FULL REPORT

ICOMM Leadership 2018-2019

- Emily Metzgar, Indiana University (Section Chair 2019)
- Efe Sevin, Reinhardt University (Section Program Chair 2019; Section Chair 2020)
- Amelia Arsenault, Georgia State University (Past Section Chair 2018)
- Susan T. Jackson, Stockholm University (Section Assistant Program Chair 2019)
- Emily Blout, University of Virginia (2018-2020)
- Senem B. Çevik, University of California, Irvine (2018-2020)
- Illan Manor, University of Oxford (2018-2020)
- Filippo Trevisan, American University (2017-2019)

Best Paper Committee

Chair & 2018 Award Winner: Stanislav Budnitsky, University of Southern California

Committee Members

- Emily Blout, University of Virginia
- Jacklyn Kerr, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
- Joanna Szostek, University of Glasgow
- Filippo Trevisan, American University

NB: Awardee will be identified in January 2019.

Best Book Award Committee

Chair & 2018 Award Winner: Philip Seib, University of Southern California

Committee Members

- Senem B. Çevik, University of California, Irvine
- Kenneth Rogerson, Duke University
- Efe Sevin, Reinhardt University
- R.S. Zaharana, American University

NB: Awardee will be identified in January 2019.
Membership

Membership in the International Communication Section is diverse, comprised of interdisciplinary scholars of varied national origin and individuals with a range of research interests. The content of our program for ISA’s 2019 annual conference reflects that diversity of interest with content to include emphasis on strategic narrative; public diplomacy; new approaches to international communication research; the role of information communication technologies (ICTs) in international politics – whether in the conduct of diplomacy, promotion of human rights, management of international organizations, or creation of sustainable peace; computational propaganda and disinformation campaigns; and a variety of national perspectives applied to analysis of the above.

Membership in ICOMM is down, however, falling from an all-time high of 206 in 2018 to 170 at the start of 2019. The last time membership was this low was 2011 when ICOMM had 164 dues-paying members.

ICOMM leadership is not aware of any single reason for this decline, but the Executive Committee has begun discussions to develop strategies for reversing this trend. To this end, ICOMM will distribute a membership survey in early 2019, in hopes of learning what our members think ICOMM does well and what they think can be improved upon. We are eager to convey a genuine sense of openness and egalitarianism and the survey will be one small step in demonstrating the sincerity of this intent.

ISA Annual Convention in Toronto, Canada, March 27-30, 2019

For the 2019 conference, ICOMM received 6 first choice panel requests, 73 first paper requests, and 6 first roundtable requests.

The centrality of ICTs in all aspects of international studies contributes to ICOMM’s easy collaborations with other units across ISA. For 2019 ICOMM is sponsoring 15 crafted panels, 10 submitted panels, and 4 roundtables, for a total of 29 program items. ICOMM is partnering with 11 other ISA units for the 2019 conference:

1. Diplomatic Studies (4)
2. Foreign Policy Analysis (4)
3. Human Rights (2)
4. International Organization (2)
5. International Political Psychology (2)
6. Online Media Caucus (1)
7. Re-Visioning International Studies: Innovation and Progress (Theme) (6)
8. Peace Studies (2)
9. Science, Technology and Art in International Relations (3)
10. Theory (2)
11. Scientific Study of International Processes (1)
2019 Business Meeting and Reception

The ICOMM Business Meeting and Reception is scheduled for March 28, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. at the ISA conference hotel, Sheraton Toronto. We have invited past sponsors to join us once again, but confirmation has not yet been received. Past sponsors have included Provalis, Routledge, University of Southern California’s Center on Public Diplomacy and The George Washington University’s Institute for Public Diplomacy & Global Communication.

ICOMM will not be hosting a poster session with the business meeting and reception. We made this decision for the 2018 conference due to the high cost associated with doing so, but we found the business meeting and reception was less hectic and productive without running a poster session at the same time. After a second year of taking this approach we will consider the possibility of reinstituting the poster session for 2020.

ICOMM Distinguished Scholar Award

Over several months following the 2018 conference ICOMM leadership made multiple attempts to solicit nominations for the Distinguished Scholar Award from the Section’s leadership. Few responses were received and there was little diversity in the focus of the scholarship among those who were nominated, both within the small pool of nominations received and in comparison to recent honorees. After careful deliberation, the Executive Committee made the decision not to identify a recipient for the award for 2019. We hope that this one-year hiatus will spur greater interest in this award among the membership as a whole and that this improved interest will lead to a wider variety in types nominees (and nominators) who are involved in this process.

Although there will be no 2019 Distinguished Scholar Award, ICOMM does however, intend to honor a long-time member of the Section for mentorship of young scholars. The business meeting and reception will be the venue for presentation of this honor.

Section Communication

ICOMM communicates with its members using a number of mechanisms including:

- Emails distributed by ISA headquarters which sends messages to all current Section members
- ICOMM Twitter account: @ISAICOMM
- ICOMM website: https://isaicomm.wordpress.com
- ICOMM Newsletter Catalyst

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 telephone meetings in 2018-2019 and remained in regular email contact.