



Young Scholars Network (YECREA) Annual activity report for 2019

Management team:

Johan Farkas (chair), Corinna Lauerer (vice-chair), Norbert Sinkovic (vice-chair)

Date: 10th of January 2020

1. Organisation:

Membership: The network has currently (as of 20th of January 2020) 373 registered members. This is a decrease of 58 members (431 members in 2018) since the last report.

Representation: Corinna Lauerer became the elected Networks' representative on the ECREA Board in 2019 and participated in the board meeting in Prague. She will continue in this position in 2020 and has joined the ECREA subcommittee entitled 'Summer Schools', which works on expanding the pool of lecturers for the ECREA Summer School.

2. Activities:

Information dissemination

YECREA continues to provide information to its members on job opportunities, conferences, workshops, and relevant publications through the YECREA Facebook group and website. The Facebook group currently has 1060 members (increase of 58 members since last report). It successfully and effectively facilitates interactivity and communication among its members. The YECREA website serves as a hub of information about the network as well as a space for new calls for YECREA events (such as workshops), vacant positions as YECREA Representatives and the applicants for the young scholars fund, which YECREA administrates for the ECREA summer school and for the bi-annual ECC conference.

YECREA representatives within Sections and Temporary Working Groups:

In 2019 YECREA had representatives in 23 out of 24 sections, 3 out of 4 TWGs and 2 out of 2 networks.

In 2019, YECREA launched a new process for becoming a YECREA Representative, ensuring greater transparency, accountability and uniformity across sections, TWGs and networks. All vacant positions as YECREA representative are now going to be applicable through an open call, posted on the YECREA website. Once or twice a year, YECREA will issue a joint call for vacant positions YECREA Representatives in sections, TWGs and networks of ECREA, ideally three or more positions to ensure visibility to the call. After the deadline, the Management Team of YECREA evaluates applicants and nominate the best candidates, which are presented to the chairs of the sections/TWGs/networks in question, giving the chairs the final call on who to appoint. As part of the evaluation of applicants, motivation and affinity

to the section/TWG/ network will be emphasized as well as ensuring geographical diversity. The new process is described on the YECREA website:

<http://yecrea.eu/representatives/becoming-a-yecrea-representative/>

This new process was used twice in 2019 for a total of 11 vacant positions as YECREA Representatives. 10 out of 11 positions were filled and the process has been deemed a success.

YECREA Events

In autumn 2019, YECREA representatives organized five successful YECREA events dedicated to early-career scholars.

1. YECREA Seminars - Alternative scholarly communication for young scholars

Dates: 21-22 October 2019

Location: Helsinki, Finland

Organisers:

- Ally McCrow-Young, University of Copenhagen
(YECREA Representative in Communication and Democracy)
- Sofia Caldeira, Ghent University
(YECREA Representative in Culture and Communication)
- Giulia Manica, University of Nottingham
(YECREA Representative in Media Industries and Cultural Production)

Workshop topics:

- Strategies for building researchers networks – exploring research communities, the potential of digital platforms
- Broadening scholarly communication – engaging with social media

2. YECREA Early-Career Workshop - Diaspora, Media and Migration

Date: 29 October 2019.

Location: Brussels, Belgium

Organiser:

- Melis Mevsimler, University of Utrecht
(YECREA Representative in Diaspora, Migration and the Media)

Workshop aims:

- To help ten doctoral researchers who work on the intersections of diaspora, media and migration to find their own voice and make sure that it is heard.

3. YECREA Early-Career Workshop - International and Intercultural Communication

Date: 29 October 2019.

Location: Brussels, Belgium

Organisers:

- David Ongenaert and Elke Mahieu, Ghent University
(YECREA Representatives in International and Intercultural Communication)

Workshop aims:

- To give young scholars an opportunity to get feedback from an internationally acclaimed scholar and peers, and to get a set of tools which

will help to think thoroughly about their own unique contribution to the field.

4. YECREA PhD Workshop of the Mediatization Section Midterm Conference

Date: 31 October 2019

Location: Bonn, Germany

Organiser:

- Jakob Hörtnagl, University of Augsburg
(YECREA Representative in Mediatization)

Workshop aims:

- To aide young scholars with a shared interest in the field of mediatization research by providing a platform to discuss their work and connect with peers from diverse backgrounds and in different stages of their career.

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5. YECREA Early-Career Roundtable - Health Communication

Roundtable title: 'The responsible conduct of research: The ethical challenges and considerations in health communication studies'

Date: 13 November 2019.

Location: Zurich, Switzerland

Organiser:

- Sara Atanasova, University of Ljubljana
(YECREA Representative in Health Communication)

Workshop aims:

- To enable young scholars to exchange and share their ethical concerns, issues, questions, dilemmas, and ideas with other scholars at different stages of their career.

Other activities

YECREA continues to send out a newsletter YECREA members. In 2019 YECREA sent out 6 newsletter in total.

3. Funding

For the Summer School subsidy and the Young Scholar Grant YECREA is dependent on the ECREA Executive Board to provide funding. The YECREA management team is very grateful for the Board's continuous support of young scholar interests.

Summer School 2019

In collaboration with the organizers of the ECREA Summer School, YECREA once again organized and executed the awarding of the Summer School grant, supporting early-career researchers with limited funding to participate. The YECREA management team was excited to have achieved an increase from three grants in 2018 to no less than 10 grants. The management team thanks the ECREA board for this generous support, showing a dedication towards promoting early-career scholarship.

YECREA received overall 35 applications, an increase of 20 applications from 2018 (where YECREA received 15 applications), demonstrating the need for the Summer School subsidy.

4. Future plans:

YECREA's plans for 2020 is to continue to support young scholars and promote their interests within the organization and academia in general, play a key role in facilitating the network and communication of its members across the community of young scholars as well as within the whole organization with more senior colleagues.

We want to ensure that early-career scholars are aware of the option to join YECREA as a part of their institutional membership, and we want to represent the interests of young scholars who are individual members – especially in relation to membership and conference fees.

At the upcoming ECC Conference in Braga in October 2020, the YECREA management team is planning to organize the following events:

- YECREA pre-conference organized by YECREA representatives
- Meeting for all YECREA Representatives

For the YECREA Pre-conference in Braga, the management team will work towards securing external funding for the event, ensuring that the pre-conference workshops can become free for all early-career participants, including food and drinks.