

**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION RESEARCH  
IAMCR/AIERI/AIECS**

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**University of Leicester, Leicester, UK – July 31, 2016**

**AGENDA:**

1. Approval of agenda
2. Approval of minutes of the previous General Assembly, Hyderabad 2014
3. Approval of new members
4. Reports from officers:
  - President – Janet Wasko
  - Vice Presidents – Aimeé Vega Montiel, Pradip Thomas
  - Secretary General – Maria Michalis
  - Treasurer – Nico Carpentier
5. Approval of leadership and other changes to Sections and Working Groups
6. Presentation on Forthcoming Conferences and Proposed Venues
  - 2017 – Cartagena, Colombia
7. Approval of motions
  - Amendments to Sections 8.1, 8.3.2 and 8.3.5 of the by-laws and addition of sections 9.6.1, 9.6.2, 9.6.3, 9.6.4, 9.6.5, 9.6.6, 9.6.7  
<http://iamcr.org/sites/default/files/amendment-bylaws-2016.pdf>
8. Report: Change of name of the International Association for Mass Communication Research to the International Association for Media and Communication Research
9. Motions from the floor
10. Report of Election Committee – Beate Josephi
11. New IAMCR officers (installation and handover)
12. Any other business
13. Adjournment

The meeting was called to order at 14:41

**1. Approval of agenda**

The agenda was approved.

**2. Minutes**

Minutes and matters arising from the previous General Assembly meeting Hyderabad, India, July 19, 2014, were approved.

**3. Approval of New Members**

Twenty-four (24) new institutions and five hundred forty-two (542) members joined since the previous General Assembly in 2014. They were unanimously approved.

#### **4. Reports from IAMCR officers:**

(the complete reports are available in the members' section of the IAMCR website)

- a. President – Janet Wasko
- b. Vice Presidents – Aimeé Vega Montiel, Pradip Thomas
- c. Secretary General – Maria Michalis
- d. Treasurer – Nico Carpentier

All the reports were approved.

#### **5. Approval of leadership and other changes to Sections and Working Groups**

There were 18 sections and working groups with elections at this conference.

Changes in leadership of the following Sections and Working Groups were approved:

