

Annual Report 2008

ECREA Communication and Democracy Section

In the final year of its mandate the ECREA communication and democracy section has been active on mainly two fronts. 1) the preparations for the Barcelona conference. and 2) contributing to a joint edited volume with the Gender section emerging out of the colloquium '**Equal Opportunities and Communication Rights: Representation, Participation & the European Democratic Deficit**', organised on 11-12/11/2007 in Brussels, jointly with the Gender, Journalism and Political Communication Sections and supported by the European Journalism Centre and Vesalius College.

1) Barcelona Conference

The section spent a lot of time, reviewing abstracts and constructing panels that are consistent. We look forward to the start of the conference. Unfortunately we do not have any data in relation to number of received and selected abstracts, since my computer was stolen recently.

The section will have 8 sessions during the Barcelona conference in which a total of 40 papers have been presented:

- Critical reflections on the nexus between media and democracy
- Critical Perspectives on the public sphere and deliberation
- Conflict in Media and Communication
- Blogging and Citizen Journalism
- Perspectives on Alternative/Radical/Community media
- The role of Media in Emerging/Transitional/Consolidation Democracies
- Citizenship, communication rights and the state
- Media and Communication in the EU

Besides this, a new team to lead the section was elected at the Barcelona conference. With 10 votes in favour and nobody against or abstaining, Bart Cammaerts was confirmed in his role as chair and Jeffrey Wimmer as well as Iñaki Garcia-Blanco were voted as vice-chairs.

2) Media Agoras

After the joint colloquium in 2007 the section was approached by Cambridge Scholar Publisher to publish an edited volume based on a selection of contributions to the colloquium. The section decided to team up with the Gender section, which resulted in a fruitful collaboration. The final manuscript will be sent to the publisher by the time the Barcelona conference starts, about one year after the colloquium.

Garcia-Blanco, I., Van Bauwel, S. and Cammaerts, B. (2009) *Media Agoras: Democracy, Diversity and Communication*, Cambridge: Cambridge Scholars Publisher.

Iñaki Garcia-Blanco, Sofie Van Bauwel and Bart Cammaerts
The Realm of Contemporary Media Agoras: an Introduction

PART I: PLURALISM AND SPHERES

Hannu Nieminen

The European Public Sphere and Citizens' Communication Rights: A Proposal for Democratic Media Policy in the European Union

Jeffrey Wimmer

Revitalization of the Public Sphere?

A Meta-Analysis of the Empirical Research about Counter Public Spheres and Media Activism

Ingrid Paus-Hasebrink and Christina Ortner

Images of Europe from the Bottom: The Role of Media for the Attitudes towards Europe among Socially Disadvantaged Groups

PART II: REPRESENTATION AND DIVERSITY

Carla Martins and Ana Jorge

Representation of the "Feminine" in the Portuguese Popular Newspapers Correio da Manhã and 24Horas

Tonny Krijnen

Imagining Moral Citizenship. Gendered Politics in Television Discourses

Cláudia Alvares

Reception Studies as a Multidimensional Model: Negotiating Ethnicity and Gender

PART III: POLICY AND PRACTICES

Giorgia Nesti

The Debate on Media Pluralism in the European Union: Issues, Actors, and Emerging Coalitions

Karen Donders and Caroline Pauwels

European State Aid Rules and the Public Service Broadcasting Remit in the Digital Age: Analyzing a Contentious Part of European Policy and Integration

Sabine Lang

Gendering European Publics? Transnational Women's Advocacy Networks in the European Union

Finally, plans are being made to organise another off-year event in 2009 jointly with the Gender section. Discussions in this regard are ongoing.

Bart Cammaerts

15/12/2008