



**MINUTES OF THE ICOS BOARD MEETING
HELSINKI, 21 FEBRUARY 2018**

PRESENT: Paula Sjöblom (PS, chair), Emilia Aldrin (EA), Urszula Bijak (UB), Lasse Hämäläinen (LH), Adrian Koopman (AK), Unni-Päivä Leino (U-PL, Editor-in-Chief of *Onoma*), Alexandra Petrulevich (AP), Valéria Tóth (VT).

PRESENT ON SKYPE: Alina Bugheşiu (AB, secretary), Alice Crook (AC), Artur Gałkowski (AG), Evgeny Shokhenmayer (ES).

APOLOGIES: Nobuhle Hlongwa (NH).

1. WELCOME

The chair, PS, called the meeting to order on Wednesday, 21 February 2018, at 9:15 a.m. local time (7:15 GMT). The President welcomed everyone present in person or via Skype. She underlined that the Board has a special task in ensuring the proper functioning of ICOS, because the organisation has an important role in guiding modern society in the field of onomastics. It is important, therefore, to gain credibility and visibility.

2. APOLOGIES

An announcement was made under this section. NH was unable to attend the meeting in person and, due to technical issues, despite several attempts on both sides, it was not possible to establish a connection via Skype.

3. CONFIRMATION OF THE AGENDA

PS asked whether members wished to add other items to the agenda. As nothing new was added, the agenda was adopted.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (DEBRECEN, 1 SEPTEMBER 2017)

The minutes were approved by the Board via e-mail and have been published online (<https://icosweb.net/drupal/sites/default/files/2017-09-01%20Debrecen%20minutes.pdf>).

5. MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (DEBRECEN, 1 SEPTEMBER 2017)

The draft minutes of the General Assembly in Debrecen were approved via e-mail and they will be published online. Their final approval will be made during the General Assembly of the ICOS Congress in Kraków, in 2020.

6. MATTERS ARISING

From the following ICOS Congress (Kraków, 2020), it was decided that the minutes of the General Assembly will state from the very beginning the number of ICOS members present, as at least 20% attendance is needed to adopt any measures or changes during the General Assembly.

At the same time, the Board of ICOS agreed on the election of two reviewers outside the Board to speed up the approval of the minutes of the General Assembly (for instance, in case the Treasurer changes).

7. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

PS noted that the central issue of the meeting was to prepare the strategy and the budget of ICOS for 2018-2020. It was decided that the strategy and budget would be put together by EA and PS based on the decisions taken during the meeting and would be approved in the next meeting (which will take place online).

An announcement was made regarding the conference *Names in the Economy*, whose sixth edition will be organized by Katharina Leibring in Uppsala, in June 2019.

The President also mentioned that ICOS congratulated Willy Van Langendonck on his 80th birthday on 24 January 2018. It was decided that, henceforth, such messages would also be included in the ICOS Newsletters, on members' 60th, 70th and 80th birthdays.

8. SECRETARY'S REPORT

AB announced that Newsletter 27 was almost complete and would be sent to the Board for approval soon, along with the updated entry about ICOS in the *Yearbook of International Organisations*, a publication of the Union of International Associations.

9. TREASURER'S REPORT

ICOS finances are in a good state. Incomes during 2017 came primarily from membership fees, while expenses were primarily related to bank costs, credit card, webpage etc. ICOS also spent money on supporting student participation in the Congress in Debrecen. Since ICOS has its seat in Sweden, it needs to follow the Swedish tax rules. ICOS is registered as an "idealistic organization" (= non-profit), which means that it needs to spend at least 80 % of its income within a five-year period. This has not happened during the last years. In the last five-year period, 2013-2017, ICOS incomes were 35 343 EUR, which means that the organisation should have spent at least 28 274 EUR (see the Treasurer's report below). However, ICOS only spent 14 923 EUR (see below), which indicates that it needs to spend more money. If it does not, ICOS may at some point receive financial penalties from the Swedish tax agency.

Treasurer's report

Treasurer: Emilia Aldrin

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SEK account

For	paid	received
Bank costs	1.737 = 164 EUR	0
Credit card costs	5.196 = 492 EUR	0
Interest	0	0
ICOS organizational costs	0	0
Membership fees	0	17.337 = 1.640 EUR

- *Onoma* 52, *Asian Onomastics* (nominally 2017), guest editor Dr. Sungjae Choo: there has been a delay due to some problems in the e-mail communication between the guest editor and the Editor-in-Chief. Should the problems be solved, *Onoma* 52 will be published as volume 50.

