

Date: May 30, 2018

Sent: Supporters and Members of the ICA CSaB Interest Group

Sender: Chair - Rene Weber

Subject: ICA CSaB Interest Group: Present and Future

Dear Members and Supporters of the Communication Science and Biology Interest Group!

I hope you all had a wonderful ICA conference in Prague and that you have safely arrived at your next destination at this time. We again saw fantastic work presented in our interest group's sessions spanning across diverse areas such as communication methods and the philosophy of communication science, health and political communication, evolutionary communication theory, as well as narratives and general media effects. While we are still sometimes mistaken as the "neuro group", I believe that given this thematic diversity an increasing number of members and supporters understand that while "neuro" will always remain important in our interest group our mission is bigger than "neuro". The spirit and mutual support of our members was again outstanding and uplifting this year; this became especially salient in our research escalator session which was a great success. Many of our members and supporters reported to me that they found new motivation and new ideas for their work after attending our sessions. We cannot ask for more - thanks to all who supported our Communication Science and Biology Interest Group!

My term as the inaugural Chair of our interest group has now ended. Please allow me a few words addressing the present and the future of our interest group:

First, and most important, please know that I am deeply grateful for all your service and support that you have provided over the years as reviewer, panel chair, award committee member, supporter, or simply as a good colleague with good advice and encouragements. It was a great and very valuable privilege for me to serve you as the inaugural CSaB Chair and I will not forget the countless interesting conversations I had with you about what our interest group is about. Our interest group is presently strong in quality of work, spirit, and identity. Together with our 140 members I am very pleased to see this. It is hard to express to you via email how much I

appreciate your help and support in creating this interest group over the years, a simple and big THANK YOU does not seem enough, but it is all I have for now.

Regarding CSaB's future, I have not the slightest doubt that under the new leadership of Emily Falk, Allison Eden, Chris Cascio, Jason Coronel, Richard Huskey, and Clare Grall, our interest group will steadily and sustainably grow. Our mission statement (<http://csab.commscience.org/mission-statement/>) reminds us of our shared values as communication scientists. Within our diverse sets of topic areas, we all work very hard every day to produce testable explanations and predictions about human systems under the guiding principles of strong method-theory synergy, replicability, and scientific community. In doing so, please let us not forget the bigger picture of the scientific enterprise: the term "Science" comes from the Latin word "Scientia" which means "Knowledge", but also "Awareness". With science we strive to increase knowledge, we try to unlock the secrets of manageable sub-systems, but by doing so we never forget that the common goal of all scientists is to understand the top-systems and to find answers to the big questions - a goal we have in common with many other ICA divisions such as the Information Systems and Computational Methods divisions. I sincerely believe that if we all do the best work we can, act with highest academic integrity, defend and strengthen our guiding scientific principles, but maintain an open mind in asking new and unusual questions, our interest group as well as communication science in general will become stronger and more relevant outside the boundaries of our discipline year after year.

I wish our Communication Science and Biology interest group and all of you only the best. If you are not a member yet, please consider to support our mission and become a member at <http://commscience.org>. I will continue to be an active member of this special group and I cannot wait to see you at ICA 2019 in Washington D.C. and continue the conversation.

Goodbye!

Rene