



**MINUTES OF THE ICOS BOARD MEETING
HELD ONLINE, VIA SLACK, ON 25 MAY 2020**

ICOS organisation number: 817606-4841.

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

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

Apologies: EA, OF.

1. Opening of the meeting and apologies

The meeting was called to order on Monday, 25 May 2020, at 10:40 EET (8:40 GMT). EA and OF were unable to attend.

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 (on Slack 3rd December 2019 and 14th April 2020)

The minutes of the previous meetings would be sent to the Board for approval via e-mail as soon as possible.

4. Matters arising

As nothing was noted under this heading, the meeting moved on to item 5 on the agenda.

5. Election of a new ICOS Treasurer during the extended period of the current ICOS Board (August 2020 – August 2021)

EA announced she would no longer be able to continue as Treasurer of ICOS during the extended term of the current Board of Directors in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. EA nominated Aleksandra Petrulevich to take over the position of Treasurer of ICOS, and she has agreed. The Board of Directors approved the nomination. Aleksandra Petrulevich acts as Treasurer of ICOS beginning with 1 September 2020 until 31 August 2021, and is an authorized signatory of ICOS.

6. Newsletters and other current matters (Secretary's report)

In addition to regular material, it was decided that the Newsletter would also include information on the following aspects:

- a) the postponement of the 27th ICOS until 2021 (in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic);
- b) the postponement of the General Assembly until 2021 (due to the above-mentioned reasons), on the occasion of the 27th ICOS;
- c) the bid for the 28th ICOS submitted by the University of Helsinki;
- d) nominations for the following ICOS Board of Directors.

7. Current matters (President's report)

- 1) The new Chair of EB: Richard Coates (RC) has expressed that at the next Congress (2020!) he intends to resign as Chair of the Editorial Board of *Onoma*. He is willing to stay as a regular member of the Editorial Board. OF (the Editor-in-Chief of *Onoma*) will contact RC, and call a meeting of the Editorial Board to choose a candidate for this post. The information will subsequently be passed on to the Board of Directors of ICOS, who will make the final decision.
- 2) Upon RC's inquiry about old paper files from his period as Secretary of ICOS (2002-2008), it was agreed that the matter of having an archive of ICOS should be implemented in the future. This idea will be developed during other meetings of the Board of Directors.

8. ICOS web pages and social media (Webmaster's report)

ES announced that ICOS recorded a large increase in posts put up on both Facebook and Twitter, as well as an increase in followers on both accounts since the ICOS Board Meeting in June 2019: more than 50 followers on Facebook (433 followers in total), and more than 60 followers on Twitter (264 in total). Many of the posts discuss important onomastic news and events, not just ICOS-related matters, so we are providing valuable information to a much wider audience and, hopefully, will gain new members as a result.

EB also noted the progress of the updates on the new websites of ICOS (43 news items since June 2019) and *Onoma* (four volumes of the journal have been published online in the period between February 2019 and May 2020).

9. Budget for ICOS 2020–2021 (Treasurer's report)

According to the report disseminated by EA prior to the Board meeting, ICOS finances are in a good state. During 2019 a number of investments took place, including a new webpage for *Onoma*, the ICOS Summer school in Helsinki and a membership payment module on the ICOS webpage. As a result, the expenses during 2019 considerably exceeded the incomes. However, this was necessary to comply with the rules of the Swedish Tax Agency. Thus, for the period 2015-2019 ICOS spent 62% of the incomes, which is somewhat higher than what ICOS spent during the previous period, 2014-2018, namely 44% of the incomes. However, this is still not in line with the goal of the organization. One reason for this is that the printing costs

were lower than budgeted for the publication of *Onoma* and distribution costs will be debited in 2020 instead.

For the following five-year period, 2016–2020, the prognosis indicates that with the current budget for 2020 ICOS would spend 87% of the incomes during that period, mainly due to the support for the postponement of the ICOS Congress in Kraków until 2021 (approx. 3 000 EUR for costs that cannot be cancelled or postponed). This is in line with the requirements from the Swedish tax agency. However, for the five-year period after that, 2017–2021, the present budget indicates that ICOS would spend as much as 105% of the incomes, although the budgeted expenses for 2021 do not exceed the incomes during that year. Thus, it is clear that ICOS finances are no longer behind in investments and should now focus on a stabilized situation with yearly expenses that do not exceed the yearly incomes.

