

# IACS Board Meeting Minutes

19 June 2023

Board Members present: Jamin Pelkey (President), Esther Pascual (Former President), Alexandra Mouratidou (PR Officer), Todd Oakley (Secretary), Alin Olteanu (Treasurer), Jordan Zlatev (Conference Organiser), Donna West (Board Member, replacing Göran Sonesson†); Regrets: Martin Thiering (Vice President)

## Agenda/Topics

## Discussions and Solutions

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Minutes<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Appointment of keeper of minutes</li><li>b. Appointment of 2 checkers of minutes</li><li>c. Approval of minutes from April 2023 Board Meeting:</li></ol></li><li>2. Board membership vacancy after the passing of Prof. Göran Sonesson</li><li>3. Update on website and social media transitions (Alexandra Mouratidou)</li><li>4. Special issue honoring Prof. Göran Sonesson in <i>Cognitive Semiotics</i> (Todd Oakley)</li></ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Esther Pascual</li><li>b. Todd Oakley, Jamin Pelkey</li><li>c. Done (per email)</li></ol><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Reappointment of Prof. Donna West (re: April 12 Board resolution)</li><br/><li>- Alexandra now has access to Twitter and Facebook, as well as the IACS website, and has begun adding updates.</li><br/><li>- In the planning stages: Former IACS secretary Sara Lenninger is on top of it: submitted a draft of the proposal, now accepted by Chief Editor Peer F. Bundgaard and Associate Editor Todd Oakley.</li><br/><li>- Profile (Jordan): scholars close to Sonesson will be invited. The length of the issue will depend on the final number of accepted submissions.</li><br/><li>- Timeline (Jordan): proposal: 30 Sept 2023; first draft: 15 Nov 2023; final draft: March 2024; published: fall issue of 2024</li><br/><li>- Call for papers (Jordan): send email to IACS members, Alin to post it on the International Association for Semiotic Studies website. Alexandra has posted to IACS website. Jamin to update the email list and Todd to put it in the agenda to circulate the CFP</li></ul> |
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5. Update on financial account transitions (Jamin Pelkey & Alin Olteanu)
  - The website fees have been paid.
  - Transition to treasurer is ongoing, as it's complicated (e.g. need to be online at the same time to process multiple stages of simultaneous verification)
  - Banks are currently very strict with bank accounts like the one we need. To open a business account or official association all members need to show documentation, etc. This will most probably not be possible for IACS (and we're not a business, anyway). We'd need for more than one board member to have access for the sake of transitions and in case the bank asked for proof of something (Alin)
  - We won't have to pay taxes on an academic association (Donna). At least in the US, there are no tax implications for a standard, non-interest bearing account with no profit (Todd)
  
6. IACS-5 planning: Technicalities (Jordan Zlatev)
  - Conference website completely ready by the end of 2023 or beginning of 2024 at the latest. Goal: have it by the end of the summer (when the CfP is out, members can start renewing their membership)
  - Goal (Alin): have the new financial account functioning long before the end of 2023, also for member dues payments. Dues can continue to be paid to our PayPal account in the interim. Alternative: Jamin or Kristian to transfer through Venmo or directly from PayPal to Wise.
  
7. IACS5 planning: Program and key dates (Jordan Zlatev)
  - Preparations moving forward as planned: recently met with the central local committee; they are supportive and have granted us access to the rooms.
  - Plan: Apply for a special conference organizing platform to handle payments (good for cancellations, although they shouldn't be encouraged). Estimate: 10,000, 20,000 or 30,000 EUR

- Conference fees: ideally not over 200 EUR for faculty, about 150 EUR for students. Budget still pending.
- Have a domain with an email address and webpage. Similar to IACS-1, but updated.
- Full website and preliminary dates to be ready by 15 Aug 2023
- Plenary speakers: 3 agreed: Hans-Georg Moeller (University of Macau, working on Chinese Daoism and political thought, crisis and authenticity and the postmodern age); Merlin Donald (Queen's University, Canada: accepted to give an address, possibly online, due to a possible inability to travel); Jamin Pelkey; Morten Tønnesen.
- Three other invitations have gone unanswered. Jamin will follow up with someone who may have a direct line to one of the three.
- Key dates: preliminary conference schedule by August; notification no later than April 1st; final abstract submission no later than March 1st. Suggestion (Jamin): 1st deadline in January 2023, then extend it until March. Proposals for theme sessions are usually one month earlier (Jan 15th for theme sessions, also to be delayed if needed).

8. IACS-6, 2026 (Jordan Zlatev)

- Make sure we have more than one candidate
- Options:
  - (i) Piotr Konderak offered to host it at Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, Lublin, where it went really well in 2016 (Jordan)
  - (ii) Renata Geld (very good organizer) at Zagreb U., which just started a Cognitive Science program with good students (Todd's suggestion, seconded by Esther). Todd and Esther will talk to Renata face-to-face after the summer, also to encourage the Zagreb team to participate at IACS-5, perhaps organizing a theme session (Jordan & Jamin)

(iii) Martin Thiering might be interested in hosting it at TU Berlin. Alin to ask him.

- Publicity: (i) the Board to add an invitation to present candidacies to the next newsletter (Esther); (ii) to announce it at the Nordic Association of Semiotic Studies (Alin)
- Affinities between associations to use:
  - (i) the Nordic Association of Semiotic Studies (NASS): have a host for 2025, but looking for a host for 2027, ideally in the Western Europe (in Eastern Europe before) and considered Lund. Jordan finds it a good idea, but suggests that Sara Lenninger could be the chair of it at Kristianstad University, where she's a lecturer
  - (ii) the International Association for Semiotics Studies (IASS): Next one in Warsaw sometime in 2024 (Donna), but the organizers are aware of the IACS dates. Jamin to make sure the organizers coordinate and ideally schedule it back-to-back with ours (IASS conferences are often in August/September)

9. Date range for next board meeting

- To be arranged per email around the CfP

10. Other business

- Jamin to add interested people to the IACS list. All agree.