##### **Audience Section**

Asta Zelenkauskaite – Vice Chair

##### **Comic Art Working Group**

Geisa Fernandes – Chair

Jorge Salvador Anaya Martínez – Vice Chair

##### **Communication Policy and Technology Section**

Aphra Kerr - Chair

Francesca Musiani – Co-vice chair

Julia Pohle – Co-vice chair

##### **Community Communication and Alternative Media Section**

Salvatore Scifo – Co-chair

Andrea Medrado – Co-chair

Tanja Dreher – Co-vice chair

Claudia Magallanes-Blanco – Co-voce chair

##### **Digital Divide Working Group**

Olga Smirnova - Chair

Anna Gladkova - Vice-chair

#### Emerging Scholars Network Section

Sylvia Blake – Co-chair

Ksenia Ermoshina – Co chair

#### Gender and Communication Section

Wajiha Raza Rizvi, Co chair

Mehita Iqani, Co chair

Shweta Sharma - Co vice chair

Laura Castillo Mateu – Co-vice chair

#### Global Media Policy Working Group

Arne Hintz – Co chair

Claudia Padovani – Co chair

Petros Iosifidis – Co Vice Chair

Véronique Wavre – Co vice chair

#### History Section

Nelson Costa Ribeiro – Chair

Gideon Kouts – Vice Chair

#### International Communication Section

Karen Arriaza Ibarra – Chair

Viola Milton – Co vice chair

Deqiang Ji - Co vice chair

#### Islam and Media Working Group

Mahmoud M Galander – Chair

Bushra H Rahman – Co vice chair

Mohamed Kirat - Co vice chair

#### Journalism Research & Education Section

Claudia Lago - Chair

Oliver Hahn - Co vice chair

Sadia Jamil m- Co vice chair

Abiodun Salawu - Co vice chair

#### Media & Sport Section

Alina Bernstein - Co Chair

#### Mediated Communication, Public Opinion and Society Section

Corinna Lüthje - Chair

Susanne Eichner - - Vice chair

### Participatory Communication Research Section

Nico Carpentier – Chair

Ana Duarte Melo – Co vice chair

Jonas Agerbæk Jeppesen – Co vice chair

### Political Communication Research Section

Christina Holtz-Bacha –Co Chair

María José Canel – Co chair

Bengt Johansson – Co vice chair

Julio Juárez-Gamíz – Co vice chair

### Post-Socialist and Post-Authoritarian Communication Working Group

Anastasia Grusha – Co Chair

Katja Lehtisaari – Co Chair

Michael Meyen – Co Chair

### Public Service Media Policies Working Group

Alessandro D'Arma – Co chair

Yik-Chan Chin – Co chair

## **6. Presentation on Forthcoming Conferences and Proposed Venues Cartagena, Colombia, 2017**

Amparo Cadavid presented the Cartagena proposal. She showed the invitation video (in English and Spanish) to members and invited everybody to share it with their members and universities. After the video, Amparo said that they are open to recommendations and ideas and thanked the members and board.

## **7. Approval of motions: 1/ Amendments to Sections 8.1, 8.3.2 and 8.3.5 of the by-laws and addition of sections 9.6.1, 9.6.2, 9.6.3, 9.6.4, 9.6.5, 9.6.6, 9.6.7**

<http://iamcr.org/sites/default/files/amendment-bylaws-2016.pdf>

### **Amendment to Section 8.1**

8.1 Subject to Articles 6, 7 and 8 of the Statutes, an Election Committee of three members shall be appointed by the International Council TWO YEARS preceding the vote to manage the whole election process, FROM CALLING FOR CANDIDATES TO COUNTING THE VOTES AND ANNOUNCING THE RESULTS. THE COMMITTEE SHALL SEEK TO ENCOURAGE CANDIDATES TO EXPRESS THEIR POSITIONS AND ENGAGE IN DIALOGUE AMONG THEMSELVES AND WITH THE MEMBERSHIP AS APPROPRIATE.

### **Amendment to Section 8.3.2**

'8.3.2 Each candidate shall send TO THE CHAIR OF THE ELECTION COMMITTEE a confirmation of their candidacy and AN ELECTION STATEMENT THAT CONFORMS TO THE GUIDELINES ESTABLISHED BY THE ELECTION COMMITTEE. BOTH DOCUMENTS SHOULD BE SENT ELECTRONICALLY at least 120 days before the relevant session of the General Assembly. ~~curriculum vitae and/or statement of no more than 200 words, either electronically or by registered mail, to the Chair of the Election Committee at least 120 days before the relevant session of the General Assembly.~~

### **Amendment to Section 8.3.5**

'8.3.5. The Election Committee will validate the list of candidates. THE COMMITTEE WILL ENSURE THAT THE LIST OF CANDIDATES AND THEIR STATEMENTS ARE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE MEMBERS, WILL PROVIDE GUIDELINES TO THE CANDIDATES FOR THE ELECTION CAMPAIGNS and WILL INFORM THEM ABOUT ELECTION PROCEDURES. ~~and it will be published on the Website with their statements'~~

The amendments to 8.1, 8.3.2 and 8.3.5 passed as follows:

Yes: all institutional and individual members present except 1

No: 0

Abstentions: 1 individual

### **Addition of sections 9.6.1, 9.6.2, 9.6.3, 9.6.4, 9.6.5, 9.6.6, 9.6.7**

9.6.1. The Committees of the International Council are divided in two categories:

- the Standing Committees, which are continuously needed to run the organization
- the Ad hoc Committees appointed for all other purposes, which may be named Committees or Task Forces.

9.6.2. The Standing Committees are:

- Conference Committee
- Election Committee (with the special provisions of article 8.1 of the bylaws: *Subject to Articles 6, 7 and 8 of the Statutes, an Election Committee of three members shall be appointed by the International Council held during the year preceding the vote to manage the whole election process.*)
- Environmental Impact Committee
- Finance Committee
- Legal Committee
- Membership Committee

- Publications Committee
- Scholarly Review Committee

9.6.3. Each Standing Committee is presided by a Chair, with a mandate of 4 years, renewable at will. The Chair is elected by the IC by simple majority. In the eventuality of an electronic voting between the IC meetings, the Chair will be elected after a call for candidacies giving a period of 30 days for any questions before the electronic voting. The Chair proposes a committee membership list to the IC who votes on the list by simple majority. The mandate of members is also renewable at will.