U-PL stated that there are hopes for all the aforementioned volumes to be published this year and also announced that a new Call for Papers for a non-themed volume would be sent in August.

Richard Coates, the Chair of the Editorial Board of *Onoma*, sent an e-mail on 31 January 2018, suggesting the following:

“I reaffirm the general view regarding two points which was expressed and accepted at the joint meeting of the Editorial Board and the ICOS Board in Debrecen:

- The idea that was met with the strongest agreement by the Editorial Board was that ***Onoma* should be published online** and access should be open to members of ICOS (as part of their membership) and other individuals or institutions based on subscription. An extra charge (not included in the ICOS membership fee) should be paid by those who wish to receive the journal in print format. Online publication of *Onoma* would facilitate that the journal reached a wider readership.
- It would be advisable to increase the standards of publishing studies in *Onoma* and, therefore, to become **stricter about accepting articles** for publication. Subsequently, the impact factor of the journal would increase. In this respect, **guidelines are needed to help the referees in the peer-review process**. Based on these guidelines, the referees should rank an article and the Editorial Board would decide to accept or refuse its publication.

I propose that the **ICOS Board should instruct me to embark immediately on exploring with Taylor and Francis the possibility of taking over publication**, taking into account especially the first indented point above.

I suggest, but do not formally propose, that we should **consider producing thin annual issues of *Onoma***, where appropriate, if that facilitates **clearing the backlog**. I repeat an earlier proposal that we should widely solicit material for **non-thematic volumes** which can be put into a schedule as required to help in achieving this very necessary effect, taking into account the second indented point.”

The Board agreed on entrusting Richard Coates to start negotiations with Taylor & Francis. Among other things, the aim is to make *Onoma* an open-access journal for ICOS members, but grant full access to everyone after a year, regardless of membership. ICOS would also like to make the old volumes of *Onoma* open-access publications, but the legal framework of this activity has to be carefully discussed. PS, U-PL and Richard Coates would act together in case any official negotiations are needed. Naturally, the costs involved in making *Onoma* an open-access journal need to be discussed after feedback from Taylor & Francis. Moreover, the publisher should also provide support with the editing process (ICOS is willing to invest money in this respect).

To prevent delays from occurring in the future, it was suggested that, after we get back on the publication of the journal back on schedule (i.e., after the publication of the volume nominally corresponding to the year 2018), we would have biannual issues of *Onoma* (one thematic and another non-thematic), but a single issue should be published when there is little material or the papers are difficult to collect. The idea was accepted by the Board.

11. MEASURES FOR INCREASING THE VISIBILITY AND INTERNATIONAL CREDIBILITY OF ICOS

PS highlighted that a strong scientific association has the power to improve the academic status of onomastics all over the world. A high-standard publication of ICOS is the most important way of achieving international credibility, but ICOS can do a lot more for gaining visibility. The organisation’s target groups are 1) its members, 2) postgraduate and postdoctoral onomasticians, 3) all scholars interested in onomastics, 4) the academic world, 5) the media, politicians and general public in different countries.

Different target groups require different means and channels of approaching. It may also be important to define at least to some extent the subjects, the responsibilities and the style and languages of ICOS official informing.

Under this item, the Board discussed three aspects:

1) ICOS homepage and social media (**Webmaster's report**)

ES noted that there has been a large increase of the visibility of ICOS in social media since the Debrecen Congress (on 21 February 2018, there were 291 followers on Facebook, and 128 followers on Twitter). Posts do not only refer to matters concerning ICOS, but also to onomastic news and events in general, thus providing information for a larger audience in hope of gaining new members. The idea of publishing onomastic material of wider interest (beyond academia) was encouraged by the Board.

According to ES, the Webmaster, the objectives of ICOS social media activities are

- to represent and promote ICOS;
- to disseminate information about *Onoma* (Call for Papers, the publication of new volumes etc.);
- to spread news on behalf of ICOS;
- to provide valuable content;
- to develop the community and attract new members;
- to reach target audiences;
- to encourage the participation of target audiences.

