

Communication Law and Policy Section Report of Activities 2015

2015 has been a steady year for the CLP section: not only did the section convene a workshop in Ljubljana that continued its good relationship to European media regulators but section members also prepared an edited volume to be published in early 2016.

Events

The most recent workshop of the CLP section took place in Ljubljana (Slovenia) on November 6 and 7, 2015. The topic of the workshop was “**Communication & Media Policy in Europe: Policy Challenges in the Austerity & Surveillance Environment**”. The workshop aimed at discussing how the economic crisis and austerity on one side and digital surveillance on the other affect communication policy and communication policy research. As always, presenters were chosen following an open call and a review process. The workshop was opened with an invited keynote speech by Slavko Splichal.

The event was hosted and organized by Marko Milosavljević of the University of Ljubljana’s Faculty of Social Sciences. Due to a few last minute cancellations, with approximately 25 participants the workshop was smaller than in previous years. Nevertheless, participants engaged in lively debates. 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 a **round table discussion with representatives of the European Platform of Regulatory Authorities (EPRA)**. Damir Hajduk (Vice-Chairman of EPRA and Deputy Chair of the Council for Electronic Media at the Croatian Agency for Electronic Media) and Tanja Kerševan Smokvina (Agency for Communication Networks and Services of the Republic of Slovenia) discussed the use of research by media regulators. Amit Schejter (Penn State College of Communication, USA and Penn State College of Communication, USA and Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel) chaired the session.

Additionally, Sarah Ganter (University of Oxford, UK), the CLP representative to YECREA, organized a pre-workshop event for young scholars in the research field of communication law and policy: “**Questions about how to ask Questions. Interviewing in Media Law and Policy Research**”. Christopher Ali (University of Virginia, USA) and Christian Herzog (Leuphana University Lüneburg, Germany) participated to discuss interview techniques with young scholars.

Manuel Puppis, the chair of the CLP section, was also invited to represent the section and give a talk at the 41st meeting of the **European Platform of Regulatory Authorities** in Bern, Switzerland, in May 2015. In his presentation “Communication Policy Research: Theoretically Practical but Practically Irrelevant?” he discussed the role of research in policy-making.

Publications

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 papers coming out of the Salford Workshop in 2013. The book will be published in March 2016 by Routledge.

Business Meeting

A section business meeting was held at the CLP workshop in Ljubljana. The management team reported on activities during the last year, including its efforts to raise membership. Currently, the section has 160 members.

During the business meeting, members were also informed that the top student paper award introduced two years ago will be continued in 2016. Every student who submits a full paper in time for ECC will be eligible.

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/Philadelphia/Norwich, December 2015