Executive Board Annual Report 2022

Name of the Section:
Visual Cultures Section

Management team:
Chair: Joanna Kedra, PhD, University of Jyväskylä, Finland

Vice-chair: Maria Schreiber, PhD, University of Salzburg, Austria

Vice-chair: Patricia Prieto-Blanco, PhD, Lancaster University, UK

YECREA Representative: Hadas Schlussel, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel

Number of members:
213 (as of 15 February 2023)

Social media:
Section's website: https://visualculturesecrea.wordpress.com

FB page: https://www.facebook.com/groups/1196258053754182

Activities in 2022:

On 6-7 October 2022, the section organized an online pre-conference workshop *Visual Politics and Protest* (in conjunction with the ECC 2022 conference). This pre-conference was organized by a group of ECR researchers with the support of Vice-Chair Maria Schreiber. Funding was obtained via Uni Salzburg and Hebrew University. The conference gathered a group of 40 people, and it featured four panels about current challenges in visual research: interpreting ambivalent datasets, computational methods, Research Ethics, and collective identities. The programme (https://visualculturesecrea.wordpress.com/ecrea-preconference-2022/) also included a keynote by Dr. Jin Zeng, a panel discussion, and discussion rounds with specific focus on epistemological challenges in research on visual politics and protest. A CfP for a special issue on "Methodological Developments in Visual Politics and Protest" was launched after the conference and it will be published in 2023 in the *Journal of Digital Social Research*.

At ECC 2022, during the Business Meeting, we organized the elections for the Management Team. All members present were unanimous in giving the mandate to Joanna Kedra, Maria Schreiber and Patricia Prieto-Blanco to continue their work as the section MT.

At ECC 2022 the section hosted two panels: *Visual Cultures of Representation*, and *Visual Cultures across Contexts and Media*. Both panels had a large audience of both 'old' and 'new' members of the section.

In November 2022, Joanna Kedra organized an online book launch of *Visual Pedagogies in Higher Education: Between Theory and Practice*, which gathered section members to discuss images in a context of university education.

Plans for 2023:

On 2 February 2023, we are planning the first informal online get-together in 2023 for our members. The idea is to show one image related to one's current research and to introduce what you are currently working on. We plan to organize online gatherings a few times per year to connect our members and to create space for networking.

A special issue on "Methodological Developments in Visual Politics and Protest" will be published in 2023 in the *Journal of Digital Social Research* (following section's online pre-conference in October 2022).

Section's members are organizing a panel *Methodological Developments & Challenges in Visual Politics & Protest* at the 73rd International Communication Association Conference (25-29 May 2023, Toronto).

Together with two other ECREA sections: Digital Culture and Communication & Gender, Sexuality and Communication we will organize (6-8 September 2023) an in-person conference, hosted by the Lusófona University, in Lisbon. The title of the conference is *Contested Visibilities: Everyday politics and online imaginaries of the body*. The main conference will be preceded by the YECREA online pre-conference, organized by YECREA Representatives of all three sections and supported by more senior researchers.