9.6.4. The Ad hoc Committees are set up for special purposes for up to 4 years, but may be renewable. Their establishment is based on a proposal from the President or any other member of the IC and endorsed by a majority vote of the International Council.

9.6.5. Each Ad hoc Committee is presided by a Chair elected by the IC by simple majority. In the eventuality of an electronic voting between the IC meetings, the Chair will be elected after a call for candidacies giving a period of 30 days for any questions before the electronic voting. The other members of the ad hoc Committees are appointed by the IC or later electronically by the IC. The duration of the mandate of the Chair and members of the Ad hoc Committees coincides with its duration.

9.6.6. The members of all Committees, including their Chairs, may be members of the IC in accordance of article 9.7 below or chosen among the IAMCR membership at large. All members of the Committees (Standing and Ad Hoc) must be IAMCR members, either directly, or through an IAMCR institutional member who has listed them among its IAMCR beneficiaries. The IAMCR Executive Board will systematically check whether Committee members are in good standing and their election will be voided if they don't immediately comply with the Executive Board's (late) dues payment request within a month.

9.6.7. The Chairs shall report the activities of their Committee to each annual meeting of the IC.

An error in 9.6.5: who appoints the members of committees was pointed out, it should say "ad hoc committees." [amended above]

The additions, with the correction in 9.6.5 were passed as follows:

Yes: all institutional and individual members present except 1

No: 0

Abstentions: 1 individual

### **8. Report: Change of name of the International Association for Mass Communication Research to the International Association for Media and Communication Research**

Bruce Girard presented [the background to this proposal. He explained that:](#) IAMCR was set up in 1957 as the International Association for Mass Communication Research (IAMCR) / Association Internationale des Etudes et Recherches sur l'Information (AIERI). In 1990 it was established as a legal association in France. In 1996 the General Assembly changed the name of the Association in English and French to the International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR) / Association Internationale des Etudes et Recherches sur l'Information et la Communication (AIERI). This name change was not registered with the French authorities. This motion is a temporary measure and will be formalised as an amendment to the statutes to be considered by the next General Assembly (2018). The Spanish-language name will also be added.

Vote passed, no abstentions.

Recalling that the name of the Association was changed by the General Assembly on August 21, 1996 from the International Association for Mass Communication Research to the International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR) in English and from Association Internationale des Etudes et Recherches sur l'Information to Association Internationale des Etudes et Recherches sur l'Information et la Communication (AIERI) in French, it is moved:

(1) to confirm the changes made by the 1996 General Assembly and;

(2) to instruct the Secretariat to formalise the name change to International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR) and Association Internationale des Etudes et Recherches sur l'Information et la Communication (AIERI) with the French authorities, including in particular the Paris Préfecture de police.

Vote passed, no abstentions.

### **9. Motions from the floor**

#### **Motion 1**

As a representative of the Clearinghouse for Public Statements, Graham Murdock presented a statement regarding Turkish colleagues: Turkish colleagues were not able to

be at the conference this year because of a travel ban. One of the functions of this committee is to deal with freedom of academic inquiry and journalism.

There was a discussion among the assembly regarding the inclusion of the BBC as a source of figures for the statement. It was requested that the term “international media” be used instead. It was also discussed that the official decree 668 be used for figures. Graham Murdock as a representative of the Clearinghouse was agreeable to that and will ask the Clearinghouse to redraft it based on these suggestions.

The motion follows:

#### Turkish Government Threatens Media Scholars and Practitioners

The General Assembly of the International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR) adopted the following statement in support of Turkish academic colleagues during the association's annual conference from 27-31 July in Leicester, UK.

Turkish communication and media scholars, together with other scholars in Turkey, are experiencing multiple reported incidents of being threatened and harassed by the Turkish government. We call upon President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his government to respect academic freedom consistent with academic inquiry in a democracy. It is essential that Turkish scholars be permitted to engage in research and teaching without fear of reprisal in the form of suspension of license or contract, and any other form of harassment. We condemn any such measures applied to scholars working within public and private institutions of higher education in Turkey.

The International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR) also condemns actions by the Turkish government aimed at suppressing freedom of expression in the media. Following the failed coup on 15 July, the government issued a decree (668) ordering the closing of three news agencies, 16 TV channels, 23 radio stations, 45 newspapers and 15 magazines.. This creates a climate of fear for journalists and curtails legitimate reporting and independent commentary on the developments in the country.

