

IAMCR
International Council
Section Heads and Working Group Chairs
Istanbul Conference, July 2011

Report of Activities August 2010 – July 2011
From Publications Committee
Prepared by Marjan de Bruin and Claudia Padovani

Due to personal and professional circumstances, the Committee, over the past year, has not been able to do much more than to carry out its regular duties. We have not been able to develop the IAMCR's discussion on its overall publication strategy, initiated in 2009 and presented in Braga in 2010, beyond its first stages.

Reflecting on last year's discussion in Braga on this issue, however, we would like to share our impressions and recommendations with IAMCR Section Heads and Working Group chairs on how to proceed on the overall strategy (section A below), for follow up in the IC.

Furthermore, in this Report we provide an overview of the Publication's Committee's activities between August 2010 and June 2011, including suggestions to be followed up (sections B and C).

A) A general concern and invitation to discuss

The Publication Committee observes that several activities which share a common theme –“publishing” – are running parallel in the Association and seem to be disconnected: the production of the IAMCR newsletter, the management of IAMCR books series, approaches to new potential publishers.

This raises some questions about the mandate and tasks of the Publication Committee; especially in light of the current discussion on the development of a comprehensive strategy for publication-related activities – an activity that is vital to our association.

In Braga the Publication Committee presented a Report to start of the publication strategy discussion that was the outcome of a collective exercise between January and June 2010 and involved the following IAMCR members: Aimée Vega, Friedrich Krotz, John Downing, Keyan Tomaselli, Maria Helena Costa Carvalho Sousa, Paula Chakravartty, Pradip Thomas and Sarah Bannerman.

The report was based on discussions from our Stockholm (2008) and Mexico (2009) meetings and focused on **re-thinking and expanding IAMCR publication-related activities**. It presented four options¹. The overall goal was to provide ideas for coordination of publication-related activities and to expand such activities in innovative

¹ i. “**Special liaison**” by Sections and Working Groups **with existing journals**; ii. **Anthologies around IAMCR Conferences themes**; iii. **IAMCR Working Papers series**; iv. **A web-based portal to access regional journals and articles**..

ways².

The text was circulated before the Braga Conference. Although there was wide agreement on the relevance of publication activities for an Association like IAMCR, the Report and its content were addressed only shortly during the Braga Section Heads and WG meetings as well as in the IC. The collective work, in the end, did not lead to the expected broad reflection. Addressing issues of (internal and external) information exchange, better (internal) coordination and innovation in our practices requires more time and investment as well as an official mandate from the association.

Though IAMCR members who did contribute to the exercise expressed their interest and availability to maintain their cooperation, the little response and the constraints experienced by this Committee did not favor further moves over the past 12 months.

Nevertheless, we remain convinced that publication related issues are crucial to IAMCR's vitality and capacity to innovate as a global scientific community.

In this context, **we feel the need to urgently put on the agenda of the upcoming meetings** of Section Heads and Working Group chairs, as well as of the IAMCR International Council, **the overall concern of addressing the Association's Publication Strategy**.

We invite IAMCR relevant bodies to discuss and revise:

- * The **mission of this Publication Committee** (we suggest it may be time to redefine its mandate and to define and agree upon clear objectives for IAMCR publication activities);
- * The **composition of the Committee** (including a division of work within a newly defined mandate and overarching structure);
- * **A working plan for the newly defined Publication Committee** to work, on the basis of that mandate, towards identifying possible means and paths through which to address those objectives, in order to carry on specific tasks and develop further proposals;
- * **Internal communication modes of the Committee** (including the means we use to operate, particularly the potential offered by digital technologies);

We feel these matters need to be discussed prior to other more detailed discussion on subtasks we are engaged with, because this would provide a common frame of reference for future activities.

We suggest using the last year's distributed Options document as reference point.

B) Ongoing activities

During the year under review the Publication Committee worked on its regular tasks and made sure on-going projects were finalized and published.

Regular tasks and commitments:

1. **Improvements in relation to the pool of reviewers, suggested in the previous working period** (e.g. increasing the peer reviewers pool) **were confirmed**. Currently the pool of peer reviewers consists of 22 reviewers from 15 different countries (see Annex 2). In view of agreements with new publishers for IAMCR series (see point B) the list needs to be revised and enlarged.

² See Report included in the IAMCR Newsletter published in March 2010 and available at: http://iamcr.org/newsletter/newsletter_20100326.html

2. Making the Call for Proposals more accessible: the renewed Call for Proposals was posted on IAMCR website.
3. **Guiding authors in preparing and submitting their proposals and ensuring solid blind peer reviews** for completed proposals received. In the year under review, the committee has not received any new proposal. We suspect this may also be due to the fact that IAMCR members were notified of the expected discontinuation of our contractual arrangement with Hampton Publishers. In anticipation of this change, Hampton was not able to accept any new proposals anymore. At the same time the Association did not identify a new publisher yet.
4. Working with the blind peer reviewers. As far as ongoing publication projects were concerned, reviewers were extremely helpful and able to maintain a turn-around time of about three weeks after receiving adjusted manuscripts.
5. **Communicating reviewers' feedback on Proposals to potential authors.** All reviewers' feedback was communicated to the potential authors.
6. **Monitoring ongoing work on publication proposals** for which contracts had been issued in previous periods. Five manuscripts had been sent to Hampton for publication³. Their current statuses (according to latest exchange with Hampton, June 2011) are:
 - *Journalism in crisis. Corporate media, and Financialization* by Nuria Almiron. (Foreword Bob McChesney). Published in late 2010 (royalties will appear in the next reporting period).
 - *Political Economy, Communication and Knowledge. A critical Latin-American perspective* by Cesar Bolaño, Guillermo Mastrini and Francisco Sierra (eds.) (with a Prologue by Armand Mattelart): **currently author index/subject index stage** (Hampton had to be contacted twice through the Committee to make sure publication procedures moved as planned). Publication foreseen in August 2011;
 - *International Communication and Global News Networks: Historical Perspectives* by Peter Putnis, Chandrika Kaul and Jürgen Wilke: **proofs currently being finalized**, cover is done;
 - *Youths and Net-Radio – Exploring Subcultural Models of Audiences* by Andrea Baker: copyediting has been completed and **book is in the queue for typesetting**. Expecting covers from the designer by July 9. To be published at the end of the year;
 - *Deliberation the Media and Political Talk* (originally titled: *Deliberative Democracy and Media*), by Rousiley Maia: contract with Hampton

