

**Communication History Interest Group
Of the International Communication Association**

Minutes from the inaugural business meeting.

May 27, 2007

1:30-2:45 p.m.

Union Square #14, Hilton Union Square, San Francisco, CA, USA

1) Brief remarks from acting chair David Park

- a) reflections on the origins of the communication history interest group
- b) description of what exactly an interest group is, with reference to relevant ICA bylaws. To be created, an interest group requires 30 petitioners who are active ICA members. An interest group gets all of the same powers that a division has at ICA, except it has no vote on the board.

2) Introductions. We went around the room, introducing ourselves in turn.

3) General discussion of the participants' interest and concerns as they pertain to this new interest group.

- a) a number of us expressed enthusiasm regarding the prospect of a 'natural home' for historical work in the ICA
- b) Brenda Dervin exhorted us not to become 'just another discourse community,' painted into an intellectual corner.
- c) Ed McLuskie suggested that we address issues and ideas that have been missed or suppressed in the past. He expressed hope that we could find alternative ways to understand our own field.

4) The group discussed how the interest group could grow in the near future. Though there was much agreement that growth should be a means to an end and not an end in itself, there was no dearth of suggestions concerning how to grow.

- a) Dave Park suggested that each petitioning member reach out to find five more members of the interest group.
- b) We discussed how to reach out to other organizations where we might find potential members of the Communication History Interest Group. Many organizations were discussed. After a very thorough discussion of other groups that could be contacted, it was generally agreed that we will do this via e-mail, with Communication History Interest Group members acting as emissaries to reach out to other organizations.
- c) Dave Park outlined plans to have a listserv and website assembled before the end of the summer.
- d) Barbie Zelizer suggested that we make ourselves newsworthy within ICA, to remain within the consciousness of the association.

5) ICA Executive Director Michael Haley stopped by to discuss with us the plans for ICA '08 in Montreal.

- a) The theme of ICA will be Communicating for Social Impact. Conference theme chair Patrice Buzzanell is presently looking for a celebrity who maintains a profile

as an activist (i.e. an exemplar of communicating for social impact). Anyone who has suggestions regarding such a celebrity should contact Prof. Buzzanell post haste.

b) The Call For Papers for ICA '08 will go out on July 1, 2007.

c) Membership of interest groups and divisions is typically measured on August

1. Because this is our first year, our membership will not be measured until November 1, when members will have the chance to check off the "Communication History Interest Group" box on the membership menu. [Note: it is worth pointing out that, by sheer dumb luck, we are alphabetically the first interest group, so we will be the first choice listed—ed]

d) The Communication History Interest Group is guaranteed three sessions

6) We discussed ideas concerning how to get the most exposure at ICA '08, in Montreal.

a) it was agreed that we should attempt to share sessions with other divisions and interest groups

b) the pros and cons of a 'high-density' panel were discussed

c) Michael Haley pointed out that history-related stuff could easily be submitted as a theme session, and could be submitted to the theme chair (again: Patrice Buzzanell), without 'costing' the CHIG any session space.

d) the idea of a pre-conference was suggested. We agreed that a pre-conference could help us make more of a splash at ICA next year. Eric Rothenbuhler suggested a pre-conference addressing a pair of questions: "Why Do History in Communication? And How Shall We Do History in Communication?"

e) several members of the group suggested that we find sponsors for special activities and/or outings during the Montreal conference. Here there was some debate. Some members were in favor of an on-site event (perhaps in the evening), because such an event would give members a chance to interact away from the more formal (and very expensive) environs of Le Centre Sheraton. Others suggested that we program an event into the conference hotel, for the purpose of attracting greater attention to the interest group ("let's not isolate ourselves" is one particularly relevant nugget here).

f) there was a general discussion of the need to make ourselves known internationally before the conference in '08.

g) it was agreed that the chair will have to pester the ICA to make very certain that the interest group receives due attention on the ICA website.

7) Nominations for leadership positions in the interest group.

In response to a request for nominations for the three executive positions for the interest group, the following names were nominated for the three available positions:

Chair: Dave Park (Lake Forest College) was nominated for the position of chair

Vice-Chair: Jeff Pooley (Muhlenberg College) was nominated for the position of vice-chair

Secretary: Stijn Reijnders (University of Amsterdam) was nominated for the position of secretary

NOMINATIONS REMAIN OPEN. WE WILL RUN OUR BALLOTS VIA E-MAIL.

8) Paper reviewers for ICA '08.

Dave Park and Barbie Zelizer distributed two separate sign-up sheets for paper reviewers. There will be an e-mail request going out to all members (and potential members) very soon.

9) Looking ahead to 2008.

- a) Initial bylaws are to be approved at ICA in Montreal.
- b) Wording for the CFP for the interest group must be developed in the next month.