EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- **Amelia Arsenault**, Georgia State University (Section Chair 2018)
- **Emily Metzgar**, Indiana University, (Section Program Chair, 2018, Section Chair 2019)
- **Craig Hayden**, American University (Past Section Chair 2017)
- **Efe Sevin**, University of Fribourg (Executive Committee Member 2016-2018, Section Program Chair 2019)
- **Chiara De Franco**, Syddansk Universitet (2016-2018)
- **Filippo Trevisan**, American University (2017 – 2019)

BEST PAPER COMMITTEE

- **Efe Sevin**, University of Fribourg (Committee Chair)
- **Senem Cevik**, Ankara University
- **Ilan Manor**, Oxford University
- **Caitlin Byrne**, Griffith University

BEST BOOK COMMITTEE

- **Shawn Powers**, US Department of State/Georgia State University (Committee Chair)
- **Ben O’Loughlin**, Royal Holloway University
- **Selcan Kaynak**, Bogazici University
- **Betty Hanson**, University of Connecticut
- **Nathalie Marechal**, University of Southern California

MEMBERSHIP

Our section members reflect a diverse community of interdisciplinary scholars from around the world. As of November 1, 2017, the section membership remains steady at 206. As the spotlight on fake news, computational propaganda, information warfare, public diplomacy, and propaganda grows in international relations, we anticipate that our section membership will continue to increase.

During 2017, the section continued its efforts to promote section membership growth through activities such as:
Co-sponsoring panels with other ISA sections;
Hosting a poster session at our annual reception in Baltimore;
Promoting member scholarship via awards and through social media recognition;
Reaching out to publishers and universities for section sponsorship.

ISA Annual Convention, Baltimore, MD, February 22-25, 2017
The ISA 2017 Annual Convention took place in Baltimore, MD from February 22 through 25. ICOMM sponsored 34 panels and roundtables. This included: 8 panels sponsored independently, 24 panels co-sponsored with other divisions, one poster session, and a Distinguished Scholar panel honoring Professor Laura Roselle of Elon University. Common themes in our 2017 submissions included: public diplomacy, the geopolitics of new technologies, framing and agenda setting analysis, and the role of social media in advocacy and human rights promotion. In 2017, 165 participants submitted to the ICOMM division. Of these, 22 papers and one roundtable were ultimately not selected for the program by ICOMM or any other division.

The ICOMM Business Meeting and Reception took place on Thursday February 22 and was sponsored by: Routledge, Provalis Research, the GW Institute of Public Diplomacy and Global Communication and the USC School of Public Diplomacy. At the business meeting, the Executive Committee presented the Best Paper, Best Book, and Distinguished Scholar awards. Craig Hayden also passed leadership of the section to Amelia Arsenault.

ISA Annual Convention, San Francisco, CA, April 4-7, 2018
ICOMM Sponsored Papers and Panels
The ISA Annual Convention will take place in San Francisco, California, USA, from April 4 through April 8, 2018. ICOMM is sponsoring 33 panels and roundtables at ISA 2018. This includes 5 independent panels, 30 cosponsored panels and a Distinguished Scholar panel honoring R.S. Zaharna of American University in Washington, DC.

ICOMM section panels represent a wide range of interests and disciplinary perspectives. Common themes in our 2018 submissions included: propaganda, disinformation, social media, ICTs, public diplomacy, and media coverage of refugees and conflict.

In 2018, ICOMM received 125 submissions. Of these, 42 papers and 4 roundtables were ultimately not selected for the program by ICOMM or any other division. Papers and panels were sponsored based primarily on their topical relevance to the division. To ensure a diversity of scholarship, panels were crafted to maintain a gender, geographic, and institutional balance. Similarly, ICOMM decided to co-sponsor panels that were topically relevant, provided opportunities to strengthen relationships with scholars working in other ISA divisions, and enhanced the visibility of ICOMM-related work at ISA. ICOMM worked in partnership to co-sponsor panels at ISA with 14 other sections, an indication of the importance of communication to international studies. These included (please note that some panels are sponsored by more than two sections):

