

Annual Report 2017

ECREA International & Intercultural Communication Section

The ECREA International and Intercultural Section (IIC) has been active since early 2006.

1. Membership

In 2017, the section had 214 members according to the information provided to us by ECREA on 2 February 2018.

2. Management and scope of the IIC Section

The current management team consists of Stijn Joye (Ghent University) as chair, supported by vice chairs Romy Wöhlert (University of Leipzig) and Ricardo Carniel Bugs (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona). Estibaliz Ortega (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain) remained as the section's representative for YECREA but will step down in 2018.

In terms of our mission statement and the section's scope, we aim to support research that observes different forms of cross-border dialogue, exchange and flows between and/or within nations, regions, cultures, communities and individuals. We define our section's field of interest very broadly by referring to all types of cross-border or global communication as we focus on mediated and (inter)personal forms of communication from the perspective of production, distribution, content and reception. The section also endorses academic work on the social, economic, political and cultural characteristics and consequences of globalization and international and intercultural communication processes, in addition to research on the role of communication in international cooperation projects.

Next to our ECREA supported website, the management team hosts - since 2013 - a blog to keep in touch with our members as well as with other stakeholders and peers outside of the organization. The URL is <http://internationalandintercultural.wordpress.com/> We also have a Facebook and Twitter account as a way of engaging with our members.

3. Organization of events

In 2017, we have been successful in joining forces with the 'Diaspora, migration and the media' section. On 2-3 November 2017, the sessions' conference took place at the University of Basque Country in Bilbao (Spain) and focused on the theme of migration and communication flows in order to rethink borders, conflict and identity through the digital. The conference was well-attended and included keynote lectures by professors Marie Gillespie and Oscar Alvarez Gila in addition to several parallel sessions and social events.

For 2018, the section has no other plans than the general conference in Lugano, but we are already working on a second joint event for 2019 with the colleagues of Diaspora, Migration and the Media.

The IIC Section management team
February 2018