

## **Annual Report to the International Communication Association**

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- (i) For the ICA Board Meeting, May 2017
- (ii) For the ICA Annual Report, 2017

**Division/Interest Group:**     **Communication History Division**

**Chair:**                                 **Dave Park**

**Vice chair:**                           **Nicole Maurantonio**

**Secretary:**                           **Josh Lauer**

### **Report**

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The Communication History Division existed as an interest group from 2007 thru 2013. We have been a division since 2013. Our membership levels have usually been around 200, but right now—post purge in February of 2017—we stand at 159 members. We have experienced some complications relating to management of our membership roster as a result of the updates in the ICA web site, so these numbers are relatively new to us. If past trends are any indication, our membership numbers will be back over 200 shortly after the conference in San Diego. We seem presently to be suffering from a post-Fukuoka slump, similar to that encountered in 2010 after Singapore.

The Division elected a new incoming secretary during the summer of 2016. Lars Lundgren (Södertörn University) will commence his service as secretary at the end of the 2017 conference in San Diego. We also recruited (competitive elections were not involved) Samantha Oliver to (University of Pennsylvania) serve as our Early-years Scholar/Graduate student representative, and Dominique Trudel (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Paris) to serve as our International representative. Our next election will be for vice-chair of the division, in the summer of 2017. The chair has already begun fielding questions from individuals interested in running for that position.

After the paper submission and review process was completed, the Communication History Interest Group recognized two papers with awards in 2017. Our top paper in division award went to Maira Vaca-Bacqueiro (London School of Economics), for her paper, titled “Four Theories of the Press @ 60: Moving Forward.” The top student paper award went to Gal Beckerman (Columbia University), for his paper, titled “Simultaneous Observation: The Scientific Correspondence Network of Nicolas-Claude Febri de Peirsc.” Our top poster presentation award went to Annie Rudd (University of Calgary), for her paper titled “Photographic Objects: Posing and the Construction of Identity in the Victorian Portrait Studio.” We also awarded registration waivers to three graduate students: Rachel Grant, Ke Jiang, and Hannah Spaulding.

Internationalization efforts were aggressive in 2016. The pre-conference last year—with its transnational theme—was designed in large part to welcome scholars from outside the US and Europe. We programmed a pre-conference (“Audiences?: The Familiar Unknown of Communication Historiography”) largely in pursuit of a more international representation at the conference. We began a more proactive campaign for promoting our division’s call for papers around the world. We invited a

large number of scholars from outside the US and Europe to review for the division. Despite these efforts, the division reports that we do not see these efforts bearing fruit yet. The percentage of accepted papers by graduate students and by scholars from the Global South was very low. This derives in some measure from the relatively high rejection rate for ICA, but more directly indicates that our division should redouble its efforts to make a place for scholarship by graduate students and by scholars from outside A-tier nations. We are starting to receive more submissions from graduate students and scholars from B- and C-tier nations, but it will take more work to assure that these scholars find a home in our division.

It is possible (perhaps even likely) that our insistence that submissions only be in the form of full papers has had a negative effect on the number and diversity of submissions we receive relative to other divisions. Our executive board will shortly look into the possibility of opening up our submissions to abstracts.