FULL REPORT

ICOMM LEADERSHIP 2019-2020

- Efe Sevin, Towson University (Section Chair 2020)
- Emily Metzgar, Indiana University (Section Past Chair 2020)
- Susan T. Jackson, Stockholm University (Section Program Chair 2020, Section Chair 2021)
- Gabriella Paar-Jakli, Kent State University (Section Program Vice Chair 2020, Section Program Chair 2021)
- Daniel Aguërré Azocar, Universidad del Desarrollo (2019 – 2021)
- Emily Blout, University of Virginia (2018-2020)
- Senem B. Çevik, University of California, Irvine (2018-2020)
- Illan Manor, University of Oxford (2018-2020)

BEST PAPER AWARD COMMITTEE

Chair & 2019 Award Winner: Anna Popkova, Western Michigan University.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Cheryl Martens, Universidad San Francisco de Quito
- Daniel Aguërré Azocar, Universidad del Desarrollo
- Leah C. Windsor, The University of Memphis

The committee received only one nomination and decided not to give out the award. Dr. Popkova will chair the committee once again.

BEST BOOK AWARD COMMITTEE

Chair & 2019 Award Winner: Mohamed Zayani, Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Senem B. Çevik, University of California, Irvine
- Efe Sevin, Towson University
- Vanessa Bravo, Elon University
- Tom Jamieson, University of Nebraska at Omaha

NB: The committee ranked Henry Farrell & Abraham L. Newman - Of Privacy and Power: The Transatlantic Struggle over Freedom and Security as their top choice. Neither author was active ISA members at the time of the decision. Dr. Zayani is in contact with Drs. Farrell and Newman to see whether they will renew their ISA memberships and accept the award.
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. In the last few years, we have worked towards increasing the diversity of our section by limiting the number of panels with similar topics, submitted panels that do not have geographic diversity, manels, and repeat participants. The content of our program for ISA’s 2020 annual conference reflects that diversity of interest with content to include emphasis on strategic narrative; activism; governance; public diplomacy; and new approaches to international communication research. The changes brought in by information and communication technologies in international politics is widely discussed in variety of subfields, ranging from digital diplomacy to memes and human rights.

Membership in ICOMM has increased from 170 of last year to 191. However, we are lower than our all-time high of 206 in 2018.

ICOMM leadership has been aware of the issues with our rather stagnant membership numbers. We have been using a combination of online and offline outreach methods to increase our membership. We are also in the process of coordinating with other sections that have overlapping membership to ensure our receptions are on different days.

ISAN Annual Convention in Honolulu, HI, March 25-28, 2020

For the 2020 conference, ICOMM received 9 first choice panel requests, 100 first paper requests, and 2 first roundtable requests.

Total program items: 34 (18 ICOMM 1st sponsor; 16 ICOMM as invited co-sponsor)
- 18 ICOMM 1st = 11 crafted panels + 6 submitted panels+ 1 submitted roundtable
- 50% co-sponsorships: 22
- 33% co-sponsorships: 12
- Diplomatic Studies (5)
- Foreign Policy Analysis (8)
- Human Rights (2)
- Interdisciplinary Studies (3)
- International Organizations (6)
- International Political Sociology (2)
- Multiple Identities and Scholarship in a Global IR: One Profession, Many Voices (Theme) (1)
- Online Media Caucus (2)
- Science, Technology and Art in IR (4)
- South Asia in World Politics (1)

The above figures include a 33% panel co-sponsored with Global Development (an ICOMM co-sponsorship of an IPS panel). In addition, the above figures do not reflect the mix of co-sponsorships in the 33% panels.

Topics in the ICOMM program
- Acts of violence as communication
- Cases from every continent (except for Antarctica...)
- Digital activism
- Feminism
- Gender and masculinities
- Human rights
• Information control, propaganda, and manipulation
• Information infrastructures and IOs
• LGBTQ
• Methodology
• Popular culture beyond social media, including music, television, film, fashion, and print media
• Populism
• Public diplomacy
• Science diplomacy
• Sustainable development

Finance
As of November 2019, ICOMM’s budget balance is at $6,241.41. Our operating expenses include business meeting & reception, printing, and awards.

2020 Business Meeting and Reception
The ICOMM Business Meeting and Reception is scheduled for Wednesday, March 25, 7:15 pm - 8:45 pm, Lehua room, Hilton Hawaiian Village. We have secured sponsorships from our past partners Provalis, University of Southern California’s Center on Public Diplomacy, and The George Washington University’s Institute for Public Diplomacy & Global Communication. We have acquired two new sponsors: Journal of Contemporary Eastern Asia & World Association for Triple Helix & Future Strategy Studies, and Towson University Department of Mass Communication.

ICOMM Distinguished Scholar Award
This is the second year in a row where ICOMM decided not to award a distinguished scholarship award. Over several months following the 2019 conference ICOMM leadership made multiple attempts to solicit nominations for the Distinguished Scholar Award from the Section’s leadership. The diversity of nominations created an issue. Our latest awardee was in 2018, Dr. R.S. Zaharna of American University (Washington, DC). She is a renowned public diplomacy scholar. As a response, executive committee has been trying to identify nominations coming outside North America and outside public diplomacy. After careful deliberation, the Executive Committee made the decision not to identify a recipient for the award for 2020.

We will be working on establishing a larger pool of nominees for 2021.

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 tools are also available to Section members who wish to send important announcements of interest to Section membership.
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

ICOMM’s Executive Committee held bi-monthly telephone meetings in 2019-2020 and remained in regular email contact.