

## Interpersonal Communication and Social Interaction

This year welcomed a new management team. Assistant Professor Alexander Schouten from Tilburg University, the Netherlands, is the new chair. Professor Anu Sivunen, from University of Jyväskylä and Senior Lecturer Karyn Stapleton from Ulster University, Northern Ireland, were selected as vice-chairs.

This year, we continued our ongoing activities to enhance communication and collaboration in our section:

- Continuing active discussion in the Facebook group called *Friends of the ECREA section Interpersonal Communication and Social Interaction (ICSI)* that was created in 2016. "Friends" means both members of the section and of ECREA (European Communication Research and Education Association) and others working in the field. The group is an attempt to reach out for potential members and to share conferences, seminars and other events that might be relevant and make new colleagues interested in sharing our and their work.
- Updating the Twitter feed for the section called @ECEA-ICSI. Through this profile we have actively posted information about call for papers and ECREA 2018 conference in Lugano, as well as tweeted about the papers presented in our section's sessions at the ECREA 2018 conference.
- Posting information relevant to section members in ICSI's own discussion forum at the [ecrea.eu](http://ecrea.eu) intranet.

On October 14-16, the 6th bi-annual ECREA-ICSI 2019 conference took place at the department of Communication & Cognition, Tilburg University, the Netherlands. At our conference, we welcomed 45 participants from over 10 different countries. The main conference was spread over two days, in which we were treated to 35 interesting presentations and 2 wonderful keynotes. On Wednesday, we held a Young Scholar Workshop in which 11 PhDs discussed their current PhD projects under supervision of senior staff.

Example sessions included strategic and relational communication, interpersonal health communication and mediated interpersonal interaction, workplace communication, parasocial interaction with influencers and avatars, boundary management and work-life balance, and non-verbal communication,

We also had two excellent keynote speakers at the conference. First, the conference started with a keynote by Marjolijn Antheunis, professor of Communication & Technology, Tilburg University, on personal communication with social chatbots. In her keynote, she explained her current research on self-disclosure and relationship formation with chatbots, including a longitudinal study in chatbots use and the use of chatbots as a confession device.

The second keynote was by Jeffrey Treem, associate professor of Communication Studies, Organizational Communication & Technology Group, University of Texas at Austin. In his keynote, Jeff put forward a novel and interesting view on communication visibility as a key construct in understanding modern communication and provided a theoretical vision and research agenda on the role visibility plays in organizational, professional, and institutional settings.

The day after the conference, we continued with the young scholar workshop. 11 PhDs participated in the workshop led by Anu Sivunen, Jeff Treem, and Alexander Schouten. In the workshop, we have feedback on the proposals the students send in and helped them on their way with our research.

In sum, the conference showed the diversity of the interpersonal communication field but also showed the similarities in theories and approach we all have in our research. Moreover, the conference was a great mix between different methodological approaches, both quantitative and qualitative. If you are interested in the conference, the full conference program is available [here](#).