, U of Missouri - Columbia
Jennifer Bartlett, Public Relations, Queensland U of Technology
Jana Holsanova, Visual Communication Studies, Lund U
Interest Group Chairs
Jimmy Ivory, Game Studies, Virginia Tech
Adrienne Shaw, Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, & Transgender Studies, Temple U
Travers Scott, Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, & Transgender Studies, Clemson U
Howard Giles, Intergroup Communication, U of California - Santa Barbara
Andrew Billings, Sports Communication Chair,
The influences and key concepts of Stuart Hall's scholarship will be discussed by a keynote speaker who worked closely with Hall over the course of his career. Two invited panel sessions will feature scholars whose work engages Hall's enduring foci: ideology and culture, and identity, representation, and diaspora. The preconference will conclude with informal concurrent workshop sessions focused on the continued relevance of Hall's work and on how future work will engage with Hall's scholarship.

Contact: Melissa Click (U of Missouri) - Columbia, clickm@missouri.edu

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**6th Annual Communication and Technology Doctoral Consortium**

Division Affiliation: Communication and Technology  
Time: Thursday, 21 May 8:30 - 17:00  
Location: Caribe Hilton  
Cost: $75 USD (lunch included)

The consortium brings together PhD candidates working on Communication and Technology to give them the opportunity to present and discuss their research in a constructive and international atmosphere. The goals of the event are to provide feedback and advice to participating PhD candidates on their in-progress research thesis. Moreover, the doctoral consortium will provide the opportunity to meet experts as well as fellow PhD candidates from different backgrounds working on related topics.

Contact: **Benjamin Detenber** (Nanyang Technological U), Tdetenber@ntu.edu.sg

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**Computational Approaches to Advance Communication Research**

Division: Information Systems, Communication and Technology, Mass Communication, Health Communication  
Time: Thursday 21 May 8:30 - 17:00  
Location: Caribe Hilton  
Cost: $0.00 (lunch included)

Our program will blend talks that feature novel sources of data (Panel 1), tools and methods to answer traditional questions in new ways, as well as to generate new questions inspired by novel methods (Panel 2), and the role of theory (Panel 4). Our third panel will involve the full set of participants; each person will present 1 slide on their poster and give a 2-minute preview of their work. This will engage the full group, and stimulate conversations that can continue at the evening poster reception.

Contact: **Norshir Contractor** (Northwestern U), ncontractor@gmail.com

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**Communications and the State: Toward a New International**
ICA Newsletter is published 10 times annually (combining January-February and June-July issues) by the International Communication Association.
History

**This preconference is not held at the Caribe Hilton**

Division Affiliation: Communication History Division  
Time: Thursday, 21 May 8:30 - 17:00  
Location: Condado Plaza Hilton  
Transportation: use the conference shuttles that are available between hotels  
Cost: $85 USD (lunch not included)

This preconference puts a historical spotlight on the constitutive role of the state in the making of communications and the constitutive role of communications in the making and unmaking of states and empires. Twenty-four papers, ranging widely in time period, geographical region, and methodology, and addressing different problematics, consider the historical relationship between the state and communication under four main themes: the state as communicator, the state as a regulator of communication, the state as a creator and/or subsidizer of structures of communication, and the state as an object of critique by citizens and subjects.

The aim of the preconference is to bring together scholars studying diverse time periods and geographic areas with the goal of offering new interpretations about the state as an active element in the making of communications in general rather than in one particular nation or another. We are also interested in what happens when communication systems reach across state boundaries and in historical formations that have important commonalities with states, such as alliances, kingdoms, juntas, and more. A closing plenary with three highly respected scholars working in this area will provide an opportunity for wide-ranging discussion about themes raised in the sessions and the consideration of new research possibilities.

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President's Message: Time for a Whole New Kind of Journal?

Peter Vorderer, ICA President

During our midyear board meeting in January (which you can read about in last month's newsletter), one of the issues that came up was our members' dissatisfaction with the current quality of reviewing for our annual conferences. In particular, this sentiment was reflected in the results of the survey that President-Elect Amy Jordan (U of Pennsylvania) distributed to the ICA community last year. In response to these frustrations, the Board of Directors has put together a new task force, chaired by Jonathan Cohen (U of Haifa), which will work on ways to improve the reviewing of conference submissions.

