

Gender and Communication Section Report 2008

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1. Section History/Organization

The Gender and Communication Section has been approved by ECREA's executive board in December 2006. The section has one chair and two vice-chairs:

- Claudia Alvares; Lusofona University - Department of Communication, Arts and Information Technologies - Portugal
- Sofie Van Bauwel; Ghent University - Department of Communication Studies - Belgium
- Tonny Krijnen; Erasmus University Rotterdam - Faculty of History and Arts - The Netherlands

The chairs have regular communication exchange. The section now has 78 members and 23 countries are represented within the section.

2. Activities.

Within its 2 years of existence, the section has:

- a. SET UP THE WOMEN'S NETWORK and participated in a workshop Women, Media and Communication, held at Autonomous University in Barcelona, February 2008.
- b. Successfully co-edited the BOOK 'MEDIA AGORA'S - DEMOCRACY, DIVERSITY AND THE MEDIA' together with the Communication and Democracy Section of ECREA. The book will come out in January 2009.
- c. A 2ND OFFICIAL BUSINESS MEETING of the Section was organized during the International Communication Association Conference in Montreal, May 2008.
- d. The section PARTICIPATED IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNICATION CONFERENCE (ECC) held in Barcelona, 26-28 November 2008 with 8 panels reflecting the diversity in Gender and Communication Section.
- e. The ELECTIONS FOR THE GENDER AND COMMUNICATION SECTION TEAM were organized during the 2ND ECC conference. 11 members were present to vote. In total 12 yes-votes for the continuation of the section team were received (11 on paper, 1 digital). The team will continue for another term of 2 years with the same setting as mentioned above.
- f. On the initiative of the section two well-known feminist scholars, Liesbet van Zoonen and Joke Hermes, have been appointed MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY BOARD OF ECREA.

3. Future Plans.

- a. Organizing a JOINT PANEL WITH THE POPULAR CULTURE WORKING GROUP (IAMCR) at the IAMCR in Mexico, 2009.
- b. Organizing A SYMPOSIUM IN 2009, preferably in co-operation with at least one other section in ECREA and possibly the Young Scholars Network. The Erasmus Research Centre for Media, Communication, and Culture has shown interest in hosting the symposium.
- c. COST-PROPOSAL: The COST-proposal aims to raise funds for networking with an emphasis on connecting groups with specific expertise. Thus, the rationale behind

COST is that there is an internal group with specific expertise that needs funds for networking. The Gender and Communication Section has submitted a joint COST-proposal with the 'Diaspora, Migration and the Media Section'. The submission was not successful. However, the section now aims to draw a new COST-proposal from the section it self.

d. The section is preparing another BOOK PROPOSAL. The preliminary title of the book is: "Contemporary Reflections on Gender and Communication".

e. The section will try to involve sections members in the organization of events and activities, in order to create a BODY OF ACTIVE MEMBERS.