

DIASPORA, MIGRATION AND MEDIA SECTION OF ECREA – REPORT 2009

The Diaspora, Migration and Media (DMM) section, with its new management group elected at the ECREA Barcelona conference in 2008, has consolidated the work by the previous chair, Myria Georgiou, and developed further the theoretical scope of the section, increasing its network activities in 2009. The chairs of the section have concentrated their efforts in attracting a wider audience of scholars, in particular younger ones, from different areas of the globe, and expanded the range of topics and perspectives included in the section's conference programme for 2009.

In 2009, the section concentrated on activities that focussed on networking and on the preparation of the Utrecht conference.

The main elements of the annual activities of the section during 2009 were:

- **Section conference 2009:**

Title: "Diasporas, Migration and Media: Crossing Boundaries, New Directions".

Target participants: Members of the Diaspora, Migration and the Media Section (but open to all)

Venue: Utrecht University, Netherlands

Date: Nov 06 - Nov 07, 2009

The section strengthened its position as an important space for academics and professionals to present their research and experience in the field. This was achieved through the significant increase in number and quality of paper proposals submitted, and panels proposed for our conference. The selection process was challenging, and only the very best papers were selected. We believe that our section is now well known by professionals throughout Europe and beyond.

The conference attracted 76 participants of whom 22 were PhD students. The great majority were female (55) and male (21). The guest speakers included

academics and NGO professionals confirming our commitment to the development of the theory-practice ethos of our section.

The conference was funded by registration fees, sponsorship from Nottingham Trent University, and Intellect books. In addition a very significant amount was provided by Utrecht University. The feedback on the conference was extremely positive, particularly in relation to the innovative themes presented; diversity of people and countries represented; and the friendly and convivial atmosphere. During the conference, discussions took place to map research interests and possibilities of future research projects as well as possibilities for Erasmus agreements.

Table of countries/continents participants IN 2009 DDM conference

Countries/Continents represented in DMM section (arbitrarily defined)	Numbers of participants
Africa	3
Australia	1
Austria, Germany, Switzerland	9
Belgium	7
China	2
Eastern Europe	11
Italy/Spain/Portugal/Greece	10
Netherlands	12
Scandinavian countries	8
South America	3
Turkey/Middle East:	4
United Kingdom	6
TOTAL	75

The chair of the section would like to express here her gratitude to the local organizers of the conference at Utrecht University, especially Prof. Sonja de Leeuw, for their hard and thoughtful work that made the conference a very successful event. Thanks are also due to our YECREA representative,

Christine Horz for her support. Special thanks go to our members for their valuable support to our section.

- **Networking activities:**

- Chris Gillian and the section chair are coordinating a mailing list where DMM members and friends of the section participate in the exchange of information and ideas about furthering research collaborations.

- **Future plans:**

- Advance the expansion of our transnational network with academics, practitioners, and non-governmental organizations.
- Organize the workshop of our group for 2010.

Olga Guedes Bailey – Chair Diaspora, Migration and Media
(on behalf of co-chairs)

January 2010