

Management of the TWG

2018 was the eighth year of the activity of the Temporary Working Group Media and the City, and the last of its second mandate. In October 2018, the TWG held its regular elections and renewed its management team, that is now composed of Tanya Lokot (Dublin City University) as chair, and of Seija Ridell (Tampere University) and Simone Tosoni (Università Cattolica di Milano) as vice-chairs.

Since 2016, the management team is backed up by an *advisory group*, whose role focuses on increasing the diversity and scope of expertise of the working group activities. The advisory group currently includes Zlatan Krajina (University of Zagreb), Matteo Tarantino (Confucius Institute University of Geneva), Giorgia Aiello (University of Leeds), Shaun Moores (University of Sunderland), Scott Rodgers (Birkbeck, University of London), and the former TWG YECREA representative Fabien Cante (London School of Economics).

In December 2018, the management team and the board submitted to ECREA an official application to have its status transformed into permanent section, in order to proceed with its efforts to advance research and knowledge exchange on urban media and communication studies.

As of January 2019, the temporary working group has 117 members, involving an active network of researchers across the field of media studies, urban studies and other disciplines.

The TWG activities in 2018 were pursued in the following areas: *events, teaching, publishing, research collaboration and dissemination*.

Events

October 31-November 3, 2018: TWG organised two panels of four presentations each at the ECREA 2018 conference in Lugano, Switzerland: “Practices of Urban Mediation” and “Urban Contestation, Participation and Planning”.

Planned for 2019: Vice-chair Seija Ridell is organising a thematic panel on 'Reconfigurations of infrastructure in the algorithmic age' for the Nordic STS 2019 conference to be held in June 2019 in Tampere, Finland. The panel includes presentations from TWG members.

Pending the outcome of its section application, the TWG is also tentatively planning other events and event participation for 2019-2020.

Teaching

During 2018 we continued intensely the teaching collaboration that was initiated in 2015 and supported partly by Erasmus teacher exchange agreements between the University of Tampere,

University of Zagreb, Università Cattolica of Milan and University of Ljubljana. The teacher visits have included research workshops, guest lectures and seminars on the topics related to media and the city.

Moreover, the active involvement of the TWG in the ECREA-affiliated SUSO Summer School through its chair Simone Tosoni, started in Bremen in 2014, has intensified in 2016, 2017 and 2018, for the three editions of the summer school held in Milan: along with lecturing on Urban Studies and Urban ethnography, and supporting students working on these topics, Simone Tosoni has also assumed a key role in the overall arrangements of the school as local organizer (2016, 2017) , and program organizer (with Fausto Colombo, 2018 edition).

Publishing

In 2018, the TWG continued its existing publication projects as well as initiated new ones.

In June 2018, Seija Ridell coedited (with Johanna Ylipulli & Jenni Partanen) a special issue of *WiderScreen Journal* called "City imaginings and urban everyday life", featuring works by TWG members. The issue is open-access and available [online](#).

In late 2018, TWG's Zlatan Krajina completed editorial work, with Deborah Stevenson (Western Sydney University, Australia), on [The Routledge Companion to Urban Media and Communication](#), planned for publication in early 2019. The book, first of its kind, will feature 45 chapters, encompassing major media and the city research issues. The book includes work by most active members, TWG management team & advisory group.

A special section of the journal *IJoC*, edited by Simone Tosoni, Seija Ridell and Zlatan Krajina and called *The mediated city between disciplines: A call for Urban Media Studies* is forthcoming in 2019. It features multiple contributions by TWG members.

TWG's Giorgia Aiello is currently editing a special forum issue of the *Communication and Critical/Cultural Studies* journal focusing on urban media & communication in Europe with a critical/cultural approach. The issue will feature contributions by TWG management team, advisory group & members, to be published in 2020.

Research Collaboration

Several TWG members, including Zlatan Krajina, Seija Ridell & Tanya Lokot, joined the Network of Proposers for COST Action Proposal OC-2017-1-22403 "Culture and Technology For Sustainable Development".

TWG's Simone Tosoni, Zlatan Krajina, Tanya Lokot & Giorgia Aiello collaborated to submit a project proposal to 2017 HERA EU JRP call "Public Spaces: Culture and Integration in Europe"

(HERA JRP PS), titled “Spatial Imaginaries and Controversies in Public Space. Cultural Challenges and Promises for Refugees and Asylum Seekers in European Cities”. After passing the first stage of selection, the proposal was ultimately not chosen for funding due to highly competitive selection, but was very highly rated.

Seija Ridell and Simone Tosoni are involved in the Marie Skłodowska-Curie innovative doctoral training network (EJD) application (H2020-MSCA-ITN-2019) coordinated by Tampere University and having as other academic partners University of Groningen, Tel Aviv University, University of Lisbon as well as municipalities and other public and private agencies from each participating country. If successfully funded, the European Joint Doctorate network would focus on imaginings and imaginaries of future urban complexity, combining in multidisciplinary doctoral education the expertise of urban planning and architectural research, media studies and game research.

Dissemination

The TWG’s communication and dissemination activities continued on its three key public and semi-public channels: the TWG website, a Facebook page and a Facebook group.

The TWG website, recently migrated to ECREA’s servers and to the Wordpress platform, is used for informational purposes and as a repository of downloadable materials (such as the podcasts of keynote speeches from the *Urban Media Studies Conference* held in Zagreb in 2015).

The Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/mediaandthecity/?ref=ts&fref=ts>), used both for informational purposes and to keep in touch with the TWG members, currently has 188 members.

The membership figure in the Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/media.city.ecrea/?fref=ts>), used as a space of discussion, community building, and sharing resources, has increased from 233 to 264.