I am confident that this group will provide us with a number of ideas and options that will help us improve this important—yet complex—process, and thus better meet the expectations of our membership.

In my mind, however, the problems associated with our scholarly review process are not just limited to ICA's annual conferences; we face similar challenges with journal submissions, as well. For one thing, the number of papers that have been submitted to ICA journals has increased significantly in recent years, while the number of qualified reviewers seems to be rather stable. Moreover, I feel that the international nature of our community ought to be better represented in our publication practices.

With these concerns in mind, I put together another working group almost 2 years ago with Christoph Klimmt.
Our organization’s commitment to internationalization implies, to me, a number of basic principles that could be woven into the metaphorical fabric of such a journal. To begin with, any international conversation must balance the desire for an open, global forum with the recognition that different regions may not only speak different languages, but also have different expectations, needs, and scholarly traditions. Therefore, rather than introduce another homogenized, melting-pot sort of journal, in which authors from all over the world compete against one another, why not create a new journal consisting of, say, four sections, each one representing a different region or language with a thriving community of communication scholars?

We might, for example, include sections for Chinese, English, French, and Spanish scholarship, with each section reflecting both the language preferences and academic standards that shape its particular region(s). In order to facilitate this, every section would have its own editor-in-chief who would be a native speaker of the section’s business language but would also be familiar with and sensitive to language- and culture-specific requirements.

Additionally, these editors would presumably have a good sense of their section’s academic community, and they would therefore be particularly well equipped to assign reviewers who were appropriately conversant with the norms of that community. Along these same lines, the journal would not have universal guidelines for authors; instead, section editors (along with associate editors) would generate specialized guidelines for each section. In sum, this would give authors the chance to participate in an international conversation while also ensuring that their work is evaluated based on the same standards and traditions to which they are accustomed.

In order to properly capture the breadth of our community, this journal would include a relatively wide range of articles, and thus would need to be published exclusively online. Furthermore, since the principle of “internationalization” includes a commitment to providing scholars all over the world with equal opportunities to both publish their own work and monitor the work of others, it would be essential for this journal to be implemented as an open-access publication. A number of additional features, outlined below, offer novel solutions that I feel could significantly improve the exchange of academic insights and, in theory, address some of the most pressing concerns being voiced by our members.

A new approach to peer review. Given the explosive growth we’ve seen recently in the number of submissions to ICA journals, the current publication system, with its blind reviewers working on a voluntary basis without much credit for their efforts, is swiftly reaching its limit. On top of that, it seems as though the tradition of mandatory double-blind peer reviewing may in fact serve to limit productive discourse in certain situations. These problems could be dealt with in our new journal—at least in part—by virtue of an open review system in which reviews of those papers that appear in the journal are published as commentaries alongside the final article (provided, that is, that the editor deems them fit for publication). Additionally, reviewers could choose whether to publish their remarks anonymously or with the inclusion of their name, thereby allowing them to claim credit for their contributions if they so wish. This way, peer review would serve as an element of constructive dialogue and not so much as a hidden (and often destructive) element of quality control.

A ticket economy for authors and reviewers. One of the other core problems with the standard peer-review process stems from the fact that the academic publication system places two competing demands on members of our community (especially those who are more experienced): We expect them to donate their time to review an increasing volume of submissions, while also regularly producing their own papers (compounding the problem because it necessitates more reviewers). In order to strike a balance between reviewing and authorship
needs, this new journal would mandate that each submission’s first author write two high-quality reviews for the journal within 12 months. Thus, productive authors who cause higher workloads in the peer-review domain would also be required to shoulder a greater share of the burden to offset these demands.

**Social media elements to stimulate dialogue.** Capitalizing on the unique possibilities that an online journal offers for enhanced scholarly discussion, this publication would incorporate social media elements that open the conversation to the larger community. Specifically, papers would be published with the official reviewers’ initial comments as outlined above, but all readers would also have the option to write their commentaries on, for example, the merits of a paper or recommendations for future improvements on a given line of research. Scholars might even be asked to produce these commentaries as part of their coursework or in professional workshops, which would build stronger ties between the work being done in the classroom and the larger academic dialogue. Ultimately, authors would receive direct and relatively immediate feedback on their work, and the community would have an ongoing, permanent, open forum in which to grapple with the latest issues occupying scholars—and in a variety of languages, no less.

