**Annual Report 2014**

**ECREA International & Intercultural Communication Section**

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

***1. Membership***

In 2014, the section has slightly grown in membership. Currently, 248 members have subscribed (source: member search on www.ecrea.eu on 17 November 2014).

***2. Management and scope of the IIC Section***

The management team consists of Teresa Velázquez (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain - chair) who is supported by two vice chairs; Daniele Canedo (Universidade Federal do Recôncavo da Bahia, Brazil) and Stijn Joye (Ghent University, Belgium). Not competing against new candidates, the previous management team has been elected during the section’s Business Meeting at the 2014 Lisbon conference for another term of two years. The Business Meeting was however poorly attended with only seven people of which four members. All four members voted in favor of re-electing the current management team. During the Lisbon conference, we have also been in contact with some of our young scholar members and the board of YECREA in order to find a section’s representative for YECREA in the next months.

In terms of our mission statement and the section’s scope, we aim to support research that observes different forms of cross-border dialogue, exchange and flows between and/or within nations, regions, cultures, communities and individuals. We define our section's field of interest very broadly by referring to all types of cross-border or global communication as we focus on mediated and (inter)personal forms of communication 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 and international and intercultural communication processes.

In addition to our ECREA supported website, the management team hosts - since 2013 - a blog to keep in touch with our members as well as with other stakeholders and peers outside of the organization. The URL is <http://internationalandintercultural.wordpress.com/> We also have a Facebook and Twitter account as a way of actively engaging with our members.

***3. Organization of events***

In 2014, most efforts were focused on the organization and preparation of the *5th European Communication Conference* in Lisbon. The section program chair was Daniele Canedo. We have assembled a reviewers group of fifteen scholars (see Table 1 for an overview) who have volunteered in reviewing abstract submissions and to whom we would like to express our sincere gratitude in taking on this task. All reviewers work in the field of international and intercultural communication and were all members of the section. The review process itself suffered from some technical issues concerning the conference system. The International and Intercultural Communication section received 44 abstracts (two panel proposals and 42 individual paper proposals). The proposals were reviewed following a double-blind peer review policy. Each abstract was reviewed by at least three reviewers from different nationalities.



**Table 1 - Overview of reviewers for ECREA 2014 conference**

The ECC 2014 Organizing Committee allocated a total of six slots (maximum five participants each) to our section for presentations, not including the poster session. The review process resulted in the selection of two panels and twenty individual papers for oral presentation. Ten other submissions were accepted for poster presentations. Of the oral presentation proposals listed on the provisional conference programme, one participant requested to withdraw his participation. All the other paper presenters confirmed their attendance of ECC 2014. Unfortunately, only four presenters of the ten selected poster proposals confirmed to attend the poster session.

The final programme of our section:

**Thursday 13 November**

* 11h15: Parallel Session 1-9

Building identities and ideas: intercultural media flows

* 14h30: Parallel Session 2-9

The power of the medium? International media and audiences

* 17h30: Parallel Session 3-9

Global communities, cosmopolitanism and development communication

**Friday 14 November**

* 13h30: Business Meeting
* 18h30: Parallel Session 7-9

Policies for diversity in film and audiovisual sector

**Saturday** **14 November**

* 08h30: Parallel Session 8-9

International news and practices of representation

10h30: Parallel Session 9-9

Empowerment, resistance and participation in, by and through media

***4. Future plans***

Being relatively successful in attracting more members, we are looking to benefit more from our potentially large membership by **activating** our members. Accordingly, it is our ambition to invite them to participate more and contact us with their ideas for future conferences or other initiatives, which we can support as a management team.

Secondly, **cooperation** with other ECREA sections continues to be a strategic priority for the upcoming year. For our activities in 2015, we have been in contact with the Film Studies section and the Journalism section. Regarding the former, the IIC section will cooperate in organizing a conference in October or November 2015 in Cork (Ireland), currently entitled ‘Transnational Film, Intercultural Meetings: Aesthetics, Culture, Industry, History’. Furthermore, we have submitted an IIC section sponsored proposal for an interactive workshop session at the ‘Re-Inventing Journalism’-conference (5-6 February, 2015, Winterthur, Switzerland), which is convened by the Journalism Studies Sections of ECREA and DGPUK, and co-sponsored by the Journalism Studies Sections of ICA, IAMCR and SGKM. The proposal is entitled ‘50 years of Galtung and Ruge: did something change?’ with the following contributors: Ansgard Heinrich (University of Groningen, The Netherlands), Stijn Joye (Ghent University, Belgium) and Romy Wöhlert (University of Klagenfurt/Austrian Academy of Sciences, Austria).

Thirdly, preparations are ongoing with regard to the **section’s own conference in November 2015** at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (Spain). For the main part of the conference, we aim to build on the experience of our successful 2013 conference in cooperation with the ‘Master on Inter-Mediterranean Mediation (MIM)’ and ‘Postgraduate Diploma on Communication, International Cooperation and Sociocultural Mediation in the Mediterranean’ of the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. The international conference ‘*Communication, Development and Human Rights: social change and media flows*’ was also organized with the support of the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, LAPREC and OMEC.

Fourthly, we aim to **publish** an edited collection of papers and essays (which were presented at our different conferences) as part of a special issue of the journal ‘*Anàlisi. Quaderns de Communicació i Cultura*’.

**The IIC Section management team**

Chair: Teresa Velázquez (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain)

Vice Chair: Daniele Canedo (Universidade Federal do Recôncavo da Bahia, Brazil)

Vice Chair: Stijn Joye (Ghent University, Belgium)

November 2014