

# Annual Report 2007

## ECREA International & Intercultural Communication Section

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

The Section has so far attracted 65 ECREA members who mainly joined the Section during the last year.

### Conference/Workshop

The Section organized a Symposium entitled "**The Myth of the Global Internet**" at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel in October 2007.

The Symposium has been designed principally as an occasion of exchange and debate amongst scholars whose research interests converge over the Internet and its future development.

The Symposium aimed to critically reflect on the Internet as a global medium. It has brought together scholars who presented their critical reflection on the idea of the 'Global Internet' from different perspectives.

The keynote speaker was Prof. Dr. Andrew Calabrese. The papers and presentations were grouped into four main topics: *Invisible Controls*, *Unequal Infrastructures – Global Digital Divide*, *Regulating the Internet and Multiple Cultures – Multiple Uses*.

A mix of faculty students, PhD students, researchers and academics attended the symposium.

The programme of the symposium is provided as an attachment. It is possible to download the papers and presentations at the following address:

<http://events.ibbt.be/workshopecrea/>

## **Future Events/Development Plans**

The Section intends to organize a workshop during spring 2008. The focus of the workshop will be 'video content over the Internet'.

The Section aims at:

- enlarging the constituency base by attracting other members to ECREA and by trying to co-operate closely with other ECREA sections;
- involving members who joined the Section into collaborative projects and academic collaboration.

# Attachement: Programme Symposium Myth of Global internet

## Introduction & Keynote

09:30-09:45 Welcome of Participants/public

09:45-10:00 *Introductory Notes* - Leo Van Audenhove

10:00-10:30 Keynote Speaker - *The Myth of the Global Internet* - Andrew Calabrese

## Section 1: Invisible Controls

10:30-11:00 *Controlling space, time, speed and quality on the Internet. An analysis of mechanisms and instruments* - Leo Van Audenhove, Luciano Morganti, John Vanhoucke, IBBT-SMIT-Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Belgium)

11:00-11:30 *How global is the Internet. An analysis of players and production* - Luciano Morganti, IBBT-SMIT-Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Belgium)

11:30-12:00 *Government Control: The Internet in authoritarian states* - Jan Schwate, Technical University of Ilmenau (Germany)

## Section 2: Unequal Infrastructures - Global Digital Divide

12:00-12:30 *Internet in the developing world. The revolution did not take place* - Pascal Mbala, IBBT-SMIT-Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Belgium)

**Lunch break: 13:00-14:30**

## Section 3: Regulating the Internet

14:30-15:00 *Internet governance, between global infrastructure and multistakeholderism* - Amar Lakel ("CEMIC-GRECO"), Françoise Massit-Folléa, Vox Internet Research Program (France)

## **Multiple Cultures - Multiple Uses**

15:00-15:30 *Speaking of meta. Questioning the Internet as Homogeneous news medium* - Michaël Opgenhaffen, Lessius University College (Belgium)

15:30-16:00 *Cyber exclusion as global social exclusion. South-East European experience* - Zoran Kostov, University "Sts. Cyril and Methodius" (Macedonia)

16:00-16:30 *Interactivity and online newspapers of Bangladesh* - Shameen Mahmud, University of Dhaka (Bangladesh)

16:30-17:00 *Cultural differences reflected on the Internet. A comparison between Belgian and Dutch e-commerce websites* - Malaika Brengman, Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Belgium)

## **Closing remarks**

17:00-17:30 *Concluding Remarks* - Andrew Calabrese