Communication Law and Policy Section
Report of Activities 2013

2013 has been a great year for the CLP section: not only did the section convene a successful and well-attended workshop in Salford but it also reinvigorated its relationship to European regulators and worked with YECREA to support young scholars in the research field.

Events

The most recent workshop of the CLP section took place in Salford/MediaCityUK on October 25 and 26, 2013. The topic of the workshop was **"Communication & Media Policy in Europe: Assessing the Past, Setting Agendas for the Future"**. The workshop aimed at drawing together policy lessons from the past and, in so doing, frame an agenda for the future. It was hosted and organized by Seamus Simpson of the University of Salford. With more than 50 participants this was the best attended CLP workshop yet – and a very stimulating one as well. The section management team would like to thank the local organizer for all his work. ECREA-CLP is committed to keeping its workshops affordable in order to be as inclusive as possible. We are very grateful to the local organizer for making possible a very low registration fee.

As part of the workshop, ECREA-CLP was organizing an exclusive **round table discussion with representatives of the European Platform of Regulatory Authorities** (EPRA). Jean-François Furnemont (Chairman of EPRA and director-general of the regulator CSA of the Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles), Maja Cappello (Senior Vice Chairperson of EPRA and Vice-Director of the Media Services Directorate of the Italian regulator AGCOM), Amit Schejter (Penn State College of Communication, USA and Penn State College of Communication, USA and Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel) and Seamus Simpson (University of Salford, UK) discussed the questions of what kind of research regulators are interested in, whether academia is failing in providing that research, and what can be done by scholars and regulators to facilitate exchange. Both sides are interested in keeping this conversation going.

Additionally, Sarah Ganter, the CLP representative to YECREA, organized a pre-workshop event for young scholars in the research field of communication law and policy: **"Challenges and Crossroads of Communication Law & Policy Research for Young Scholars"**. This mini-workshop aimed at discussing the question of how to pursue an academic career in this research field and gave young scholars the opportunity to gain some insight into the situation of professionals at different stages of their careers. Sandra Braman (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, USA), Sally Broughton Micova (London School of Economics Media Policy Project), Eva Knoll (Research analyst, Enders Analysis) and Amit Schejter (Penn State College of Communication, USA and Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel) participated to discuss these issues with young scholars.

The CLP section was also supporting the panel session "**Public Service Media in an Era of Media Convergence**" which took place during the Salford Media Festival 2013 on November 19 and 20, 2013. Speakers included Natalie Fenton (Goldsmiths College, London), Hilde Van Den Bulck (University of Antwerp), Manuel Puppis (University of Fribourg), Damian Tambini (London School of Economics and Political Science) and Daniel Wilson (BBC). The session was chaired by Steve Hewlett.

In all aspects, the workshop of the CLP section was very well received.

Publications

In fall 2013 the volume "Communication and Media Policy in the Era of the Internet" (edited by Maria Löblich and Senta Pfaff-Rüdgier) – and outcome of the 2012 ECREA-CLP workshop in Munich – was published by Nomos. The contributions approach communication and media policy in the era of the Internet from two perspectives: theories and processes. Special attention is given, on the one hand, to the question of how communication policy-making is transformed due to technical evolution which is intertwined with social and economic developments. On the other hand, this book considers how these transformations can be studied and what insights are produced by distinct theoretical approaches.

Löblich, Maria/Pfaff-Rüdiger, Senta (Eds.) (2013): Communication and Media Policy in the Era of the Internet. Theories and Processes (Schriften des Münchner Centrums für Governance-Forschung, Vol. 9). Baden-Baden: Nomos. ISBN: 978-3-8329-7842-6

Business Meeting

A section business meeting was held at the CLP workshop in Salford. The management team reported on activities during the last year, including its efforts to raise membership.

During the business meeting, members approved the proposal to introduce CLP section **top student paper awards** for forthcoming ECC conferences. Every student who submits a full paper in time for ECC will be eligible. Hallvard Moe (University of Bergen) will chair the awards committee. He will pick the other committee members and the committee will then draft rules for the procedure of choosing top papers.

The section management team also informed about its efforts to raise **transparency and accountability** in putting together the section program for ECC (see below).

Transparency and Accountability

The CLP section management team decided that submitters for ECC conferences will have access to their review results and that the section management team will decide upon the section program jointly in order to introduce checks and balances.

The CLP section management team also proposed to ECREA to implement this policy association-wide. The ECREA Bureau officially supports this proposal. It decided that for ECC 2014 it will be mandatory to send reviewer feedback to submitters and it recommends the sections that their management teams should be involved in decision-making on the program.

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, December 2013