

ECREA Section for Communication History

2015 Yearly Report to the ECREA Executive Board

1. Establishment – Organization

The Communication History Section was approved by ECREA executive board in October 2009. The current management team was reelected in November 2014 and gets assistance by the support committee which was introduced in 2014 in order to provide continuity when a new management team will start working in November 2016.

Section Management Team:

- Susanne Kinnebrock, Augsburg University, Department of Media, Knowledge and Communication – Germany (chair)
- Paschal Preston, Dublin City University, School of Communication – Ireland (vice chair)
- Nelson Ribeiro, Catholic University of Lisbon, Research Center for Communication and Culture – Portugal (vice chair)

Support Committee:

- Gabriele Balbi, Università della Svizzera italiana, Institute of Media and Journalism – Switzerland
- Merja Ellefson, Umeå University, Department of Culture and Media Studies – Sweden
- Manuel Menke, Augsburg University – Germany
- Stephanie Seul, University of Bremen, Institute for Historic Journalism, Communication and Media Studies – Germany

YECREA Representative:

Manuel Menke, Augsburg University, Department of Media, Knowledge and Communication – Germany

2. Activities

In the year 2015 the section ...

- **Decreased in terms of membership** throughout the year. The section has now 142 members (January 2016).
- **Organized a workshop on “Bridges and Boundaries: Theories, Concepts and Sources in Communication History”**. The workshop took place at Warwick University in Venice from September, 16, to September, 18, 2015 and was brilliantly organized by Juraj Kittler and Gabriele Balbi. 132 papers were submitted, 70 proposals accepted (53% acceptance rate). Due to a new format, there was time to discuss the 70 papers intensively. The workshop succeeded not only in deepening the exchange between communication and history scholars (as many scholars from the discipline of history attended), but also the exchange between the ECREA Communication History Section and the ICA Communication History Division. Guests of honors were Elihu and Ruth Katz.
- **Organized a Business Meeting** (September, 18, 2015 in Venice).
- **Brought forward the planned handbook on “European Communication History”**.

- **Tried to provide the Section's website with news** and information about the Section's activities, but had to face many problems getting access to the ECREA website. The section's website can be found at: <http://sections.ecrea.eu/CHIS/>.
- **Informed its members** and other interested scholars about the Section's activities and relevant calls or workshops via email.

YECREA section activities in 2015 included ...

- **Efforts to popularize the section and YECREA** among PhD students and to foster peer contact and counsel for young scholars in the section.
- **Founding of an ECREA social media presence on Facebook...**
 - (1) to connect with scholars but especially young scholars that are interested in the Section or are already in networks aligned with ECREA (e.g. YECREA Facebook group) or other history, media or communication associations on Facebook,
 - (2) to inform the community on Facebook about upcoming events, CfPs and new developments concerning the section,
 - (3) to establish an interactive communication channel with young scholars that can ask about the activities of the section or YECREA.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1513014872294695/>
- Supported the Venice **"Bridges and Boundaries: Theories, Concepts and Sources in Communication History"** workshop, especially by advertising it on social media to activate young scholars to submit.

3. Future plans

The section plans...

- **To complete work on the handbook on "European Communication History"**. One major long-term activity of the section is still the handbook project on the history of mass communication in Europe. The handbook which will be published in 2017 at Wiley-Blackwell. The Editors have advanced drafts of the 27 chapters to hand, most of which have been jointly authored by small teams, comprising two, three or more members of the Section.
- **To organize the review process** for submission on historical topics and to **compile the panels of the Communication History Section** for the **ECC in Prague** in November 2016.
- **To co-sponsor the preconference "Crossing Borders: Researching Transnational Media History"** at the ICA Conference in Fukuoka on June, 9, 2016 which is organized by the section's vice chair Nelson Ribeiro together with Dave Park. The preconference intends to bring together communication history scholars from ECREA and ICA.
- **To organize the Section's workshop in 2017**. The section was invited by Balasz Sipos to hold the workshop in 2017 in **Budapest**, Hungary, focusing on **"Representation of Minorities, Majorities and Media History"**.

The Section Management Team (January, 19, 2015)