**Transparency and replicability.** Given recent incidents of scientific misconduct (e.g., data falsification), this new journal would promote quality assurance by requiring authors of empirical studies to make available the raw data files from which their findings originate, as well as all materials necessary to replicate their research (including questionnaires, coding schemes for content analysis, etc.). While the constraints of printed journals prohibit the inclusion of such resources, an online journal provides us with an opportunity to hold authors accountable to communal standards of rigor, to demystify research processes, and to encourage richer interactions between scholars.

**Explicitness about methodologies and authors’ positioning.** Any journal seeking to serve as a global platform that can accommodate the immense diversity of communication scholarship would need to clarify, highlight, and respect the various perspectives and traditions espoused by its authors (and readers). In the interest of accomplishing these ends, this journal would ask all authors to be explicit about their own position within the field of communication, laying out any presumptions, axioms, biases, or disciplinary standards that have shaped their work. At a basic level, these goals might also be met by including standardized descriptors on each article indicating, for example, its regional origins, its core methodological elements, its connection to specific ICA Divisions, and so on.

**Translation of key papers into all the journal’s languages.** In order to foster international academic dialogue, it is necessary to overcome the basic linguistic barrier that naturally occurs when scholars work in different languages. Although it would likely not be feasible to translate all accepted papers into all four languages of this proposed new journal, the editorial board could select exemplary works from each section to be translated (ideally by scholars in the field of communication) into the journal’s other languages. Papers might be selected for translation based on certain metrics (e.g., social media impact within the first 6 months after publication, the number of citations received within a year of being published), or simply according to the discretion of the editors.

If ICA were to establish a journal such as the one outlined here, our Board of Directors would elect an international editor-in-chief, who would then search for candidates to serve as editors-in-chief of the four different language sections; these four section editors would in turn nominate associate editors. Altogether, these editorial personnel would develop journal procedures to be applied across all sections, as well as those that would be subject to culturally specific variations across the different sections.

Of course, none of these ideas are written in stone. I recognize that some of these suggestions might overlook important issues or proceed from incorrect assumptions; others may just be overly ambitious. These are only initial thoughts, and they certainly require much more elaboration. Nevertheless, I would hate to abandon the possibility of a truly innovative, international journal altogether, especially given the enthusiastic responses I’ve received from colleagues confirming the need for such a venture. It is in this spirit that I share these thoughts with you here. If you’re interested in becoming involved with this initiative or have comments you’d like to offer,
Let's Talk About Mosquitoes

John Paul Gutierrez, ICA Communication Director and Holli Seitz, U of Pennsylvania

Because of Puerto Rico's tropical climate, mosquito-borne illnesses, such as Chikungunya and Dengue, can and do thrive there. Luckily, taking steps to avoid mosquito bites can prevent illnesses spread by mosquitoes.

What are Common Viruses?

In Puerto Rico, 10,000 cases of Chikungunya disease have been reported since May 2014 in almost every region on the island, including San Juan. Cases have been reported in urban areas as well as more remote regions. It's also been reported that the mosquito that carries the virus bites both in the day and nighttime.

Dengue is active periodically in Puerto Rico, with the last outbreak in 2010, when 26,766 suspected cases were reported. The island also sees approximately 3,000-9,000 cases each nonoutbreak year.

Facts about Chikungunya and Dengue from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC; Source: CDC Infectious Diseases Related to Travel Chapter 3 and Dengue in Puerto Rico):

Chikungunya

- Symptoms will typically appear 3-7 days after infection.
- Symptoms often include the sudden onset of a high fever (temperature typically higher than 102°F [39°C]) and severe joint pain or stiffness. Other symptoms may include rash, headache, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, and myalgias. Fevers typically last from several days up to 1 week, and joint symptoms are can be severe and debilitating.

