

ICA 2025 Communication Science and Biology (CSaB) Minutes

Sunday, June 15, 2025

4:30 PM – 5:15 PM; Mineral D (Regency 3)

<https://commscience.org/>

Minutes Business Meeting

In Attendance: Christopher Casio, Kory Floyd, Amelia Couture Bue, Jason Coronel, Karolien Poels, Yugian (Neil) Ni, Diego Romeo, Jessica Mäki, Kristy Hamilton, Elena Artemenko, Kylie Woodman, Allyson Snyder, Hannah Overlock-Thompson, Rachael Kee, Sungbin Youk, Musa Malik, Richard Huskey, Xuanyun (Jason) Gong, Dominique Wirz, Andreas Fahr, Michelle Möri, Renata Jeimy, Xinyi Wang, Caitlin Wege, Justin Cheung, Paul Bolls, Huig Len, Elisa Baek, Jacob Fisher, Sue Lim, Rick Dale, Grace Qiyuan Miao, Zexin Marsha Ma, Sai Datta Mikkilineni, Yen Lee

Welcome and Introductions

- Chris noted a 5%, non-compounding increase to help offset international conference costs
- Two interest groups are becoming divisions and there is a new interest group that has a similar name to CSaB (e.g., “Science Communication”). This group does research on dissemination of science communication. This is a different area from us, so Chris felt there was enough difference and voted to approve
- There will be new ICA-wide award on IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Access); more information forthcoming
- Reminded everyone to please complete the conference survey when the link comes out
- Provided notes from the board of director’s meeting: Theme will be Communication and Inequalities in Context, and the conference next year will be in Cape Town, South Africa in June. ICA has a new journal called *Global Perspectives in Communication*
- Please either see the department’s website for notes, or alternatively, members may reach out to Chris directly.

Approval of minutes

- Richard Huskey motioned to approve, multiple individuals seconded. Passed with no objections

CSaB Website and Social Media

- David is stepping down as media coordinator
- Website and Social Media provide great opportunities to publicize work – members can submit work and then it will be shared across platforms

Membership and Budget Report

- Discussed implications of current political climate in U.S. Our interest group has always been well-funded – budgets ranging from 9K – 30K, which is good for small size. Every 2-3 years Jason solicits donations/sponsorships from universities and they give a few thousand dollars every 2-5 years. In particular, USC and Penn have contributed. We may not be able to rely exclusively on university support given the financial health of universities in the current political climate. Given this, CSaB may need to either adjust the budget (i.e., by decreasing or eliminating some costs) or consider corporate sponsorship. Jason has ideas of corporations who might be a

- good fit (i.e., non-objectionable to members), but if you have suggestions please feel free to send them to Jason.
- Budget is going well, with 2025 membership up from 169 from 143.
 - We currently charge \$3 for group membership and get \$1K from ICA now that annual board meetings are bi-annual. Could consider raising cost to be a member as a way to generate more funds. \$3 is an arbitrary number.
 - Cost of joint reception with Game Studies division is more or less expensive depending on hotel, location, etc. but this year the estimated portion was \$1,271.03

2025 Paper Competition and Conference Planning

- 83 submissions, 36 extended abstract submissions, 10 preregistration papers, 1 panel
- Every submission had 3 reviews – special thanks to Richard Huskey for stepping up to make this happen.
- Acceptance rate was 63%, which is above ICA's overall rate of ~33% – this is largely due to the high density panels
- Goal is to get as many individuals to ICA as possible

Updates from our Student and Early Career representative

- Reminded members of two upcoming events: 1) The Blue Sky workshop on Working in Industry and 2) the Early and Career Reception

Updates from our International Liaison

- Report on Current Diversity
 - Had Chat GPT make table of countries that the papers came from, includes all authors not just first author. Many countries represented, which is positive, though Karolien noted that most substantial representation is still from U.S.
 - Karolien acknowledged email campaign initiated by Ralf Schmaelzle (prior International Liaison) as helpful effort
- Shared Ideas for global inclusion
 - Karolien pitched a global, multi-lab, study examining psychophysiological responses to media content and message. This would ideally be a topic of global relevance (e.g., misinformation and climate change) that could be done in multiple labs around the world.
 - Asked members to reach out if interested to help with the details – could do a survey to establish a topic. Alternatively, could consider a pre-conference or panel at ICA 2026.
 - Chris suggested local, neural focus groups that could predict up to global measures and could be distributed anywhere

Awards

- *Rockstar reviewer Award* – (absent) chosen by conference planner (Chris) looking for someone who stood out on how they did their job. Awarded to Simal (University of Iowa). Chris expressed many thanks and appreciation.
- Kory awarded Top paper awards to 8 papers – Congratulated winners and noted that this was another year of great papers
- Rising star in communication award – Fredrick Hopp (absent). Kory awarded and encouraged us to read his work. Very competitive year with many good candidates
- Be on the lookout for the call for the Outstanding Contribution to Communication Science Award, a bi-annual award, that will have a call in Spring 2026

New Office Elections

- Many open positions, please see ICA's website for job duties and descriptions.

New Business

- Increasing and diversifying membership (Chris)
 - Getting close to numbers/ percentages to get divisional status. Growing, but slowly. We will pass threshold at some point (e.g., growth as students graduate and start their own labs). Asked for suggestions on how to do it sooner rather than later
- Review Quality
 - Chris noted inconsistent review efforts, including reviews that short-changed quality of work outside of psychophys. Reminded members that we are a diverse group, not just fMRI and eye tracking. Encouraged reviewers to focus on quality of work, rather than perceived fit with division. Please spread the word with other members.
- Minimum number of members needed to retain group status (Jason)
 - Chris – from what he's gathered from the board, it doesn't seem that this is a concern. 5%, 2 years in a row of overall ICA members is the bar to move to divisional status. Then once you reach that the threshold is maintaining 4%. Board is getting more serious about warning folks that they may be bumped down from division status
 - Chris expressed low concern about losing interest group status, but acknowledged benefits that would come from being an interest group (e.g., prestige, vote in board meetings, etc.)
- AI-assisted or generated reviews (From floor)
 - Brought to the attention of Chris, but only after reviews completed this year. 240+ reviews means Chris could only spot check. Will consider further for next year.
 - Discussion of benefits/drawbacks of putting all reviews into an AI-detection system
- Feedback on High-Density Sessions, which were new this year (Chris)
 - Someone from the floor expressed liking the high-density session. Liked the ability to circulate, liked flexibility of going from session to session. Helps the presenter to figure out an elevator pitch.
 - In informal poll, most preferred new high-density format, but some individuals (4-5) preferred old format
 - Richard asked if it helped with accepting papers – not so much, but high-density helps folks circulate and meet more people.
 - Suggestion raised for 5-minute talks, as 3 minutes felt quick. Others liked the 3-minute format but requested further guidelines for presentation styles
 - Benefits included more feedback, more collaborative discussions. Allowed for greater diversity of presentations and talks were well-attended

Closing

- Encouraged members to attend the reception, directly following business meeting
- Closed meeting.