

Annual Report 2019

ECREA International & Intercultural Communication Section

The ECREA International and Intercultural Section (IIC) has been active since early 2006.

1. Membership

By the end of 2019, the IIC section had 304 members, compared to 310 members in 2018.

2. Management and scope of the IIC Section

Since November 2018, the management team consists of **Romy Wöhlert** (section chair; University of Leipzig/DIW German Institute for Economic Research, Germany - rwoehlert@googlemail.com) and the supporting vice chairs **Mélodine Sommier** (Erasmus University Rotterdam, The Netherlands - sommier@eshcc.eur.nl) and **Ricardo Carniel Bugs** (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain - Ricardo.Carniel@uab.cat). The section's representatives for YECREA are **Elke Mahieu** (Ghent University, Belgium - Elke.Mahieu@UGent.be) and **David Ongenaert** (Ghent University, Belgium - David.Ongenaert@UGent.be).

In terms of our mission statement and the section's scope, we aim to support research that explores different forms of cross-border dialogue, exchange and flows between and/or within nations, regions, cultures, communities, and individuals. We explicitly define our section's field of interest very broadly by referring to all types of cross-border, transnational or global communication, as we focus on mediated and (inter)personal forms of communication and do so from the perspective of production, distribution, content and reception. The section also endorses academic work on the social, economic, political, and cultural characteristics and consequences of globalization, power imbalances, and international and intercultural communication processes, as well as research reflecting upon the design and methodology of international and intercultural analyses.

In addition to our ECREA supported website, the management team hosts a Facebook and Twitter account to engage with our members as well as with other stakeholders and peers outside of the organization, and to announce information on upcoming events (e.g. conferences) for our IIC audience.

3. Organization of events

In 2019, the IIC section coordinated and hosted a joint conference together with the ECREA Diaspora, Migration and the Media Section, the Young Scholars Network of ECREA (YECREA), and the 'Intercultural Communication and Diversity' section of the Netherlands-Flemish Communication Association (NeFCA). The two-day conference with the topic 'Digital Fortress Europe: Exploring Boundaries between Media, Migration and Technology' took place on 30-31 October 2019 and was hosted at the Palace of the Academie in Brussels, Belgium. It provided a successful forum to reflect on the relations between media, migration, and technology.

Prior to the conference, the YECREA section of International and Intercultural Communication (IIC) and the Young Scholars Network (YSN) of

NeFCA welcomed Dr Kate Wright to host a workshop for doctoral researchers working in the fields of international journalism, humanitarian communication and news production processes in and about the African continent. The workshop took place on 29 October 2019 at the Free University of Brussels (Vrije Universiteit Brussel, VUB) in Brussels, Belgium. It offered young scholars the opportunity to find their own voice and mark their urgent contributions to the fields of International and Intercultural Communication, to situate themselves in relation to existing literature and research, to explore new ways of thinking about our respective research topics, and to get feedback from an internationally acclaimed scholar and peers.

Currently, the IIC section supports the organization of an international conference on ‘Critical Approaches to Cultural Identities in the Public Sphere: From Ivory Tower to Social Arena’, which will be held on 14-15 May 2020 in Dijon, France. The conference is organised by the ‘Text, Image, Language’ research unit of the University of Burgundy, France, and the management team of the IIC Section supports the review process of this conference as part of the scientific committee. Aim of the conference is to address and bridge the gap between critical approaches to cultural identities common in academia and essentialising discourses increasingly widespread in the public sphere. It addresses researchers from intercultural communication, cultural and postcolonial studies, media studies and other disciplines, who are keen to challenge and deconstruct reductionist discursive stances on culture and identity. Conference languages will be English and French with mediation provided between the two languages.

The IIC Section management team
January 2020