Dengue

- Symptoms include High fever (100.4°F [38°C]) that lasts 2-7 days and at least two of the following: Severe headache, severe eye pain, joint pain, muscle or bone pain, rash, mild bleeding (e.g. nose or gums), and low white cell count.
- As temperature declines after 3-7 days of symptoms, go for immediate help if any of the following occur: Severe abdominal pain, red spots or patches on skin, bleeding from nose or gums, vomiting blood, black tarry stools, drowsiness or irritability, pale or cold clammy skin, difficulty breathing.

What can you do to prevent mosquito-borne illnesses?

You should take certain precautions when you are outside to prevent mosquito bites. People who are over the age of 65, have underlying medical conditions such as hypertension, diabetes, or heart disease, or are pregnant should be especially vigilant, as these groups are more likely to have complications from mosquito-borne illnesses. Avoid mosquito bites by doing the following:
• Cover exposed skin by wearing long-sleeved shirt, pants, closed shoes, and hats. Pack appropriate clothing so that you can cover up when outdoors.
• Use repellents with one of the following active ingredients: DEET, picaridin, IR 3535, or oil of lemon eucalyptus (a sample of DEET repellent here). Though ICA will provide some insect repellent, you may want to pack your own. Note: If wearing sunscreen, apply sunscreen first, then repellent.
  "Use permethin-treated clothing (like this hoody)." Stay and sleep in screened or air conditioned rooms.

What is ICA doing to help?

ICA is taking the following measures to help prevent infection:

• Providing every attendee with insect repellent containing 30% DEET.
• Having "bug-off stations" at outdoor events, which will provide insect repellents (both DEET-based and natural), and perimeter defenses with mosquito torches or coils.
• Providing excursion participants with a "bug-off kit" that will have both DEET-based and natural insect repellent and repellent wipes.

If you do have symptoms of Chikungunya or Dengue while in San Juan, let us know and we'll work to make sure you are evaluated and treated. Being vigilant with insect repellent and wearing appropriate clothing will go a long way in preventing mosquito bites. And with the measures ICA is taking, we can all enjoy San Juan mosquito bite- and virus-free.

Here you'll find the Level-1 Watch report from the CDC about Chikungunya and more prevention tips. The CDC also has resources on Dengue, including a website devoted to tracking Dengue in Puerto Rico and a brochure (pdf) on symptoms and prevention.

Old San Juan Offers Modern Attractions to Complement Its Historical Importance

Mike West, ICA Director of Publications

Old San Juan—the site of the original 16th-century Spanish settlement in Puerto Rico—retains much of the history and flavor of those long-ago days (as last month's Newsletter discussed). But the historic district of Puerto Rico's capital city is also, perhaps paradoxically, a modern and even cutting-edge zone. It's as enticing at night and for movers and shakers as it is for daytime history buffs. This article will take a closer look at that side of San Juan: the diversions to be found in daylight and the bustling nightlife.

Shop

As you explore the streets of Old San Juan, you will see familiar names on the storefronts and canopies: Ralph Lauren. Marshall's. Guess. Coach. Even Crocs. (It is, despite the complicated politics, an American city!) Perhaps this appeals to you—you certainly won't be alone in that! But if you read between the lines, or the brand names, it's not hard to find the local and less conventional fare among all the high-end stuff. It's not just the tacky, made-in-China souvenirs, either.
Down Calle del Christo, for example, half a block from the Capilla del Santo Cristo de la Salud, is the orange awning of La Casa de las Casitas. The name (which means "House of Little Houses") doesn't promise much, but inside is stocked with San Juan treasures. There are wood carvings of Catholic saints (santos), colorful masks of the vejigante characters seen at San Juan's carnivals, and a unique selection of handmade hammocks. If the masks—a uniquely Puerto Rican artistic tradition—particularly grab your fancy, around the corner on Calle Fortaleza is Máscaras de Puerto Rico. The story specializes in the vejigante masks, featuring an immense range of designs, quality/price range, and even materials (though they're predominantly made of either gourds or papier mache). Across the street from Máscaras is The Linen House, a highly rated store in which to purchase mundillo—Puerto Rico's famous lace. But the one-stop shop for such handmade craftwork is Puerto Rican Arts & Crafts, a two-story spot further down Calle Fortaleza. In addition to masks and other wall hangings, there are original oil and acrylic paintings, ceramics, sculpture, even handmade jewelry.

