

## **ECREA - COMMUNICATION AND DEMOCRACY SECTION**

### **ANNUAL REPORT 2017**

The work of the section during 2017 focused on two main endeavors. The first was the organization of the off-conference event “Digital Democracy: Critical Perspectives in the Age of Big Data” held at Södertörn University, 10-11 November 2016. The main conference was preceded by a YECREA workshop exploring algorithms facilitated by Annette Markham and Jenny Sundén. The conference itself attracted approximately 100 delegates from all over Europe. The keynote speakers were Helen Kennedy (University of Sheffield), Joseph Turow (University of Pennsylvania) and Mikkel Flyverbom (Copenhagen Business School).

The second endeavor is the preparation of the ECREA conference to be held in Lugano in 2018. The section attracted the second largest number of submissions, in total 149. The section will continue working on the conference preparation throughout 2018.

In the Section Management Team remain Julie Uldam (Roskilde University) as Chair, and Maria Kyriakidou (Cardiff University) and Anne Kaun (Södertörn University) acting as Vice-Chairs.

Johan Farkas (Malmö University) has replaced Sebastian Kubitschko (University of Bremen) as the section’s YECREA representative.

The section currently has 321 members, a decrease of 25 members since last year, and is one of the largest sections of ECREA.