

European Communication, Research and Education Association (ECREA)

Communication and Democracy Section 2010 Report

The selection of papers and the organisation of the section panels to be held during the 3rd European Communication Conference (Hamburg, October 2010) has been the main activity for the section management team during the last year. Jeffrey Wimmer acted as programme coordinator, and the section received 95 paper proposals from 19 countries and finally selected 59 papers and posters, resulting in 11 panels being held. The section management team would like to thank the scholars who submitted their work to the section, as well as the section members who acted as anonymous reviewers during the peer review process which was designed for selecting the papers.

The section management team has managed to secure funding for creating and maintaining the section's website, which aims to boost the section's online presence, while also constituting a communication platform for the section's membership. It was announced that the website will be fully active during February 2011, and the membership is invited not only to visit it, but also to contribute with content that may be of the interest of other members. Also the section management together with Claudia Padovani works on the idea of an open-access, peer-reviewed online platform for debating the issues of communication and democracy.

A call for papers for 2011's workshop had been drafted together with the section management team of the Gender & Communication Section. This workshop will be devoted to debating the 'Mediation of Scandal and Moral Outrage'. It will be held at the LSE, London, and aims to bring a critical perspective to the way scandals are mediated, produced, consumed, and how they increasingly feed a polyoptic society whereby everybody is watching and watched by everybody.

According to ECREA regulations and to the section's modus operandi, the term of the section management team elected in the ECREA Conference in Barcelona (2008) had come to an end, and a new section management was elected in Hamburg (2010). A reshuffled section management team put itself forward for reelection. This team consisted of Jeffrey Wimmer for chair of the section, and Bart Cammaerts and Iñaki Garcia-Blanco acting as vice-chairs. The section management team was elected with the following breakdown of ballots: Votes against: 0/Votes for: 11/Abstentions: 1/Not Voting: 3. For the next term a more gender balanced teams on behalf of the section management team is desired. Different changes were made to the section's modus operandi, so that it is not in conflict with ECREA's more general working rules.

The section would like to take this opportunity to formally thank Julie Uldam, who served in this period as the YECREA representative for the C&D section.

December 15th, 2010

The management team: Jeffrey Wimmer, Bart Cammaerts and Inaki Garcia-Blanco.