

MINUTES (DRAFT)
Language and Social Interaction Division
2009 Business Meeting

Chicago, IL
November 14, 2009

1.0 Call to order. Agenda approved.

2.0 Approval of minutes for 2008 LSI Business Meeting

Motion: Leah Wingard, Philip Glen seconded. Passed by acclamation.

3.0 Report from Chair (K. Haspel)

3.1 Legislative Assembly items.

The NCA legislative committee narrowly rejected a resolution about torture and solitary confinement. The vote was 65 opposed, 63 in favor. If you are concerned about this, or other issues affecting NCA, we need more LSI members on the Legislative Assembly. Members can run for Legislative Assembly and can do committee work on many fronts. If elected, assembly members are required to attend 1 NCA meeting for a one term commitment. If more LSI members ran for these positions, LSI would be more of a presence in the organization overall. Also, the Legislative assembly discussed the mandatory pre-registration fee for the annual conference. The two year trial run was both unpopular, as members decried this practice as unduly harsh, condescending, and unfair. The assembly voted to discontinue this practice with an overwhelming “no”. The executive committee will deliberate whether some other policy for pre-registration will be tried in the next two years.

4.0 Report from immediate past chair (J. Lannamann)

4.1 Presentation of “old chestnut”

This award presented to a classic article, chapter, or monograph in the area of language and social interaction. The 2009 winner honored Pierce & Cronnen’s classic work, Communication, action, and meaning (1980), which elaborated the basic argument for the Coordinated Management of Meaning (CMM). This important scholarship was ground breaking because it helped to open a space for LSI work because it offered a way to understanding something between people rather than recycling (social) psychological variables that were popular in mainstream communication research of that era. This work recognizes the role of context in communication as generating multiple meanings. This work was notable because it called attention to little-recognized influences of communication along the lines of Goffman. This work contributed fundamental building blocks to LSI scholarship by offering cogent scholarship that strived to bridge theory with practice. Bob Sanders, Wendy Leeds-Hurwitz, and Richard Buttny were on the nominating committee. J. Lannaman emphasized he played no role on the committee and this decision. Victoria Chen accepted the award on behalf of Pierce & Cronen.

5.0 Report from Vice Chair (J. Robinson)

5.1 2009 convention program

We had bad news this last year because submission quality and quantity are both down. This is concerning because we have already lost one panel, from 19 to 18 because of the algorithm used

to calculate this year's submissions. If we do not turn around this trend, we will lose this conference slot permanently.

2009 Submission statistics

	Submitted	Accepted	Percentage
Panels	11	9	82%
Papers	50	29	58%
Extended abstract			
Scholar to Scholar			
Total	61	38	%

The competitive submissions were the lowest in division history. As a result, the program planner schedule some 3-speaker panels in order to retain as many slots as possible. Every submission was rated on a scale from 0-100 where 90-100 represents nearly publishable papers and scores 0-60 ranged from acceptable to definitely rejected. Of the 50 submissions, 26 were ranked at 60 or lower (on average) by 3 separate reviewers. Reviewers try to be generous, but quality was low, making this task difficult. The planner accepted 29/50 in order to fill panels. Competitive panels were also down, but most were accepted.

The NCA organization values a high number of competitive submissions with a low acceptance rates results in more panels. When submissions fall and acceptance rises, divisions begin to lose panels. If this pattern continues, LSI will continue to lose panels, which it to our detriment. A discussion ensued about how to increase high quality submissions to the division. NCA is really the home of LSI scholarship and offers a unique forum for the discipline.

One observation was that because our membership has not decreased, perhaps the low submission rates indicate that scholars are more divided throughout the organization. For example, people share Health Communication and LSI or LSI and Interpersonal Communication membership. A. Golato observed that many universities have cut funding for research trips, such as NCA, which results in paying for conferences out of pocket, which may not be possible for many scholars. J. Mandelbaum reflected that with three panelists, there is more possibility for meaningful discussion. J. Robinson agreed, but said that panel density is also becoming part of the calculus for slot allocation as NCA is trying to get membership up in multiple ways, including stacking panels with 8 people and giving them 8 minutes each to pitch their scholarship. One possible explanation is the ration of faculty to graduate students in the LSI membership--there are more graduate students than faculty. LSI faculty tend to submit panels with peers rather than submitting competitive papers. The result is that competitive submissions are mainly student work, whereas in other divisions, such as Health Communication, leading scholars tend to submit papers for competitive review. As a result, Top Four panels are stacked with leading scholars in the field. K Haspel suggested creating a survey for the membership to get information from members about how to expand participation in the division.