If souvenirs aren't your forte, there's plenty else to be found in Old San Juan's shops. Stop into El Galpón or the three locations The Cigar House for a selection of Puerto Rico's hand-rolled cigars. Try Panabrisa on Calle San Francisco for the island's trademark guayabera linen shirts. Or, perhaps best of all, Spicy Carabee on Calle de Christo—here, you can purchase the flavors of the island, including rum, spices, tropical and passion fruit (and products thereof, such as homemade jam), and bags of Alto Grande, the island's homegrown "coffee of popes and kings."

**Eat**

San Juan is widely regarded as the region's culinary capital. Frommer's calls the city's cuisine "the most varied and developed in the Caribbean." There's no shortage of local and Latin restaurants, of course, but Old San Juan is also host to the Caribbean's oldest Italian restaurant, Al Dente—which is also one of the most beloved restaurants in the city, often patronized by the governor of Puerto Rico and his associates. In addition, you can find French, Turkish, Tunisian, Japanese, Indo-Latino, and Chinese-Latino restaurants, as well as an enormous amount of fast food like Starbucks' and Burger King.

The district's unofficial "Restaurant Row" is on Calle Fortaleza, and among its many eateries are two of the most famous and renowned. Dragonfly is so popular that at night, the hip crowds that descend on Old San Juan will often simply camp out there for the evening. It means long lines to get into the Latin-Asian fusion restaurant, but the payoff comes in a long menu of exotic cocktails and imaginative combination dishes. (Where else can you get Peking Duck nachos?) Not far away is Aguaviva, a veritable festival of seafood possibilities and funky atmosphere. That ranges from sandwiches (the fried calamari sandwich is a popular choice) to ceviches to a swordfish chop that's in such high demand that the restaurant recommends customers call ahead to check on its availability before arriving.

Spanish cuisine is also a popular choice, with tapas, naturally, at the top of the list. A favorite choice for tapas is El Picoteo, the house restaurant of El Convento Hotel (literally, a hotel inhabiting an old convent). They serve a variety of hot and cold small dishes, including a plate of garlic-marinated mushrooms, a Spanish omelet, and the best paella in Puerto Rico (or so say patrons). Toro Salao adds a contemporary Caribbean twist to its tapas selections; ham croquettes with guava rum glaze, cassava tortillas, veal meatballs with fried plantains. If you want traditional Spanish entrees, have a go at Rosa de Triana, a restaurant across from the El Convento that imports its chorizo and serrano ham directly from Spain.

If your goal is no-frills, down-home Puerto Rican cuisine, however, the consensus choice is El Jibarito, a little spot in a residential part of Old San Juan—an escape, in other words, from the nightlife-seekers. The menu is full of traditional, simple stuff like chicken fricassee and skirt steak, very basic Puerto Rican cuisine at very reasonable prices.

For those looking to sample the full range of Old San Juan's cuisine, a
Drink

You're on an island known for its rum, and Old San Juan doesn't shy away from those spirits or other tropical cocktails. The aforementioned Dragonfly is famous for its dragon punch, featuring rum and quite a bit of ginger; Aguaviva’s signature libation is its watermelon mojito. And almost everywhere you go, you'll find two local brews on tap: Medalla Light and Magna Special Craft, the latter a new beer that is Puerto Rico's first premium lager.

But tippling a glass is about so much more than the contents of that glass; it's also about the ambiance. And the variety available in that department rivals the variety in Old San Juan's culinary scene. There's the chic-Dragonfly and Aguaviva once again, as well as the aptly named Bodega Chic. On the other extreme, there's the uppretentious but endlessly popular Colmado Bar Moreno, a liquor store by day that becomes a haven for cheap plastic cups and reggaeton music after dark. In between, you'll find the raucous college-student bars like Lupi's and Senor Frog's; the super-casual Nono's, your basic pool-table-and-jukebox establishment; and the funky dive bar El Batey, a dingy place that nonetheless tops numerous lists of the best bars in San Juan.

