
SITE ALERT - Board of Directors: Division/IG Annual Report Form Submitted

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International Communication Association

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Division/Interest Group:

Communication History Division

Chair Name:

David W. Park

Vice Chair Name:

Nicole Maurantonio

Secretary Name:

Lars Lundgren

Report:

The Communication History Division was an interest group from 2007 through 2013. We have been a division since 2013. Our membership levels, which have been slightly lower of late, have come back up. The Division now has 193 members, post-purge. This brings us back to the membership numbers we had from 2013-2015. The Division elected a new incoming vice-chair during the summer of 2017. Derek Vaillant (U of Michigan) will commence his service as vice-chair at the end of the 2018 conference in Prague. He will share with incoming chair (present vice-chair) Nicole Maurantonio (U of Richmond) the work of conference planning for the 2019 conference in Washington, D.C. Lars Lundgren (Södertörn University) will remain in his elected office as division secretary until his term expires at the end of the 2019 conference. Samantha Oliver (University of Pennsylvania) will continue to serve as our Early-years Scholar/Graduate student representative. Dominique Trudel (Université de Montréal) to serve as our International representative. Our next election will be for division secretary, in the summer of 2018. A promising development for the division can be found in the fact that three outstanding scholars ran for the position of division vice-chair during the summer of 2017. Derek Vaillant won not be running unopposed (as present and outgoing chair David W. Park did), but by running against two highly qualified opponents. Granted, all of the candidates for vice-chair in 2017 came from the US, and it will be essential in the future for candidates to come from outside the US. Still, the division is well-served

by vice-chair and secretary elections that give the division meaningful choices, and there appears to be a meaningful increase in the number of members interested in assuming leadership roles in the division. After the paper submission and review process was completed, the Communication History Division recognized three papers with awards in 2018. Our top paper in division award went to Derek Vaillant (U of Michigan), for his paper titled "Our Hearts Were Young and Gay: Gender Repair and the Lavender Tinge of Cold War-era U.S.-French Talk Radio." The top student paper award went to Bernat Ivancsics (Columbia University), for his paper titled "Prying Loose the Information Lid: The First Ten Years of FOIA in the United States." Our top poster presentation award went to Kevin Lerner (Marist College), for his paper titled "Impudent Snobs: The Liebling Counter-Convention and the Rise of the Elite of American Journalism." We also awarded registration waivers to three graduate students: Ido Ramati, Dennis Steffan, and Niklas Venema. The division's internationalization efforts were aggressive continued in 2017. Our pre-conference for 2018 ("Network(ed) Histories") was programmed in part to welcome more scholars from outside North America than we would be able to program in the main conference in Prague. The result has been a pre-conference that reaches beyond North America quite effectively. Lars Lundgren (our secretary) planned this pre-conference, and his inclusive approach to pre-conference planning has resulted in a pre-conference that features a large number of scholars from outside North America. We understand that simply getting beyond North America is only the beginning of what internationalization should be about. The division has seen a growth in the number of members it has from Europe. This represents progress, but the division still has much work to do to attract more members from Asia, Africa, and South America. We continued a 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. As was the case last year, we are still receiving 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. Of our 193 members, 66 come from outside of North America. This is admittedly not overwhelming, but it represents a marked improvement from the levels of internationalization we had as recently as 2016. In the future, the division will be well advised to deepen its roots in Europe, while still making effort to reach out beyond North America and Europe.

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