

ECREA TWG ”Communication and the European Public Sphere”

Yearly Report

2015

1. Conferences and workshops

1.1. International conference – ECREA TWG Special Panel

In 2015, the TWG hosted a special panel at the international conference **on Qualitative Research in Communication** (Bucharest, Sept. 2016), organised by the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration, Bucharest, Romania, in partnership with ACT project, Concordia University, Canada, and University of Colorado Boulder, USA.

The ECREA TWG Special Panel was chaired by prof. Wieger Bakker - director of the undergraduate school of the Utrecht University School of Governance, and co-chaired by dr. Alina Bargaoanu – professor at the National University for Political Studies and Public Administration, Jean Monnet Chair and Chair of the ECREA TWG.

The panel comprised presentations on qualitative research on Communication and the European Public Sphere. The call has been disseminated together with the call for the international conference, to a wide international network of researchers. Presentation topics focused on EU-related opinions and attitudes, European identity, and communication discontinuities in the current EU - as generated by the newest crises, such as the Ukrainian conflict, the Brexit, or the ”refugees crisis”.

All the details related to the conference and to the ECREA TWG Special panel are to be found here: http://centrucomunicare.ro/qrc_2015/ecrea.html.

1.2. Workshop “Populism and extremism, in the context of the refugees crisis”

In November 2015, ECREA TWG in partnership with the Doctoral School in Communication at the National University for Political Studies and Public Administration, organised a special 1 day workshop dedicated to the “refugees crisis”. Workshop participants were PhD Students whose research focuses on EU communication and the European Public Sphere. The workshop was chaired by prof. Alina Bargaoanu, ECREA TWG Chair.

1.3. In april 2015, Prof. Niznik (vice-chair of the ECREA TWG) organised the conference on **The interdisciplinary nature of contemporary research in social sciences** (Polish Academy of Sciences - IFiS PAN Warsaw, Staszic Palace, room 200, 10.00 A.M.). The conference consisted in a panel discussion with 6 participants and a moderator (Prof. Józef Niżnik).

- Guest speakers:
 - Prof. Anna Giza
 - Prof. Joanna Kurczewska
 - Prof. Szymon Wróbel
 - Prof. Kazimierz M. Słomczynski and Dr. Irina Tomescu-Dubrow gave a key lecture on ”Interdisciplinary Research and Training in the Social Sciences: Scientrometric Analyses and Beyond”.

1.4. Seminar on **Current Developments within the European Union**, organised in partnership with the Romanian Institute for European Studies. Guest speaker: dr. Simon Hix - Prof.Dr., London School of Economics and Political Science. Other keynote speakers:

- Alina Bârgăoanu, professor at the National University for Political Studies and Public Administration, Jean Monnet Chair and Chair of the ECREA TWG., Head of the Institute for European Studies’s Board of Administration;

- Gabriela Drăgan, Prof. Dr. – general director of the Institute for European Studies.

Details can be accessed at this link: <http://www.ier.ro/evenimente/dezbatere-current-developments-within-european-union-evoluțiile-recente-din-cadrul-uniu-0>

2. Publications

Dr. Alina Bârgăoanu co-edited the book **”United by or against Euroscepticism. An Assessment of Public Attitudes Towards Europe in the Context of the Crisis”**, which was published by Cambridge Scholars Publishing. This book contains contributions drafted by closed collaborators of the ECREA TWG, including vice-chair prof. Jozef Niznik. It is aimed at exploring the potential impact of Europe’s crisis of leadership and vision in a turmoil context shaped by confusion and lack of strategic determination.

Details about the book and table of contents can be found here: <http://www.cambridgescholars.com/united-by-or-against-euroscepticism-an-assessment-of-public-attitudes-towards-europe-in-the-context-of-the-crisis>

3. Details about the members

In February 2016, the TWG Communication and the European Public Sphere had 77 members.