**Communication Law and Policy Section**

**Report of Activities 2014**

The CLP section has had a successful and active 2014: special issues and books from section workshops are in preparation; the section program at the ECC in Lisbon has been strong and sessions were very well-attended; and with new best practices for section management and a new best student paper award the CLP section is both enhancing transparency and promoting young scholars in the research field.

**Events**

For the the **5th European Communication Conference in Lisbon** (November 12-15, 2014), the CLP section put together an interesting program and could raise the number of sessions to a total of eight. Paper and poster presentations covered a wide range of topical issues in communication policy. The quality of sessions – both individual presentations and panels – has been extraordinary. Section members and management were very pleased and impressed with the quality of work presented, the intensity of discussion and the number of participants in CLP sessions.

In line with the new section management best practices (see below), the section program was jointly put together by the section program chair and the other members of the management team in order to introduce some checks and balances. Moreover, submitters were sent their reviews (due to technical problems only authors of accepted abstracts received the reviews). Section management would like to take this opportunity to thank all submitters, reviewers and presenters for their important work.

In addition to its own program, the CLP section was invited by the LOC to organize a **special session** during the ECC. In the session “The Engaged Academic: How to have impact with your work through social media” Sally Broughton Micova (LSE) and Des Freedman (Goldsmiths, U of London) raised the issue of bringing communication scholarship to stakeholders and policy-makers.

**Publications**

Following the ECREA-CLP workshop in Salford in October 2013, Seamus Simpson edited a special issue of the “Journal of Information Policy” on **“Contemporary Issues in European Media Policy”**. The articles are available for free on the journal’s website ([http://jip.vmhost.psu.
edu/ojs/index.php/jip/issue/view/11](http://jip.vmhost.psu.edu/ojs/index.php/jip/issue/view/11)). We would like to take the opportunity and thank both Seamus Simpson for all his work and the journal editors for their support.

*Simpson, Seamus (Ed.) (2014). Contemporary Issues in European Media Policy [Special Issue]. Journal of Information Policy, 4.*

In addition, Seamus Simpson, Hilde Van den Bulck and Manuel Puppis are preparing an edited volume called **“European Media Policy for the Twenty-First Century”** that contains more papers coming out of the Salford Workshop in 2013. The book is expected to be published in the summer of 2015.

Finally, section members published a new book in the ECREA book series with intellect. The volume “**The Independence of the Media and its Regulatory Agencies**“, edited by Wolfgang Schulz, Peggy Valcke and Kristina Irion, contains results from the MEDIADEM and the INDIREG projects. Thanks to the editors, the section was able to give away 30 free copies during ECC Lisbon.

**Business Meeting**

A section business meeting was held during the ECC in Lisbon. The management team reported on activities during the last year, including its efforts to raise membership, the last workshop in Salford in November 2013, new publications and the preparation of ECC.

Following the section workshop in Salford last October, the ECREA-CLP section management team decided to put the decisions regarding transparency and accountability down in writing. With the **ECREA-CLP Section Management Best Practices** ([http://commlawpolicy.files.
wordpress.com/2012/10/ecrea-clp-section-management-best-practices.pdf](http://commlawpolicy.files.wordpress.com/2012/10/ecrea-clp-section-management-best-practices.pdf)) that were presented during the business meeting, the section management team pledges to adhere to some basic guidelines when it comes to e.g. preparing the CLP section stream for ECC conferences, the affordability of section workshops or the advancement of young scholars.

A highlight of the business meeting was the presentation of the first **CLP best student paper award**. As decided at the business meeting in Salford in 2013, every student who submits a full paper for ECC is eligible (the full rules are available online: [http://commlawpolicy.files.
wordpress.com/2014/02/ecrea-clp-best-student-paper-award.pdf](http://commlawpolicy.files.wordpress.com/2014/02/ecrea-clp-best-student-paper-award.pdf)). The award committee consisting of chairman Hallvard Moe (U of Bergen), Maria Löblich (U of Munich) and Peter Humphreys (U of Manchester) reviewed all the submitted papers and decided to give the award to Sarah Anne Ganter for her paper “What about Geographies? Border-Crossing Intertextuality in National Audiovisual Policy Documents”. Congratulations!

Following the award ceremony, Kari Karppinen (U of Helsinki) conducted the **election** of a new section management team. Online elections were organized by Carmina Crusafon (UA of Barcelona). During the meeting, Manuel Puppis (Chair), Hilde van den Bulck and Sarah Broughton-Micova (Vice Chairs) were reelected. Moreover, Sarah Ganter still acts as YECREA’s representative for the section.

Moreover, members approved the decision to hold the next **workshop** in fall 2015 at the University of Ljubljana. It will by organized by Marko Milosavljevic a team of local colleagues. As last time, a special YECREA session for young scholars is planned.

Up-to-date information about the section – including pictures from the last workshop – is always available at <http://commlawpolicy.wordpress.com/>

Manuel Puppis (Chair)

Hilde Van den Bulck (Vice Chair)

Sally Broughton Micova (Vice Chair)

Fribourg/Antwerp/London, November 2014