Groove

Believe it or not, San Juan locals say that the best nightlife in San Juan can be found off the lobbies of the ICA conference hotels: the El Caribe Hilton, Condado Plaza Hilton, and San Juan Marriott. But if you want to get out and hit the town, Old San Juan is a great spot for it-especially if you want to dance or hear some music.

At the top of that list, by almost any standard, is the Nuyorican Café. It's not known for its fancy digs; the place is a bare-bones spot in an alleyway off Calle San Francisco. But there's near universal agreement that it's the single best venue in San Juan for salsa, featuring both live music and dancing. There's no requirement that only seasoned experts hit the dancefloor; the club's reputation has it that even if you've never tried to dance to salsa before, the well-traveled dancers will patiently help you learn what you're doing.

If dancing has priority over live music for you, a good place to try is Club Lazer. It's a bit of a vintage/novelty joint, in that it's maintained its 1980s dance club style across its three stories. But it's a hot spot for the local deejay scene, and true to its name, it has a laser light show. Deejays are also kept busy in Blend, an indoor-patio techno club on Calle Fortaleza; if you prefer reggaeton to techno, there's an old house on Calle Tanca that's now called Noise. If the music is your focus, The Parrot Club hosts live Latin jazz and salsa during the week. Carli Café Concierto has live jazz every night. Barrachina Restaurant has the most exotic night: live flamenco music and a dance show.

That's enough to get you started, though there's plenty more to find on your own. Have a fun time, day or night, exploring the historical, picturesque scenes in Old San Juan.
Student Column: After Paris and Copenhagen

Francois Allard-Huver, Paris Sorbonne University - CELSA

We have all been recently shaken by the terrible events that hit Europe over the last 2 months. From Paris to Copenhagen, terror attacks targeted not only citizens but also democratic values — starting with freedom of speech and freedom of religion. These attacks reminded us that every day around the world, in our communities, people fight for their rights, fight for freedom of speech, but also die for it. If the questions of what limits should be placed to this liberty is legitimately asked by some commentators and varies from one country to another, one shall not forget that with freedom of speech come all other freedoms. Those who are ready to silence journalists are the first who are ready to kill people with different believes and values: "The only security of all is in a free press. The force of public opinion cannot be resisted when permitted freely to be expressed. The agitation it produces must be submitted to." (Jefferson, 1823)

We as communication scholars have a particular duty, and a particular responsibility, in this debate. In Paris, journalists embodied a certain definition of freedom of speech — press freedom— and were, therefore, specifically targeted by the attackers. Similarly in Copenhagen, the attacker decided to target those who affirm their freedom of speech in public. The old question of parrhesia — truthtelling and its risks — suddenly became more vivid for us.

These debates are not new ones, and much has already been said in that regard. Nonetheless, these human tragedies and their implications for our democracies led us to open discussions, forums, and spaces to exchange and redefine together what we mean behind "vivre-ensemble," the ability to live with the others. How hard this can be, and what forms it should take, are core defining questions for our societies.

As early career scholars, we thought that it was also our responsibility to open such discussions in our universities and some colleagues have already conducted similar initiatives around the globe. We think that the Paris and Copenhagen attacks are the occasion to also ask more broadly, what is the role of academics in public crisis? Should we be observers, commentators, or activists? We should not forget that one of the ideas behind the creation of "modern" universities was to create a place to safeguard intellectual independence.

We hope to pursue this debate (and open more) 2 months from now at the Puerto Rico conference, but also welcome you to share with us your opinions and your feelings about this issue and the role we want to play in the public sphere. For instance, we just started a Facebook group and would be pleased to continue the discussion there, as well as to share additional information for early-career scholars. Join us here:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/386119558234727/
This article includes new postings with the latest ICA member news, as well as updates on outside conferences and publications. All ICA members are encouraged to submit their latest professional news for inclusion in the Newsletter by e-mailing Jennifer Le at jle@icahdq.org.

