



**MINUTES OF THE ICOS BOARD MEETING
HELD ONLINE, VIA SLACK, ON 3 DECEMBER 2019**

Board members: Paula Sjöblom (PS, chair), Alina Bugheșiu (AB, secretary), Emilia Aldrin (EA), Urszula Bijak (UB), Alice Crook (AC), Artur Gałkowski (AG), Nobuhle Hlongwa (NH), Lasse Hämäläinen (LH), Adrian Koopman (AK), Alexandra Petrulevich (AP), Katalin Reszegi (KR), Evgeny Shokhenmayer (ES).

Editor-in-Chief of *Onoma*: Oliviu Felecan (OF).

1. Opening of the meeting and apologies

The meeting was called to order on Tuesday, 3 December 2019, at 12:00 GMT (13:00 CET, 14:00 Finland time). OF was unable to attend, but the report of the Editor-in-Chief of *Onoma* was sent in advance to the Board, so the matters could be discussed during the meeting.

2. Confirmation of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted without the addition of new items to the plan of discussions originally disseminated via e-mail by PS before the meeting.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting (Uppsala 5–6 June 2019)

The draft minutes of the meeting in Uppsala will be sent to the Board later and approved via e-mail.

4. Matters arising

As nothing was noted under this heading, the meeting moved on to the next item on the agenda.

5. President's report

The preparations for the elections of the next ICOS Board of Directors (2020–2023) have been launched. The following members have been on the Board of Directors for two periods and are thus outgoing: PS, AB, EA, AC, NH. Thus, a new president, secretary, treasurer, and post-graduate are needed. It would be most practical if the new treasurer would be from Sweden, since the change of ICOS accounts to some other country causes a lot of extra work. The secretary should be fluent in English and preferably know some French and/or German, as well.

Secondly, PS raised the issue of the state of the bids for the 28th ICOS Congress in 2023. Unfortunately, there does not seem to be very much interest in organizing the congress, which can come from several reasons. It would have been an important asset if bids outside Europe had been received. The next Board

could think about how to increase collaboration with e.g. American, African and Asian name societies in this respect.

6. Secretary's report

From the secretary's viewpoint, the only notable thing is the affiliation of ICOS with the Greek Onomastic Society / Association Onomastique Grecque (<https://onomatologiki.wordpress.com/>), represented by Dr Xenophon Tzavaras (University of Athens) as its president. Other than that, the secretary's activity focused on collaborating with OF, ES and the Editorial Board of *Onoma* on getting the journal of ICOS back on track.

At the same time, the updated draft of the Newsletter was sent to the Board. Several suggestions were made. Once the amendments are made, the Newsletter will be sent to ICOS members.

7. Treasurer's report

As already announced during the meeting in June 2019, the prognosis for the period between the years 2016 and 2020 is favourable, with the shipment of *Onoma* volumes turning out to be more cost effective than anticipated. Moreover, since the creation of the members' login module and the implementation of a membership payment platform, as well as after the summer school in Helsinki, the number of ICOS members has increased as compared to 2018.

EA brought to the attention of the Board members two issues:

- 1) Quite a significant number of the members' accounts created on the ICOS website are potential robots. EA has expressed the intention to send a reminder to all registered website members who are not paying members and deleting the accounts of those who do not respond in order to avoid hacking attempts
- 2) EA considers ICOS can drop the "debit card by post" option in order to decrease the costs of the organisation even more.

Both aspects received the approval of the members of the Board.

8. *Onoma* (Editor-in-Chief's report)

Volumes 51/2016 and 52/2017 were published (online and in print) in summer. They were disseminated to the members of ICOS who participated in ICONN 5 (Baia Mare, September 2019) and in the "Place Names and Migration Symposium" (Vienna, November 2019) without any costs. In November, OF began sending the printed volumes to all ICOS members who had paid their subscription for the years 2015–2017.

The following volumes of *Onoma* are:

- 53/2018, *Literary Onomastics* (guest-editors: Richard Coates, Martyna Gibka, to be published in December 2019 at the soonest);

- 54/2019, *Young Scholars in Onomastics* (guest-editor: Lasse Hämäläinen) will be published in 2020;
- 55/2020, *Personal Names and Cultural Reconstructions* (guest-editors: Lasse Hämäläinen, Johanna Virkkula, Jaakko Raunamaa) will also be published in 2020.

The Board reminded that, starting with the volume corresponding to the year 2020, access to *Onoma* falls under the one-year embargo, which gives ICOS members the benefit of reading the articles for free (as a part of their membership fee) one year earlier than non-members. However, the latter will have the possibility to access the journal based on a subscription.

9. The 27th conference in Krakow in 2020 (UB)

In addition to the plenary speeches (Sheila Embleton, Peter Jordan, Mariusz Rutkowski), symposia (on Polish, Slovak and Czech onomastics) and regular paper sessions, UB underlined that a toponomastic workshop will be organized, chaired by Peder Gammeltoft. The Board welcomed this initiative, and advised that updates about the Congress be posted on the event's website, as well as disseminated via ICOS social media, Newsletter and e-mail if needs be.

10. Report of the Terminology Group (AG)

AG pointed out that the meeting of the Terminology Group during the 27th ICOS in Kraków will focus on the discussion of the results of the project for the extension of the terminological database.

11. Report of the Bibliographical Database Group (ES)

Due to the obvious lack of interest in using the bibliographical database created on Zotero (since Zotero activity was not indexed by Google Scholar), the Board decided that in this format the Bibliography Group of ICOS is outdated and should be closed down. This issue will be raised within the General Assembly at the ICOS Congress in Kraków and settled on that occasion. A new group could be established instead: e.g., Young Onomasticians Working Group, Literary Onomastics Working Group etc.

12. The visibility and credibility of ICOS (Webmaster's and PR group's report)

The visibility of ICOS has grown considerably not only on social media, but also through its website and the website of *Onoma*.

13. ICOS Summer School (Postgraduate representative's report, LH)

The ICOS Summer School, held between 26 and 30 August 2019 in Helsinki, was a great success. There were 21 students from 15 different countries. The students were very satisfied with the course, and they definitely hoped that a similar course would be organised in the near future (which is something that the next ICOS Board should discuss). The total costs of the Summer School for ICOS were about 3,500 €. A short blog post about the Summer School with some pictures can be found here:

<https://www.nordicsocioonomastics.org/icos-summer-school-in-helsinki/>. A more thorough review will follow in *Onoma* 54.

14. Next meeting

The following meeting will take place in May 2020, in Kraków.

15. Any other business

No other business was noted during the meeting.

16. Closing

PS thanked the members of the Board for their comments and suggestions regarding the aspects discussed under the items on the agenda. The meeting was closed at 15:00 GMT (16:00 CET, 17:00 Finland time).

Alina Bugheşiu
Secretary of ICOS
(June 2021)