As a result of discussions about the aforementioned points, it was decided that

- events of international and national importance will be published on the website, whereas smaller-scale events will only be published on the Facebook page;
- the materials published on Facebook will comprise short notices about events/books, along with corresponding links;
- the information disseminated on the ICOS webpage or social media platforms must be written in one of the three official languages of the organisation (English, French and German).

2) ICOS Newsletter (as part of the **Secretary's report**)

AB mentioned that the format of the Newsletter would be upgraded, making it more attractive. It would include a new section, celebrating ICOS members' birthdays (on this topic, see item 7 above, President's report). The policy of compiling and sending Newsletter will continue to be that established by the Statutes of ICOS (Newsletters are issued on average once per year or more frequently whenever the case).

The Secretary will also continue updating the list of members' interests. However, due to a new European Union law restricting our permission to publish online members' personal data, members have to give their written consent for the processing and publishing of this type of information. Thus, the form of the survey regarding members' interests will be revised and ICOS members will have the chance to fill it in online.

3) ICOS PR group

To help enhance the visibility and credibility of ICOS, the Board voted on the creation of a PR group. Its members are AP (the Chair of the group), AB, AC, ES, and Lidia Becker, who was asked to participate and accepted to do so. It was decided that the first task of the group would be to make a strategy for improving ICOS visibility and credibility among different target groups. This plan would be accepted by the Board in its next meeting.

12. REPORT OF THE TERMINOLOGY GROUP

AG, the Chair of the Terminology Group, mentioned that the group has the following configuration (which will be updated on the ICOS webpage):

Chair: Artur Gałkowski (Poland) – artur.galkowski@uni.lodz.pl

- Terhi Ainiala (Finland)
- Maria Giovanna Arcamone (Italy)
- Hubert Bergmann (Austria)
- Urszula Bijak (Poland)
- Pierre-Henri Billy (France)
- Andrea Bölcskei (Hungary)
- Donatella Bremer (Italy)
- Enzo Caffarelli (Italy)
- Joan Tort Donada (Spain)
- Tamás Farkas (Hungary)
- Milan Harvalík (Czech Republic)
- Adrian Koopman (South Africa)
- Aleh Kopach (Belarus)
- Julia Kuhn (Germany)
- André Lapierre (Canada)
- Tiina Laansalu (Estonia)
- Małgorzata Mandola (France)
- Sanda Rapa (Latvia)
- Ankica Čilaš Šimpraga (Croatia)
- Iveta Valentová (Slovakia)
- Natalia Vasileva (Russia)
- Mats Wahlberg (Sweden)

Nevertheless, the structure of the Group may change, as the Board agreed that onomasticians outside ICOS (i.e., representing other onomastic societies) may be invited as collaborators/advisers. Should the latter become members of ICOS in time, they will be made full members of the Terminology Group as well. For instance, Dr. Tendai Mangena (Zimbabwe) has received an invitation to join the Group.

The Group's work will be carried out via e-mail and through a discussion site (to be created), if possible during direct meetings (also in smaller groups and subgroups).

AG noted that the main tasks and perspectives of cooperation of the Terminology Group are as follows:

- the translation of the "ICOS List of Key Onomastic Terms" into different languages (in addition to the versions available on the ICOS website – in English, French and German –, there also exist translations into Hungarian, Polish, Slovak, Belarusian and Croatian). It was discussed that the list can be renamed as "ICOS Selected List of Onomastic Terminology", to point out the fact that, although extensive, the list is not exhaustive;
- the online publication of the list of terms in the shape of a searchable multilingual database (ICOS will invest money in this respect);
- the organisation in 2019 of a seminar/conference on onomastic terminology with the participation of members of the Terminology Group and other experts in the field. The event will be hosted by the University of Lodz, Poland, but the exact date will be established in the future. The proceedings of the event will promote the activity and database of the Terminology Group;
- the preparation of the meeting of the Terminology Group during the 27th ICOS Congress in Kraków, in 2020;
- the cooperation with onomastic centres and projects devoted to onomastic terminology (the project of the Slovak Academy of Sciences as part of the Slovak terminology corpus database; the project of Polish onomastic terminology; the Slavic Onomastics Committee within the International Committee of Slavists). The cooperation will also apply to researchers who are not members of ICOS, as advisory members of the Terminology Group.

The Board of ICOS accepted the aforementioned actions, but the funding of the seminar and of the publication of the list of terms will be decided later.