5.2 Reviewers. Thanks to the 30 reviewers who reviewed papers and panels for this year's conference: **TO BE ADDED.**

5.3 Respondents and chairs. Thanks to the session respondents: **TO BE ADDED.**

5.4 Top Student Paper Award and Top Debut Paper Award. The winner of this year's Top Debut Paper Award was:

A simple demographic question: A discursive negotiation of face when asking the 'race question'

Laura O'Hara (Ball State University), Carolyn Shue (Ball State University), James McKenzie (Ball State University), David Marini (Ball State University), Jennifer Flanagan (Ball Memorial Hospital Family Medicine Clinic), Linda Daniel (BMH Family Medicine Residency Program)

The papers recognized as top overall papers were:

Resuming a telling: well-prefaced turns after a parenthetical sequence

H. Stephanie Kim (University of California, Los Angeles)

A Dispreferred Action in a Preferred Turn Shape?

Yan Wang (Carthage College)

6. Vice-Chair Elect, Trudy Milburn & Leslie Jarmon

6.1 2010 Convention program. Next year's convention theme is "Building Bridges". Dates are November 14-17, 2010, and next year's conference will be held Sunday to Wednesday. Paper submissions on All Academic will open on December 21, 2009-February 17, 2010. NCA leadership is encouraging rolling reviews so that reviewers can have drafts early.

6.2 NCA LSI Dissertation award. The winner of the 2009 Dissertation award is Danielle Pillet-Shore (University of New Hampshire) for her dissertation entitled, "Coming together: Creating and maintaining social relationships through the openings of face-to-face interactions". Four very high quality dissertations were submitted and three full professors reviewed them (P. Glenn, C. Beck and C. Jones).

7. Information Officer report, C. J. Koenig

7.1 LSI webpage. LSI web page http://www.nca-lsi.org/LSI_index.html updates.

8. Elections, Kathleen Haspel

Jack Lannaman will be moving on from the LSI leadership, and he's done a great job during his years of service to the community.

8.1 Vice-chair elect. Todd Sandel (University of Oklahoma) and Rob Agne (Auburn University) were nominated.

Motion: Todd Sandel was elected as Vice-Chair elect.

8.2 Information officer. C. J. Koenig (UC San Francisco) indicated not wanting the full position and Alan Hansen (Carroll College) indicated willingness to share the position for one year, at which point he would become Information Officer. This would mean a one-year co-Information Officership.

Motion: Nominate C. J. Koenig and Alan Hansen as co-Information Officers (J. Lannaman, T. Milburn second). CJ Koenig and Alan Hansen were confirmed.

9. Discussion items

9.1 A lengthy and complex discussion ensued about the dropping number of submissions and waning membership. Key points from the discussion of suggestions for increasing LSI member involvement during NCA are summarized. Following are some panel ideas members suggested:

1. Honoring a senior scholar with a “Spotlight panel” has always been a healthy way to create interest and attendance during the conference and overall increasing morale within the membership.

2. We may want to combine spotlight panels with the “Old Chestnut” award, which would have been ideal with this year’s winner.

3. Another idea is to host a series of “Pedagogy and teaching” methods panels where LSI scholars bring assignments and syllabi to help inexperienced instructors and those from other areas in Communication who may want to include an LSI focus, but don’t know where to begin.

4. LSI may want to consider hosting a pre-conference as well since it’s been a while since someone has done this. Technology and LSI has been a good topic since much of LSI research uses technology along the research arc, from data collection to presentation.

5. “A conversation with Scholar(s)” may be an interesting panel type that maximizes audience participation as well as creating a forum for discussion about salient topics.