Dear fellow ICA members:

Given the changing policies concerning Cuba, I suggested to the ICA hierarchy that sometime be allocated at the annual meeting in Puerto Rico to think about opportunities and challenges for research and collaboration--across the areas of interests of the ICA. At the moment, this is a "placeholder." Whether something great materializes depends on the zest, knowledge and interest of ICA members. I encourage any of you who have some thoughts to write me with thoughts and suggestions. We'll interact and come up with a tentative agenda. The meetings of the Latin America Studies Association will occur around the same time and around the same place, and perhaps some cooperative effort could be achieved.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Monroe E. Price, (U of Pennsylvania) mprice@asc.upenn.edu

Calls for Papers

Barcelona International PR 2015 Conference

Barcelona, 30 June and 1 July 2015

Barcelona International PR Meeting #5 will take place next 30 June and 1 July 2015 in Barcelona. The fifth edition of the conference is entitled Theory in Practice in Public Relations through to the Fully-Functioning Society: Papers in Honor of Professor Robert Heath. The deadline for submitting an abstract has been extended until 9 April 2015.

Details are online at: http://www.uoc.edu/portal/en/symposia/prconference/index.html

ICA Regional Conference in Copenhagen in October 2015

Co-Organized by ICA and the Copenhagen Business School, there will be a regional conference on "Responsible Communication and Governance" to be held in Copenhagen in October 2015. Our host, CBS, is ranked as one of the top business schools and top Centre for Corporate Social Responsibility in the world. Offering a unique opportunity to network with scholars and practitioners in these and other areas associated with the Nordic region and beyond, the call for extended abstracts and panel submissions is posted on the ICA website with a deadline of April 15 2015!!

http://www.tilmeld.dk/icanordic2015
Division & Interest Group News

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNICATION

1. Our Division would like to thank the Center for Climate Change Communication at George Mason U for sponsoring the extended session entitled: "Climate Change Communication: Testing messages and media effects."

2. Here is the list of top paper awardees and their relevant sessions during ICA, 2015:

   Faculty:
   - **Paige Brown** (Louisiana State U), **Zeynep Altinai** and **Amy Reynolds** (LSU), "Best Practices in Environmental Communication: A Case Study of Louisiana's Coastal Crisis", in Communicating Science and Environmental Issues: Addressing Challenges and Controversies
   - **Merav Katz-Kimchi** (IDC) and **Lucy Atkinson** (U of Texas at Austin), "Social media and climate action: A case study of Greenpeace's online mobilization campaigns targeting global brands", in Media, social media and environmental action
   - **Lisa Leombruni** (NOVA / WGBH Boston), "How You Talk About Climate Change Matters: A Communication Network Perspective on Skepticism and Belief Strength", in Climate Change Communication: Testing messages and media effects

   Student:
   - **Marijn Meijers** (U of Amsterdam), "Paradoxical Effects of Green Communication Frames", in Proenvironmental Behaviour and Attitudes
   - **Kathleen de Onis** (Indiana U), "Notes from the Field: Living with Colonialism and Environmental Injustice in Puerto Rico" in Media and Communities Across the Life Span: Facing an Environmental Crisis

   Poster:
   - **Hang Lu** (Cornell U), "Linking Sadness Appeal with Gain and Hope Appeal with Loss: Communicating a Novel Marine Disease" in our interactive poster session

3. ECD Breakfast Reception Mix n' Mingle - New EC books by ECD members
   - Come to our breakfast reception before the ECD business meeting to greet and chat with ECD members with new books out. The light breakfast will feature vegan offerings in our support of the authors and the greening of ICA initiatives. Featured authors include:
   - **Lucy Atkinson**, U of Texas at Austin
     Green Advertising and the Reluctant Consumer
     http://amzn.com/1138016543
   - **Miyase Christensen**, Stockholm U, Sweden
     Media and the Politics of Arctic Climate Change: When the Ice Breaks
     http://amzn.com/1137266228
   - **Nayla Fawzi**, Ludwig-Maximilians-U
     Munchen Machen Medien Politik?: Medialisierung der Energiepolitik aus Sicht von politischen Akteuren und Journalisten
     http://www.amazon.de/dp/3848715856
Carrie P. Freeman, Georgia State U
Framing Farming: Communication Strategies for Animal Rights (Critical Animal Studies)
http://amzn.com/9042038926