1. Diplomatic Studies (5)
2. Feminist Theory and Gender Studies (2)
3. Foreign Policy Analysis (2)
4. Human Rights (2)
5. Intelligence Studies (3)
6. Interdisciplinary Studies (2)
7. International Organization (1)
8. International Political Economy (1)
9. International Political Sociology (2)
10. International Security Studies (4)
11. Online Media Caucus (1)
12. Power of Rules (theme) (3)
13. Science, Technology & Art in International Relations (5)

**2017 BUSINESS MEETING AND RECEPTION**
The ICOMM Business Meeting and Reception is scheduled for Thursday, April 5, 2018 at 7:30pm. As of November 30, 2017, reception sponsors include: Routledge, Provalis Research, and the USC Center for Public Diplomacy. The meeting will review accomplishments and news for 2016/2017 and acknowledge winners of the best book award, best paper award and Distinguished Scholar. Election results for new Executive Board Members will be announced, as well as forthcoming Program and Section Chair positions. Due to extremely high costs as ISA 2018 in San Francisco, the section decided not to host a poster session this year. However, we hope to continue this tradition at future conferences.

**2018 ICOMM Distinguished Scholar Award**
Each year, ICOMM solicits nominations for its Distinguished Scholar Award from all section members; Executive Committee members then select the winner from the pool of nominees. This year, the Executive Committee selected R.S. Zaharna of American University in recognition of her notable contributions to the scholarship, pedagogy, and practice of public diplomacy and strategic communications. Her academic works include: *Battles to Bridges: U.S. Strategic Communication and Public Diplomacy after 9/11* (Palgrave-Macmillan, 2010; 2014), *The Connective Mindshift: Relational, Networked and Collaborative Approaches to Public Diplomacy* (co-edited with Amelia Arsenault and Ali Fisher; Routledge, 2013) and *The Cultural Awakening in Public Diplomacy* (Figueroa Press, 2012). She has also been a leader in forging relationships between international communication academics and practitioners; she has testified before the U.S. Congress on multiple occasions and has addressed diplomatic and academic forums on public diplomacy. Not only has she been a prolific scholar and public advocate for public diplomacy scholarship, she has also contributed to the section each year through her mentorship of junior scholars in the section and her organization of an annual panel featuring emerging scholars in public diplomacy. Professor Zaharna will be honored at the 2018 ICOMM Distinguished Scholar Panel as well as at the ICOMM Section Reception and Business Meeting.

**2018 ICOMM Best Paper Award**
The Best Paper Award Committee decided to honor Stanislav Budnitskiy, a PhD Candidate at Carleton University, for his paper, “Digital Nationalism: Post-Soviet Identity Building and Internet Governance in Estonia,” which he presented in Baltimore at ISA 2017.
Using Estonia as a case, his paper examined how nationalism survives and thrives in the digital age of the early twenty-first century. The piece bridges theories of nationalism, strategic communication, and global internet governance, to argue that historically grounded national identities inform post-national and post-ideological technological politics. It takes a novel approach by examining how a nation like Estonia applies nation branding and strategic communication tools to global internet governance. It highlights how national identity underlies technological politics at the national and international level.

2018 ICOMM Best Book Award
The ICOMM 2018 Best Book Award Committee received five submissions this year. The committee selected *The Future of #Diplomacy* (2015, Polity) by Philip Seib as the 2018 winner. Professor Seib is Professor of Journalism and Public Diplomacy and Professor of International Relations at the University of Southern California. This important work examines how new media tools have radically altered the role of diplomats and foreign publics in public diplomacy. Drawing on case studies such as the humanitarian crisis in Syria and the Iran nuclear negotiations, the book outlines how changes in the global communications environment are quickly eroding time-honored closed-door diplomacy tactics and heightening the importance of open-door, public-facing public diplomacy.

Section Communication
ICOMM communicates with its members through a number of avenues, including:

- A joint ISA ICOMM/ APSA Political Communication listserve that reaches a high percentage of international communication scholars.
- Through the ISA organization, which sends out mass emails to all current section members
- ICOMM’s Twitter handle: https://twitter.com/ISAICOMM
- ICOMM website: https://isaicomm.wordpress.com
- ICOMM’s newsletter Catalyst (published twice a year)

These communication tools are also available to section members who wish to send out important announcements related to the section and its members.

Executive Committee Meetings
ICOMM’s Executive Committee held bi-monthly (approximately) phone conferences during 2017 and remained in frequent email contact.