Therefore, the presented budget for 2021 does not include any specific investments.

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

- 1) Volume 54/2019 (*Young Scholars of Onomastics*: <https://onomajournal.org/vol-54-2019/>) will be published in May 2020.
- 2) Volume 55/2020 (*Personal Names and Cultural Reconstructions*) will be published in autumn in 2020, with a one-year embargo in agreement with *Onoma* Copyright and Licence Policy (<https://onomajournal.org/copyright-and-licence-policy/>).
- 3) Volume 56/2021 will explore *Dynamics of the anthroponymic system* (guest-editor: Anna Choleva-Dimitrova, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences).
- 4) In addition to the publication of volumes, the activity of the Editorial Board of *Onoma* will refer to publishing vols. 53-55 in paperback format, shipping them to ICOS members, and working on indexing *Onoma* in the most notable international data bases.

11. The postponed 27th Congress in Krakow in 2021 (Report: Urszula Bijak, UB)

- 1) UB reported that the organizers sent out a letter informing sent the participants of the 27th ICOS about the postponement of the event until 22-27 August 2021. Registration will be available starting with 4 January 2021, and the early-bird registration fee can be paid by 31 March 2021.
- 2) State of affairs caused by the postponement
An increase in the overall cost of organizing the event is expected due to the financial instability brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. The subsidies received from the Rector of the Jagiellonian University, the Mayor of Kraków, and the Polish Academy of Sciences have been cancelled. Requests for financial support will be made for 2021 as well, but there is no guarantee that it will be provided or that the amounts will stay the same. ICOS will also provide help in this respect (see item 9 above).

12. ICOS Postgraduate activities (Report: Lasse Hämäläinen, LH)

1) Preparations of the Postgraduates' meeting in Kraków in 2021

Online activities for the Student Network will be organised before the 2021 Kraków Congress – a live virtual meeting or workshop, in which students could make contacts and initiate collaborations.

2) Applications for the next postgraduate representative in the Board

The members of the Student Network will be informed that the postgraduate representative (PR) post for the term 2021–2024 is open and applications can be submitted. According to LH, there might be a few students interested. When choosing the next PR, the ability to organise a successful ICOS Summer School (probably at PR's home university) should be emphasized.

13. Report of the Terminology group (Report: Artur Galkowski, AG)

The work of the Terminology Group may not be very intense, but there are results. The basic ICOS terminology has been collected in many languages. In fact, only Spanish and Swedish are missing. AG would like to publish the results of the work so far on the ICOS website. The work of the Terminology Group will also be disseminated via *Onoma*.

14. Support of ICOS for raising the ranking of onomastic publications in the world (Report: Artur Galkowski, AG)

The scientific scoring systems for journals are different from one country to another. Unfortunately, due to various reasons, journals on onomastics do not reach very high scores. ICOS, through the Board of Directors, could write some general recommendation, to help in the re-evaluation of onomastic journals in view of raising their scores.

15. The visibility and credibility of ICOS (Petrulevich)

1) Aleksandra Petrulevich has started in January 2020 a discussion within the PR group about the activities that the group should prioritize. The PR group has held a virtual meeting, and suggests that ICOS could prepare merchandise (leaflets, pens, mugs, T-shirts etc.) for promotional usage and for sale (to ICOS members). The leaflets could be made ready by the Congress in 2021, to pass them onto the new Board, but also to give them to members who organize conferences on onomastics. PR group has also other good ideas (competition through social media campaigns, onomastics-related content on an ICOS YouTube channel).

2) Chair of PR group: Since Aleksandra Petrulevich has been chosen to occupy the position of ICOS treasurer for 2020-2021, a new chair was elected for the PR group: AC.

16. Next meeting

The following meeting will take place via e-mail, as it will only refer to the approval of minutes of Board meetings and the ICOS Newsletter. Subsequently, in 2021 the Board of Directors will meet in April, either face-to-face or via Slack (depending on the global health situation).

17. Any other business

No other business was noted during the meeting.

18. Closing

PS thanked the members of the Board for the productive discussions and closed the meeting at 16:15 EET (14:15 GMT).

Paula Sjöblom
President of ICOS



Alina Bugheșiu
Secretary of ICOS
(October 2020)