John D. Peters, The U of Iowa
The Marvelous Clouds: Toward a Philosophy of Elemental Media
http://www.press.uchicago.edu/ucp/books/book/chicago/M/bo20069392.html

Emily Plec, Western Oregon U
Perspectives on Human-Animal Communication Series: Routledge Studies in Rhetoric and Communication
http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415640053/

Brian G. Southwell, RTI International
Social Networks and Popular Understanding of Science and Health
https://jhupbooks.press.jhu.edu/content/social-networks-and-popular-understanding-science-and-health

4. ECD Grad Student Gathering - Job searching in the 21st Century Please join ECD Student Representative Jill Hopke, (U of Wisconsin-Madison)and Chair Richard Doherty, (U of Leeds) for an informal discussion about searching for a position when your focus is EC and strategies for pitching yourself across sub-fields. We will meet by the pool or the beach with a cool drink and chat about strategies for positions in different areas of the world. Watch your email and around the conference zone for signs for when and where we will meet.

GAME NEWS

Informal "Office Hours" with Games Scholars ICA is a great place for networking, but sometimes it's hard to track people down. Or, you might be shy about approaching a scholar whose work you follow. Games has found a solution to encourage ICA attendees (grad students, faculty, and other scholars) to come chat informally with some of the leading scholars in games research. We will be hosting informal "office hours" at the Oasis Bar near the lobby in the Hilton Caribe to give you the opportunity to connect. We'll have something prominent and geeky so you can find where we're set up. Maybe you have a question about a scholar's work or want to get some feedback about your own work. Maybe you just want to take the time to introduce yourself or bounce some ideas around. Maybe you have an extra mojito you want to share. Whatever the reason, we're encouraging folks to stop by and say hello. Once we have the list of scholars and times confirmed, we'll post to our website (http://icagames.org) and Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/icagames). You can also get real time updates from our Twitter account.

Available Positions and Other Advertising

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK, COLLEGE AT PLATTSBURGH
Department of Communication Studies
Assistant Professor in Digital Media Production, Communication Studies

The Department of Communication Studies at the State University of New York, College at Plattsburgh announces a vacancy for a tenure-track, Assistant Professor effective August 2015. The successful candidate will be committed to excellence in teaching and service in an institution dedicated primarily to undergraduate education. He or she will be expected to demonstrate an understanding of and sensitivity to diversity and gender issues, as SUNY Plattsburgh is committed to ensuring that its graduates are educated to succeed in an increasingly complex, multicultural, and interdependent world.

Responsibilities Include: Duties include course instruction, being an active scholar, advising students, and service to the department and university. The successful candidate will be expected to teach courses in multimedia production, basic & advanced web design, and Adobe After Effects. The successful candidate may be asked to teach courses in a distance learning format.
**Required Qualifications:** An appropriate Master's Degree with a minimum of 2-4 years of full-time teaching experience in the area of specialization is required. The successful candidate will have demonstrated an ability to work effectively and collegially with faculty, staff, and administrators.

**Preferred Qualifications:** A record of scholarship and/or significant industry experience; Additional expertise in animation, video production, writing for the web, and/or social media will be considered advantageous.

**SUNY Plattsburgh is an equal opportunity employer, committed to excellence through diversity. As an equal opportunity employer and a government contractor subject to VEVRAA, SUNY Plattsburgh complies with hiring regulations regarding sex, color, religion, national origin, disability, age and veteran status.**

**Salary:** $48,000 minimum, plus excellent benefits. Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled. To be considered for the position you must provide a complete application and materials. Please apply to http://jobs.plattsburgh.edu/postings/5731 and provide a letter of application detailing previous/current professional experience, curriculum vitae, evidence of teaching effectiveness, record of scholarly works (print and/or electronic), unofficial transcripts, and a list of 3 current references with contact information. Official transcripts from an accredited institution will be required prior to employment.

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**COMMON SENSE MEDIA**

**Director of Research**

Common Sense, the leading nonprofit organization helping kids thrive in a world of media and technology, seeks a Director of Research to manage our research and evaluation efforts, and serve as a resource on child development, learning, and media/tech.

[https://www.commonsensemedia.org/about-us/director-of-research](https://www.commonsensemedia.org/about-us/director-of-research)