



ICAS 6 Daejeon
6-9 August, 2009



THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION OF ASIA SCHOLARS (ICAS) is a meeting place for academics from all over the world to discuss new insights in Asia Studies in a multidisciplinary context. Members of the other spheres of civil society are challenged to get involved in the debates, and we hope to encourage young academics, in particular, to get involved in the panels and roundtables. ICAS is the only major, regular Asia Studies event to take place in Asia.

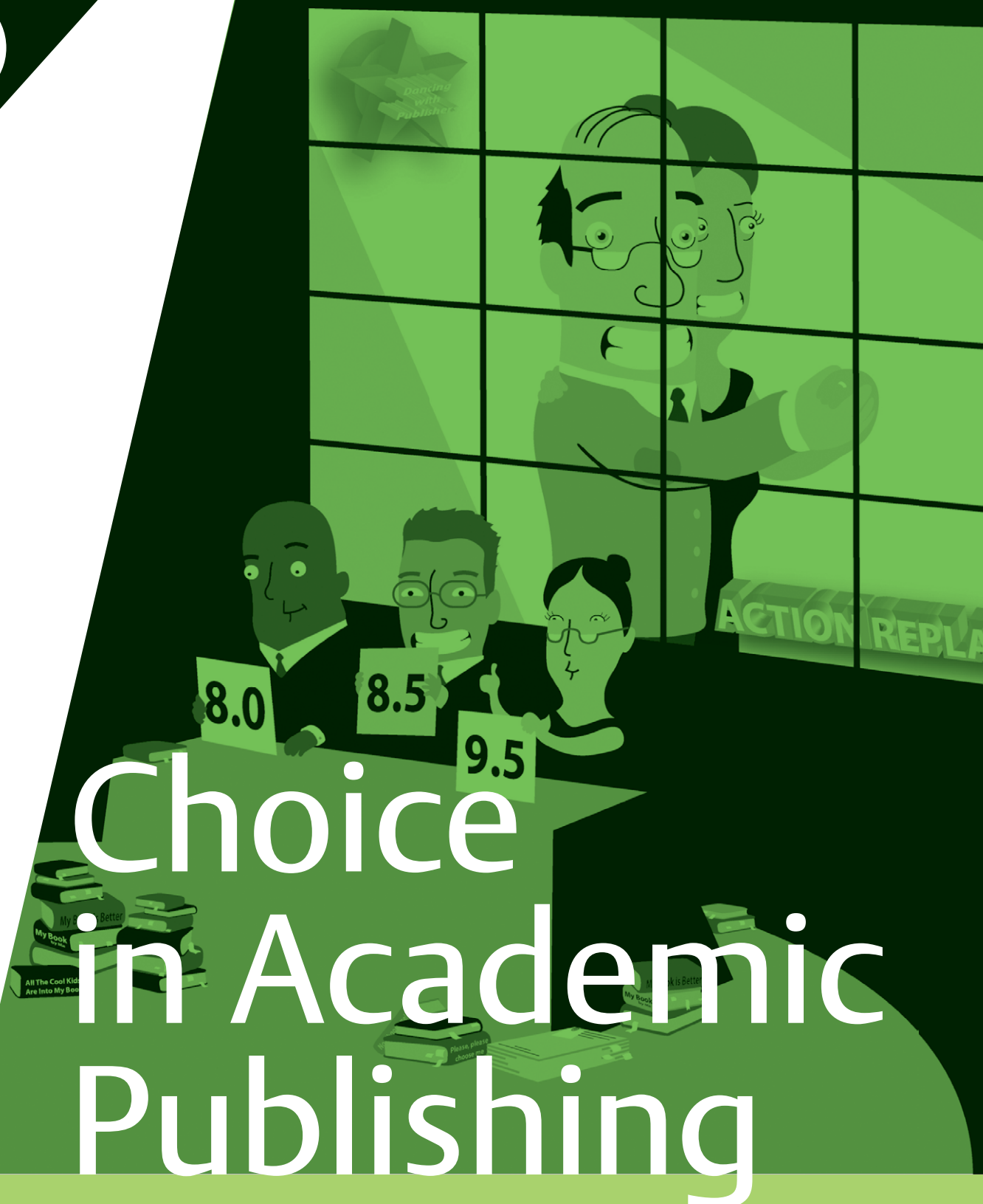
We are happy that Chungnam National University (CNU) and its Center for Regional Studies (CARS), Daejeon, Republic of South Korea, are hosting ICAS 6. We are in no doubt that ICAS 6 will be an inspiring meeting for all participants, exhibitors and visitors.

This ICAS supplement forms part of the recently revamped newsletter of the IAS which is now called 'the Newsletter'. The theme of this supplement is 'Choice in Academic Publishing' and the illustrations by Alex Prinz were commissioned specially for these pages.

We look forward to welcoming you in Daejeon!

ICAS Secretariat:
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Secretary General;
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Choice in Academic Publishing

An embarrassment of riches

All academics, by the nature of modern academe, must be both authors and readers. To the familiar invocation to 'publish or perish' we could add another to 'read or rot' or as publishers might be tempted to put it, to 'buy or be damned'.

Marie Lenstrup

WITHOUT READERS, PREFERABLY MUNIFICENT ONES, there is no future for books or journals or electronic communications; likewise, without the input of good authors, few academics would be able in their turn to produce texts of lasting value. Readers and writers are locked in a lasting embrace of the minds, and their matchmakers are the publisher and the librarian.

Many more ideas are had than manuscripts written; many more manuscripts are written than books published; and many more titles are published than books widely read. One important function of publishers and libraries, perhaps their most important function of all, is to act as quality control, selecting only the best manuscripts for publication and only the best books for purchase. Even in the happiest of times, when academic endeavour flows as freely as library cash, this necessary selection process continues (only perhaps with less reference to the finance department on the fifth floor).

In this supplement, the contributors focus on a few of the central choices upon which the academic publishing process is built: The choices authors must make when first deciding what type

of text to write, and later when deciding to which publisher they will offer their work; the considerations editors engage in when selecting titles for publication from the piles of manuscripts offered to them; the dilemmas facing librarians when the wealth of books and the proliferation of other types and forms of publication overwhelm budgetary capacities.

In between the themed articles you will find other material related to academic publishing, such as an overview of the candidates for the 2009 ICAS book prizes, a presentation of a major scholarly e-forum, a review of an author guide, and notice of publishers' panels at the ICAS 6 conference.

We hope you will find this, the third bi-annual ICAS supplement to the Newsletter from IAS, both informative and enjoyable. Happy reading!

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