

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

ECREA'S SCIENCE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMUNICATION SECTION

Activities

The main member activity in the Science and Environment Communication Section organized and carried out in 2015 - apart from the preparation for the upcoming 6th European Communication Conference 'Mediated (Dis)Continuities: Contesting Pasts, Presents and Future' that will be held in Prague, 9-12 November 2016 – was a roundtable webinar, 'Communication and COP21 – continuity or change?'. This event was technically arranged and coordinated by Umeå University in Sweden and held the 17 December 2015.

The purpose of the webinar was to give communication scholars an opportunity to present on-going research relating to climate change communication, and COP21 in particular, shortly after the Paris-meeting. The aim with the webinar was also to support networks among researchers and to establish contacts between SEC-members from different countries and contexts at a time when data were being collected, and preliminary analyses of the COP21-meeting, and related activities were being taken.

Another rationale for choosing this particular theme and the timing of the webinar was because much of previous climate change communication research has been focusing on the summits and has been nationally framed. The SEC management team therefore saw opportunities and a need for further collaboration among researchers from different countries and contexts, while promoting the value of comparative work, not only between countries, but also between different UN-conferences, like the events at COP15 in Copenhagen in 2009.

One major question that was discussed during the meeting was whether this latest Paris-summit was contributing to change, or whether it was more a story of continuation from before, regarding the politics and communication about climate change? Researchers were invited to submit proposals to present their work during the webinar and about 45 people took part in the webinar and listened to and discussed the seven papers that were presented during the meeting.

Meeting and networking without physical traveling is a good way to mitigate greenhouse gases, and was therefore an interesting alternative to explore further for the SEC section's members. On the whole the experience of the webinar was positive, according to feedback from both presenters and other participants.

Dissemination of information to members and other interested publics via the SEC's own website and mailing list is another important commitment that the Section continued to undertake in 2015. The current total numbers of members are 102 people.

Annika Egan Sjölander, chair
On behalf of the SECs' Executive Team
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