

Iacs Board Meeting

Wednesday, 17th June 2020

Skype

Present Board members: Donna, Esther, Hanna, Jamin, Kristian, Sara, Todd,
Present from Aachen conference committee: Paul Sambre and Martin Thiering

Minutes taken by Sara, and checked by Esther, Kristian and Todd

Esther opened the meeting and it was decided that IACS secretary Sara would take the notes.

1) Bank account

Background: IACS's bank account is since 2014 hosted at Danske Bank. In 2020 the Danish bank rules have become stricter concerning identity documentations for account holders (for now the legal, eligible members of the board, i.e.: the president, secretary and treasurer *but in future the same requirements will also count for the rest of board members*). The extended demands for detailed identity information have shown to be difficult to meet for a transnational association like IACS. In particular, some countries are regarded "high-risk", including China, where Esther is currently based. Despite a lot of work, we have so far been unable to provide what Danske Bank regards as sufficient documentation and their demands are really far-reaching. The treasure has checked with a few other Danish banks and they all now appear to follow the same strict regulations. For now, there is no sustainable suggestion for a bank account solution for IACS; i.e. a service that can accept account holders of any nationality, and which is not a private account.

- For now, however, Kristian has the association's money at a private account (2.725,85 euro).

The board sees two options on how to proceed at the moment: a) check if there are any options outside Denmark that can provide for secure and fair accounts (the possibility of a Canadian account, where Vice-President Jamin is based, was mentioned) and b) turn IACS into a moneyless association (Esther pointed out that this is the solution chosen by the 'Belgium Netherlands Cognitive Linguistics Association' (BeNeCLA), which also organizes biannual conferences).

Since the difficulty with nonprofit international bank accounts may be a developing dilemma for associations like IACS the board primarily discussed option b. Today the costs for the association are divided in two economies:

- Running costs related to banking costs and costs for the Website (minimal).
- Periodic costs in terms of grants for student's participations at the IACS's conferences.

The board discussed the possibility to have the Website hosted at a University. *No further decision could be taken on how to proceed on this issue. This will be addressed in the next meeting, when we will have more information.*

For the administration of the grants linked to conferences one solution could be to run these costs through the separate credit at the local University that hosts the conference. *It was decided that Martin Thiering will check the possibilities to administrate a credit for the conference's operation budget at Aachen University.*

- 2) Newsletter: Esther will write the first draft of the next newsletter. Jamin and Todd will assist and go through it.

- 3) Report from the conference committee: Aachen remains the host for the next IACS conference. *The conference is postponed to 2022 due to the global health crisis.* At 2022, the after wakes from the Covid-19 adjustments will hopefully be settled and this will ensure that IACS continues to hold the conference at even years. Moreover, *Jamin* remarked that in 2022 the IACS conference will not overlap with ICLC (ICLC conference is postponed to 2021). *Sara* adds that 2022 also keeps the non-overlapping rhythm with the NASS conference. The downside is of course the risk of losing the academic dialogue and IACS members.
 For the continuity of the association and keeping the academic exchanges alive, *Todd* suggested that IACS should arrange web-based seminars or workshops, for instance the thematic workshop that were accepted for IACS4-2020. This could for instance be executed as a two-month serial on methodology on the web. *Kristian* suggested: once a week IACS can offer a 20 minutes presentation of a paper.
Sara stressed that the organization (IACS and the local committee in Aachen) need to be clear on the status of the abstracts submitted to Aachen 2020. IACS Aachen 2022 will have a new CFP and a new process for abstract review.

- 4) Report from *The Journal of Cognitive Semiotics* (the report from Editor-in-Chief Peer; see the appendix section below on CS): *Todd* reports that papers of different qualities are regularly coming in and that everything is fine with that.
The most significant news is that CS is now listed in Scopus. Scopus is an abstract and citation database of peer-reviewed literature owned by Elsevier.
 The cost savings with the conversion to digital publications only is satisfactory.

- 5) Suggestions on a Special issue on Cognitive Semiotics at *Frontiers of Psychology*.
Todd suggested that attached to the next IACS conference, the board should investigate the conditions to offer members the possibility to submit papers to a common edition on cognitive semiotics at an open access special issue at *Frontiers*. At *Frontiers* the costs for publications differs between different tiers based on different of types of publications (original research, reviews, short reports, etc.). The board found the suggestion interesting and *Todd* volunteered to investigate the best possible deals for IACS members.
 If the plan of a special Issue in *Frontiers* is realized, then this information will also be shared in the next IACS-4 *Call for Papers*.

- 6) The meeting was closed. No date for next meeting was decided. The board usually meets twice a year (generally once close to the end of the natural year and once closed to the end of the academic year), but this will probably have to be adjusted to the new circumstances (i.e. skipping a conference year, planning web-based activities throughout the year). It was decided that those would start after the summer.

Appendix:

News about the journal 'Cognitive Semiotics'

1) The journal has been accepted for inclusion in Scopus, and that includes all issues published by De Gruyter (from 2014 and on). The reviewer comments are copied below:

- + The journal consistently includes articles that are scientifically sound and relevant to an international academic or professional audience in this field.
- + The abstracts are in keeping with Scopus English Language requirements.
- + The journal has clear aims and scope/journal policies.
- + In general, the content of the articles is consistent with the scope and aims of the journal

2) The Spring issue has been converted into a special thematic issue (with a guest editor). The one which should be out in a couple of days is on "Creativity and Construction Grammar" (edited by Thomas Hoffmann) with contributions from Mark Turner, Alexander Bergs, Karin Kukkonen, Pagán Cánovas and quite a few other very fine scholars. The next special issue will be edited by Donna West. You're all welcome to encourage people to send proposals for special issues.

3) The journal receives considerably more manuscripts; the Fall issue is basically already full.

4) It has now been confirmed that continuous paging will not be reintroduced: all articles will be paged 1-X.

5) Some authors have experienced problems with the proofing platform. Publishers have recently transitioned copyediting and conversion services for the journal (to all their journals) to the vendor, TNQ. In principle, this should provide an improved and more professional service for the authors. But we must of course still wait and see.

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