



international
communication
association

A MESSAGE FROM ICA REGARDING THE UPCOMING 67th ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN SAN DIEGO AND THE RESULTS OF THE US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Dear ICA Members and Friends,

In the past week, we at ICA have fielded numerous expressions of concern about attending the San Diego conference after the results of the US presidential election. While much remains unclear, we wish to reassure our members and colleagues of a few things:

- ICA and its conference exist as safe, inclusive environments for the exchange of knowledge and the enhancement of community. **We value our colleagues because of their diverse backgrounds and perspectives, not in spite of them.**

- ICA has long affirmed its commitment to inclusion and diversity, and does not tolerate speech or behavior that threatens the safety or comfort of any person or group. It is the official policy of the International Communication Association to contract for its meetings in locations where its members would not be subject to discrimination on the basis of age, gender, marital status, national origin, physical ability, race, religion or sexual orientation under country, state or city laws. **Our leadership and our staff are committed to preserving these ideals.**

In addition, please take into account these practical considerations:

- **ICA values your participation and will help you get to the conference.** We will do everything in our power to help you get approved for your US visa to attend ICA. As always, we continue to encourage those of you who may require visas for entry to apply as early as possible so that you experience no delays or denials. In this case, if the window would allow you to travel as late as end of May, we encourage you to apply early enough that you will receive your approval by January 2017. Please send an email to [Laura Sawyer](#), Executive Director with your request for a letter of invitation. ICA will send you a personalized PDF invitation letter via email within two business days.

- **Our host hotels support diversity.** Our host hotels for the San Diego conference affirm our ideal of inclusivity and are strong partners with local minority communities and initiatives.

- **Our host state supports diversity.** The legislators of our host state have released an official statement on the election outcome (viewable [here](#) in English and Spanish) that affirms, among other things, that "California is - and must always be - a refuge of justice and opportunity for people of all walks, talks, ages and aspirations - regardless of how you look, where you live, what language you speak, or who you love."

- **We plan to talk about this.** Several panels are planned in San Diego to respond to populism as a global trend, understand its intricate relationship with media processes, content, and effects, and anticipate its myriad implications. These panels will help define the roles communication scholars can play in framing the discussion as we move forward. This year's theme, Intervention, seems particularly apt given the current societal context. An already planned preconference, "Populism, Post-truth Politics, and Participatory Culture: Interventions in the Intersection of Popular and Political Communication," has been modified to incorporate the recent US election outcome (the CFP is out now; [contact the organizer](#)). The ICA program also will include several opportunities--in the form of roundtables, plenaries, excursions, and blue-sky workshops--to delve into border issues, visit the US/Mexico border on a learning excursion, discuss

immigration policy, and contextualize global trends on key social and political issues.

Now, more than ever, your voice as a communication scholar is needed. We hope you will join us in San Diego to add your voice to the conversation, to help us frame the discussion and plan how to move forward, and to reaffirm with us your commitment to global, collaborative scholarship.

Sincerely,

The Executive Committee of the International Communication Association

PengHwa Ang, President (Nanyang Technological U, SINGAPORE)

Paula Gardner, President-Elect & San Diego Conference Planner (McMaster U, CANADA)

Francois Heinderyckx, Finance Chair (U Libre de Bruxelles, BELGIUM)

Amy Jordan, Immediate Past President (U of Pennsylvania, USA)

Patricia Moy, President-Elect Select (U of Washington, USA)

Laura Sawyer, Executive Director (ICA, Washington, DC, USA)

Peter Vorderer, Past President (U of Mannheim, GERMANY)