³ In general it was our understanding that Hampton, with its production process, endeavours to get single author books out in 6-8 months. This depends on what copyeditors are available when a ms. arrives. Hampton only has one or two copy editors who are capable of dealing with the international authors (copyeditors work an average of 6-8 pages per hour). Edited volumes – in the best circumstances take – 8-10 months depending on how quickly contributors do get back to the publishers when there are questions. It has been our experience over the past year that production process has often been slower than expected, as in the past, and at times somewhat problematic.

was issued in November 2009. **Copyediting has been completed**, the book is in the queue. To be published at the end of the year;

7. **Following up with contracted authors on progress:**

Some authors have notified to us changed plans, others submit a new and more realistic deadline (in one case). For the privacy of authors names and titles are deliberately not mentioned in this report. Still pending are:

- * *Digital Communication – a South American perspective.* (Contract with Hampton was issued in November 2009, manuscript was received in June 2010. Interventions were required on manuscript. OK from author never received by Hampton.
- * *Communication Rights and Social Justice: historical accounts of transnational mobilizations;*
- * *The Social Technique of Information;*

Second and third titles had been reviewed and accepted for publication in previous years. Both manuscripts are basically ready to be sent to the publisher; pending is a final decision concerning the publisher's expected changes in activity and possible impact on promotion and distribution. Possible change in publisher.

8. The Publication Committee also **maintained contact with Hampton Publishers** and kept record of sales figures and royalties received by IAMCR. Over the year 2010, as in the previous two years, Peter Lewis (From the Margins) and Katherina Sarikakis (Ideology of Internet) were the only selling authors in the IAMCR series (9 copies each in 2010; royalties amount for IAMCR: \$4.55 and \$6.57 respectively,⁴). This information is not included in the Treasurer's report due to late information retrieval.

C) In addition, the Publication Committee maintained correspondence with the EB and IC in view of **identifying new publishers for the IAMCR book series**, since Hampton will no longer operate after concluding currently pending projects.

IAMCR had contact with the following publishing houses:

Felicity Plester, Senior Commissioning Editor for Culture & Media/Literature with **Palgrave Macmillan**. John and Claudia met her last year in Braga. Palgrave showed interest in our activities. However, they publish hardbacks only. No final decision has been made on this option.

Philippa Brewester from **IB Tauris**. The President approached Brewester, and Tauris is willing to move quickly. We sent an overview of recent publications from the Hampton series/

Intellect Books (Bristol): VP Downing approached this publisher and is waiting for a response.

⁴ Hampton's royalty policy is to send half of the royalties to IAMCR, and the other half to the authors. (For the older books is used to be: 9% to IAMCR, 3% to authors, but none of those books are selling anymore.)

APPENDIX 1

IAMCR Hampton series

Reviewers

Name + country	E-mail address
Andrew Calabrese, USA	andrew.calabrese@colorado.edu
Arnold de Beer, South Africa	asdebeer@sun.ac.za
Bob White, Tanzania	whitesaut@yahoo.com
Brian Shoesmith, Australia	bshoesmi@bigpond.net.au
Bart Cammaerst, Belgium	b.cammaerts@lse.ac.uk
Cees Hamelink, Netherlands	hamelink@antenna.nl
Daphne Lemish, Israel	Dafna.Lemish@childrens.harvard.edu, lemish@post.tau.ac.il
Divina Frau Meigs, France	meigs@wanadoo.fr
Francisco Sierra, Spain	fsierra@us.es
Janet Wasko, USA	jwasko@uoregon.edu
Guillermo Mastrini, Argentina	mastri@mail.fsoc.uba.ar
Hannu Nieminen, Finland	hannu.nieminen@helsinki.fi
Helena Souza,	helena@ics.uminho.pt
Hillel Nossek, Israel	HNOSSEK@colman.ac.il
John Downing, USA	jdowning@siu.edu
Joseph Man Chan, PRC	b072779@mailserve.cuhk.edu.hk
Nick Jankowski, The Netherlands	nickjan@xs4all.nl
Rosa Mikael Martey, USA	rmikealm@asc.upenn.edu
Ruth Teer-Tomaselli, South Africa	teertoma@ukzn.ac.za
Shelton Guneratne, USA	gunarat@mnstate.edu
Thomas Tufte, Denmark	ttufte@ruc.dk
Todd Holden, Japan	holden@intcul.tohoku.ac.jp
Valerio Cruz Brittos, Brazil	val.bri@terra.com.br
Virginia Nightingale, Australia	v.nightingale@uws.edu.au