

ECREA

“Crisis Communication Section”

Annual Report 2016

Foundation: June 2011

Transformation into full ECREA section: summer 2015

Chair:

- Andreas Schwarz, Ilmenau University of Technology, Germany
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Vice Chairs:

- Audra Diers-Lawson, Leeds Beckett University, UK
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- Silvia Ravazzani, Aarhus University, Denmark
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Mission

The group aims at building a platform for European and international communication scholars to critically discuss different theoretical approaches and empirical findings on crisis communication and to collaborate across sub-disciplines.

The Crisis Communication Section advocates a broad understanding of crisis communication, which includes work in different sub-disciplines of communication such as journalism, public relations, corporate communication, organizational communication, audience research, media psychology, political communication, health communication, computer-mediated communication, and international/intercultural communication. The Section is a scholarly platform that helps recognize and develop common patterns of how crises are socially constructed by organizations and involved actors, how the media bring up and frame crises, and how different audiences perceive and make sense of crises.

For further details about the goals of the Section and its modus operandi see this website: <http://www.ecrea.eu/divisions/twg/id/24>

The Crisis Communication Section websites are:

<http://www.ecrea.eu/divisions/section/id/34>

<https://ecreacrisis.wordpress.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ECREACrisisComm/>

Membership

By November 2016: 150 members. Scholars come from more than 30 countries in Europe, Asia and the Americas.

ECREA's 6th European Communication Conference 'Mediated (Dis)Continuities: Contesting Pasts, Presents and Futures', November 9-12, 2016, Prague, Czech Republic

In 2016, the Crisis Communication Section arranged 7 panels with 35 presentations during the 6th European Communication Conference organized by The European Communication Research and Education Association (ECREA) in partnership with Charles University of Prague.

The Section panels included: Assessing Social Media Use; The European Migrant Crisis and Humanitarian Communication; Public Health Crisis and Crisis Communication; Crisis Response Strategies, Empathy, and Reputation; Global, International, and National Perspectives on Crisis Communication; Social Media and Traditional Media in Crisis Communication; Risk Communication, Crisis Prevention, and Disaster.

Business Meeting at the ECREA conference in Prague 2016

The first Business Meeting of the newly established Crisis Communication Section at ECREA took place on November, 11th, 2016, in Prague, Czech Republic, during the 6th European Communication Conference.

The Agenda included the following:

1. Welcome note & Section status report
2. Past and present business:
 - a. Conference report on Crisis4 «Intersections» in Helsingborg, Sweden, 2015
 - b. Section's panels and submissions to ECREA's 6th European Communication Conference, Prague, Czech Republic, 2016
 - c. Transformation of the TWG into Crisis Communication Section & Findings of the Member Survey 2015
3. Future business:
 - a. Next conference: Crisis5, 2017
 - b. Next conference: Crisis6, 2019 (vote)
4. Election of the new management team
5. Open slot, Q&A

1. Welcome note & Section status report

During the welcome note, the Section chair Andreas Schwarz addressed the status quo of Section. This included the following aspects:

- The Crisis Communication Section today: established in June 2011 as a Temporary Working Group, by November 11th 2016 the Section counts 150 members from 30 countries in Europe, Asia and the Americas.

- How to join the Section:
 - Being an ECREA member is prerequisite
 - Register through the ECREA website: www.ecrea.eu/divisions/twg/id/24

2. Past and present business

The Section chair reported on:

- a. The Crisis4 «Intersections» conference in Helsingborg, Sweden, October 7-10, 2015: the Section was partner and supporter of the conference chaired by Jesper Falkheimer, Timothy Coombs, and Mats Heide. 12 parallel panel sessions were organized with approx. 47 papers presented.
- b. The panels and submissions to ECREA's 6th European Communication Conference, Prague, Czech Republic, 2016: The first appearance of the Section counted 35 presentations organized in 7 panels. Out of 62 submissions (1 panel submission), 32 were accepted (52% acceptance rate).
- c. The transformation of the Temporary Working Group into Crisis Communication Section, and findings of the Member Survey 2015: the majority of survey participants (47 of which 35 TWG members) supported the transformation into a Section; indicated as important trends/topics in future crisis communication, among others, research methods, international and/or cross-cultural aspects, social media, and audience-oriented research; and pointed out as factors that would increase their commitment and contribution to the Section, among others, more opportunities to get accepted/present their abstracts or papers, and publications opportunities in special issues of peer-reviewed journals and in the ECREA ebook series.

3. Future business

In this slot of the business meeting, the Section chair informed about the Crisis5 «Risk and Crisis Communication in the Digital Age» conference 2017 that will be held at the Research Centre for Communication and Cultura at the Universidade Católica Portuguesa in Lisbon, Portugal, October 19-21. The keynote speaker will be Timothy Coombs, and the Organizing Committee includes Carla Ganito, Nelson Ribeiro, and Maria Inês Romba. The top paper at the conference, as selected by the organizing committee, will be given a fast track review at *Corporate Communication: An International Journal*. In addition, a PhD workshop will be offered at the Crisis5 conference which is coordinated by the section's new YECREA representative Florian Meißner (Dortmund University of Technology, Germany). Website and CfP: <http://crisis5-ecrea.com/>.

In addition, a proposal for hosting Crisis6 was presented and accepted by majority vote of section members: Crisis6 will be hosted by the Department of Public Relations and Journalism in the Faculty of Business at Leeds Beckett University in Leeds, UK. The conference will take place from October 3-5, 2019, and the conference chair will be Audra Diers-Lawson. The conference theme will be based on the membership's primary areas of interest in 2017-2018.

4. Election of the new management team

First, the management team from 2014-2016 was presented: Chair - Andreas Schwarz (Technische Universität Ilmenau, Institute of Media and Communication Research, Ilmenau, Germany); Vice Chair - Winni Johansen (Aarhus University, Denmark); Vice Chair - Alessandra Mazzei (IULM University of Milan, Italy).

Second, elections were held for the new management team: Andreas Schwarz (Ilmenau University, GE) was re-elected as Chair of the section; Audra Diers-Lawson (Leeds Beckett University, UK) and Silvia Ravazzani (Aarhus University, Denmark) were elected as new vice chairs.

For more detail, please consult the minutes of the “Business Meeting at ECREA 2016”.

New representative of the ECREA Young Scholars Network (YECREA)

The Crisis Communication Section acquired in 2016 a new representative of the ECREA Young Scholars Network (YECREA): Florian Meißner (Dortmund University of Technology, Germany), a doctoral student conducting research on journalistic disaster reporting. His role is to devise and develop ideas and activities for engaging young scholars in the Section and at conferences.