Vote passed unanimously of those voting, with two abstentions.

#### **Motion 2**

Kaarle Nordenstreng raised a concern regarding International Council elections. He requested that attention be paid so that elections solicit more diversity, calling the lack of diversity shameful. He moved for a proposal toward steps to change the way elections are set up, so that the International Council is based on geographical location,

adding that this is a form of affirmative action that is necessary. A serious effort was requested before the next general assembly. Also, the size of the council has remained the same, but sections have grown.

A 2<sup>nd</sup> proposal which would lead to statute change was proposed: To examine advisability to create a nomination committee, not just an election committee, to prepare a list of nominations guaranteeing maximum diversity. President Janet Wasko reminded the members that newly proposed changes to statutes could not be made at this general assembly meeting, they must be proposed in advance. One suggestion was for the new International Council to form an ad hoc committee to take on these issues, investigate and get feedback, as requested. A motion was not necessary. An ad hoc committee can also be formed to look at the sections and working groups elections as these concerns have been brought up by others as well.

A resolution was requested to affirm that this issue would be taken very seriously because of the urgent need to revise, examine, rectify imbalances in diversity and gender, propose strategies to accurately reflect the scholarly universe of IAMCR. After member discussion, Bruce Girard finalized the wording of the resolution and read it to the general assembly. Philippe Maarek, chair of the Legal Committee, added a final sentence.

That the EB and the IC consider possible changes in the association's statutes, bylaws and procedures governing elections and nominations with the objective of ensuring more diversity and inclusiveness in IAMCR's decision making structures. That they should report back to the General Assembly in 2018. The General Assembly urges the International Council and the Executive Board to improve IAMCR geographical, gender and intellectual balance and to propose some concrete measures to the next General Assembly.

The changes were accepted by the original proposer and the new resolution was moved by Philippe Maarek and seconded by Nico Carpentier.

A vote was taken and the resolution passed.

## **10. Report of Election Committee – Beate Josephi**

2016 election results:

### **President**

Janet Wasko: 283 votes

Daya Thussu: 275 votes

Abstained: 11

**Vice Presidents (2)**

Graham Murdock: 350 votes

Aimée Vega Montiel: 347 votes

**Secretary General**

Gerard Goggin: 452 votes

Abstained: 117

**Treasurer**

Anthony Moretti: 441 votes

Abstained: 128

**International Council Elected**

Helena Sousa: 333 votes

Claudia Padovani: 294 votes

Jo Pierson: 213 votes

Denize Araujo: 196 votes

Alina Bernstein: 189 votes

Philippe Maarek: 187 votes

Cesar Bolaño: 184 votes

Takesato Watanabe: 184 votes

Richard Maxwell: 181 votes

Sandra Ristovska: 179 votes

Guillermo Mastrini: 177 votes

Chika Anyanwu: 174 votes

Friedrich Krotz: 167 votes

Eno Akpabio: 164 votes

Kaitlynn Mendes: 164 votes

The members of the Election Committee were Beate Josephi (Chair), Jeremy Shtern and Brian Pindayi. Regarding the International Council: Voting was interesting because only a few members made use of the 15 votes that they had, surprising large numbers voted for just 6 members.

**11. New IAMCR officers (installation and handover)**

President Janet Wasko thanked Nico and Maria, (and Pradip) and asked new board members to join the board at the head of the room.

An additional report was that after the election, the board received a resignation from Anthony Moretti who had been elected treasurer. Faced with a problem of needing a treasurer, the board looked at legal foundations. As explained in statute 7.7, they were able to co-opt a substitute until the next general assembly. The old executive board and new executive board consulted and looked to find someone willing and able to act as

interim treasurer since an election in such a short period seemed impossible. They found someone willing and capable in an interim position, appointing interim treasurer: Elske van De Fliert who agreed to join as interim treasurer. President Janet Wasko thanked the outgoing and incoming board members.

### **12. Any other business**

Peter Lunt, the local organizer at Leicester University was invited to the front and thanked for all of his hard work and for a highly successful conference. He was made an honorary life member of the association.

### **13. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 16:10.

Minutes prepared by Kris Wright and Maria Michalis