

*Second annual Communication History Interest Group (CHIG) Business Meeting
at the annual meeting of the International Communication Association in Montreal
Friday, May 23, 2008*

Conversation began at approximately 4:30pm.

1. *Unanimous approval of the minutes from last year's business meeting, at the 2007 ICA meeting in San Francisco. (Those minutes can be viewed at communicationhistory.org/newsandevents/news.html)*
2. *Report by chair David Park on the ICA Annual Board of Directors Meeting*
 - Park reported relevant details from the ICA Board of Directors Meeting, including possible changes to the rules governing the approval of new interest groups, and the rules governing election to the interest group officer positions
3. *Discussion of CHIG's scope*
 - James C. McCroskey (U of Alabama) raised the question of whether or not there should be two interest groups, one representing the media history and the other concerned with the history of rhetoric.
 - Park noted that the three-prong mission of CHIG includes a) The History of Communication, including Media History; b) The History of the Idea of Communication; and c) The History of the Field of Communication. The scope of the IG was intended to be broad enough to include any scholar conducted research on communication history, including rhetoricians.
 - Peter Simonson (U of Colorado) argued for an inclusive IG, invoking the metaphor of Yugoslavia
 - Fred Turner (Stanford U) agreed, arguing for catholicity in the scope of the IG
4. *CHIG Awards*
 - Park congratulated the IG's two inaugural awardees, and presented the two recipients with certificates:
 - **Best Overall Paper:** Philip Lodge (Napier University, UK), "Towards an Institutional and Intellectual History of British Communication Studies"
 - **Best Student Paper:** Victor W. Pickard (University of Illinois, USA), "Whether the Giants Should Be Slain or Persuaded to Be Good?: Revisiting the Hutchins Commission and the Role of Media in a Democratic Society"
5. *CHIG panel allotment / rejection rate discussion*
 - Park observed that the IG had a 68% rejection rate—the highest in the ICA, even after petitioning for (and receiving) additional panel slots. Park noted that the high rejection rate is a good sign (in terms of interest and competitiveness), but that it also posed some potential risks (in terms of discouragement).

- Park discussed the formula that ICA uses to generate panel slots, and predicted that the high rejection rate and the large number of CHIG members would bode well for the 2009 Chicago conference.

6. *Discussion on growing on the interest group*

- Park initiated a wide-ranging discussion, involving at least a dozen member in attendance, on strategies to grow the membership in CHIG.
- Park reported that membership in CHIG's first year of official status was very robust, hovering around 175 members. Park noted that 200+ members, sustained over a period of years, is the main criterion for ascending to full division status.
- Members were encouraged to brainstorm about recruitment strategies. Park noted that a CHIG-co-sponsored pre-conference on May 22 ("The Long History of New Media") was very successful in interesting new members, and that a follow-up conference at Chicago 2009 might be an effective strategy.
- Turner suggested a reduced rate for graduate students, although others noted that the \$3 fee was already very affordable. Turner also suggested reaching out to listservs in cognate fields, like the Society for Cinema and Media Studies, the Society for the History of Technology
- Megan Mullen (U of Wisconsin-Parkside and editor of *Media History*) noted that many at SCMS would be interested, and also suggested including some copy in a future issue of *Media History*
- Park noted how important growing outside the US is for ICA, and encouraged members to think about how to attract non-US members.
- Turner suggested sending a notice to various Asian communication departments directly
- Fernando Bermejo (U of Rey Juan Carlos) noted that there is a large group of Spanish scholars interested in media history
- A member noted how most communication studies in Europe is in the humanities, and that there are many scholars doing history
- A member referred to the Centre of Media History in Australia (humanities.mq.edu.au/cmh) and recommended making links with the group.
- A member identified as an oral historian, and offered to post a message on CHIG to an oral history listserv (h-net.org/~oralhist)
- Turner suggested using the H-Net academic announcement feature, which gets spread across the various listservs and is widely read. He also suggested the American Studies Association and AEJMC's history unit (utc.edu/Outreach/AEJMC-HistoryDivision)
- Glenda Balas (Sam Houston State U) noted that the Broadcast Education Association might be an outlet for outreach.
- Park noted that there is an opportunity for discussion posting on ICA's website
- A member suggested a Facebook group
- A member suggested a newsletter like the one ECREA (ecrea.eu) puts out
- Mullen raised the possibility of a virtual conference, and Chris Terry (U of Wisconsin) agreed to pursue the possibility
- A member suggested book reviews on a quarterly basis, assuming a newsletter would exist. Or even a list of recent publications, works-in-progress or authors' queries.

- Turner noted that even a notice on the existing CHIG listserv that it's acceptable to state one's own recent publications could serve this purpose

7. *Announcements from President-elect of ICA Barbie Zelizer*

- President-elect of ICA Barbie Zelizer announced next year's conference, in Chicago May 21st to May 25th, with the theme "Keywords in Communication"
- Zelizer asked for session submissions to the theme chair, in particular cross-unit programming on a particular "keyword"

8. *Concluding comments for the chair*

- Park announced the CHIG reception to follow, which featured *The Long Road to Decatur* (Balas, Simonson) documentary screening.
- Park invited members to sign up as potential reviewers and chairs.
- The meeting was adjourned.