13. REPORT OF THE BIBLIOGRAPHICAL DATABASE GROUP

According to the Chair of the group, ES, the structure of IBOS has been updated and will be posted on the ICOS website.

The activity of IBOS will be focused on

- linking the Bibliographical Database of ICOS to national databases (as discussed in Debrecen);
- systematizing the material in the database.

Several problems were noted by ES, all of which led to the same question: what is the purpose of IBOS in the age of search engines and Google? After discussions within the Board, it was decided that an online poll would be launched along with the following Newsletter to ask the members of ICOS for feedback regarding the Bibliographical Database Group. Depending on the feedback, the Group will either have to redefine its goals to meet recent academic demands, or be shut down. Should the Group continue its work on Zotero, ICOS will pay an annual fee of 120 \$ per year to get unlimited storage, thereby allowing for the uploading of pdf files in addition to bibliographical information.

14. POSTGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

According to LH, Postgraduate Representative, the ICOS Student Network is still in an early phase. The main goals for the term 2017-2020 are to reach young onomastic scholars and to keep in touch with them. A Facebook group has been started, but other actions are needed as well. The Student Network should have its own page on the ICOS website, with at least a short description of the Network (and maybe also its members) and contact information. Collecting a mailing list is also planned.

In addition to a web event in 2018, the main event of the term 2017-2020 is going to be the ICOS Summer School 2019 in Helsinki. Details concerning the course were discussed in the Board meeting:

- it was proposed to host the one-week event at the end of August, but a fixed date remains to be established, so as to avoid overlapping with other events in the field;
- the official language of the summer school will be English;
- it was suggested that the topic of the summer school could be "Method and Theory in Onomastics" (including digital methods), but this aspect will be further discussed with the responsible teachers of the event;
- the summer school will have at least two responsible teachers, Terhi Ainiala and PS. Depending on the theme of the event, other specialists may be invited in this capacity as well. At the same time, several visiting lecturers will participate in the summer school;
- ICOS will financially support the organisation of the summer school, but the exact sum will be established in subsequent discussions. To lower the costs, LH proposed to include the course in the teaching programme of the University of Helsinki. Nevertheless, this would not turn the event into one addressing Nordic onomasticians exclusively; it will continue to refer to the entire ICOS community;
- an idea met with approval by the Board was to turn the Summer School into a serial event, which would be organised every 2-3 years in a different location.

15. PROCEEDINGS OF THE 26TH ICOS CONGRESS (DEBRECEN, 2017)

VT mentioned that the organisers of the Debrecen Congress received 127 papers: 105 in English, 12 in German, and 10 in French. The papers will be published this year as five volumes of the peer-reviewed and open-access journal *Onomastica Uralica*. The publication is partially sponsored by the Chancellor of the University of Debrecen. The Board agreed on funding the rest of the publication costs and congratulated the organisers for their great work.

16. THE 27TH ICOS CONGRESS (23–28 AUGUST 2020, KRAKÓW)

An updated plan of action was presented to the Board by UB:

2018

Signing of relevant agreements, reservation of conference rooms, preparation of the visual identification (logo, colours of materials, webpage).

2019

- January-June – Preparation (modification of the previous version) of the congress schedule by the Scientific Committee. Decision on plenary papers. Work on the webpage (in five languages: Polish, English, German, French, Russian);
- June – Launching the webpage;
- September – Launching the Call for Papers;
- November – Deadline for proposals.

2020

- February – Evaluation of paper abstracts and layout of the programme;
- March – Launching online registration;
- Later – Intensive work on the organisation of events, excursions, etc. Current updating of the webpage, publication of the Congress programme.

Conference Schedule (Krakow, 23–28 August 2020)

23 August (Sunday)

15.00–20.00: Registration

17.00–20.00: Meeting of ICOS Board

24 August (Monday)

8.30–10.00: Registration

8.30–10.00: Meeting of Editorial Board of *Onoma*

10.00–12.30: Opening Session and Plenary Session

10.00–12.30: Presentation of Books and Onomastic Periodicals

12.30–14.00: Opening Reception

14.00–15.30: Lecture Sessions

15.30–16.00: Break

16.00–17.30: Lecture Sessions and Symposia (Onomastics in Poland)

18.00–19.30: Meeting of ICOS Bibliography Group

18.00–19.30: Meeting of ICOS Student Network

25 August (Tuesday)

8.30–10.30: Lecture Sessions

10.30–11.00: Break

11.00–12.30: Lecture Sessions

12.30–14.00: Lunch

14.00–15.30: Lecture Sessions and Symposia (Onomastics in Czechia)

15.30–16.00: Break

16.00–17.30: Plenary Session

17.30–18.00: Break

18.00–20.30: ICOS General Assembly

26 August (Wednesday)

Excursion Day

27 August (Thursday)

8.30–10.30: Lecture Sessions

10.30–11.00: Break

11.00–12.30: Lecture Sessions

12.30–14.00: Lunch

14.00–15.30: Lecture Sessions and Symposia (Onomastics in Slovakia)

15.30–16.00: Break

16.00–17.30: Plenary Session

17.30–18.00: Break

18.00–20.30: Meeting of Slavic Committee of Onomastics at International Congress of Slavists and of Polish Onomastic Committee

18.00–20.30: Presentation of digital publications of the Institute of the Polish Language at the Polish Academy of Sciences (IJP PAN)

28 August (Friday)

8.30–10.30: Lecture Sessions

10.30–11.00: Break

11.00–12.30: Lecture Sessions

12.30–14.00: Lunch

14.00–16.00: Meeting of ICOS Terminology Group

14.00–16.00: Meeting of Editors of Onomastic Journals

16.00–16.30: Break

16.30–17.30: Meeting of ICOS Board

17.30–19.00: Closing Session

19.00–Banquet

	23 August (Sunday)	24 August (Monday)	25 August (Tuesday)	26 August	27 August (Thursday)	28 August (Friday)	
8.00		Registration	Meeting of Ed. Board of <i>Onoma</i>	Excursion	Lecture Sessions	Lecture Sessions	
9.00			Lecture Sessions		Lecture Sessions	Lecture Sessions	
10.00		Opening Session and Plenary Session	Presentation of Books and Onomastic Periodicals		Break	Break	Break
11.00			Lecture Sessions		Lecture Sessions	Lecture Sessions	
12.00							
13.00		Opening Reception	Lunch		Lunch	Lunch	
14.00		Lecture Sessions	Lecture Sessions and Symposia (Onomastics in Czechia)		Lecture Sessions and Symposia (Onomastics in Slovakia)	Meeting of ICOS Terminology Group	Meeting of Editors of onomastic
15.00	Registration	Break	Break		Break	Break	
16.00		Lecture Sessions and Symposia (Onomastics in Poland)	Plenary Session		Plenary Session	Meeting of ICOS Board	
17.00	Meeting of ICOS Board	Break	Break		Break	Break	
18.00		Meeting of ICOS Bibliography Group	Meeting of ICOS Student Network	ICOS General Assembly	Meeting of Slavic Committee of Onomastics, ICS and Polish Onomastic Committee	Presentation of digital publications of IJP PAN	
19.00					Closing Session		
20.00					Banquet		

After discussing the schedule, several suggestions were made (regarding the day for the banquet) and the Board advised the organisers of the Kraków Congress to consider them when deciding on the final programme. At the same time, the Board agreed on having the General Assembly on Tuesday (although it was suggested that it be held earlier in the day), in hope of increased attendance.

17. NEXT MEETING

The following meeting of the ICOS Board will be held online in May 2018. As regards the next face-to-face meeting, an invitation was made to organise it in Baia Mare, in September 2019, during the Fifth International Conference on Onomastics “Name and Naming” (ICONN 5). As this encounter is too remote, an earlier meeting may be held as well, but this matter will be established in the future.

18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

As ICOS needs to spend some of its money in order to avoid taxation according to Swedish regulation, the Board decided on a list of priorities for investment:

- throughout the term 2018-2020, ICOS will financially support getting the publication of *Onoma* on track and moving it to a new publisher;
- 2018: publication of the proceedings of the 26th ICOS proceedings and Zotero subscription (in case IBOS will continue to exist);
- 2019: ICOS Summer School for Young Scholars and, should there be enough money, the seminar/conference on onomastic terminology;
- 2020: the 27th ICOS Congress (providing financial support to participating students).

19. CLOSING THE MEETING

As there were no other matters, PS thanked everyone and closed the meeting at 17:17 local time (15:17 GMT) on Wednesday, 21 February 2018.

Alina Bugheşiu
Secretary
(February 2018)