

Yearly report of the Digital Culture and Communication section (year 2011)

Team management:

Chair:

Elisenda Ardevol, Senior Lecturer in the Arts and Humanities Department,
Open University of Catalonia, Barcelona, Spain.

Vice-chairs:

Caroline Bassett, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Media and Film,
Sussex University, UK.

Gemma San Cornelio, Lecturer in the Information and Communication Department,
Open University of Catalonia, Barcelona, Spain.

Mid term Section event: Barcelona 2011

The mid term section workshop was held in Barcelona in 2011 and the local organisers has been Elisenda Ardevol and Gemma San Cornelio at the Open University of Catalonia (UOC).

The main topic has been:

Digital Culture: Innovative practices and critical theories
DCC SECTION ECREA 3RD WORKSHOP, Barcelona 24-25 November, 2011

Call for papers:

This workshop seeks to explore innovative perspectives on digital culture and the study of digital culture. Our concern is to focus on developing forms of theorizing, critiquing, understanding and researching digital culture, forms and practice. Our intention is to contribute to emerging work responding (a) to 'new' new media technologies of all kinds, and (b) to respond to developments in media research on technology and innovation. The panels follow the three main areas suggested, each related to theories, practices and methodologies of innovation. They are:

- 1) Digital Media and the senses. This may include work on enhanced reality, locative media and virtual worlds.
- 2) Creative practices and participation in new media. Here we are particularly concerned with discussing concepts of participation, co-creativity, co-design or co-innovation in creative processes involving audiences and independent creators in a wide spectrum of activities including art, photography, video, videogames.
- 3) Digital research and education in digital culture. This would seek to explore innovative theoretical and methodological approaches in digital media studies as well as innovative teaching tools.

Participants:

We have received a total of 82 abstracts and we have selected 40 in a blind peer-reviewed process, because we needed to keep the workshop size reduced to 50 participants maximum. Finally, there have been 10 panels for 34 papers and 4 posters and a total of 50 participants. As Mandy Rose posted on her blog COLLAB DOCS November 30, 2011: "It was a terrific gathering – small enough to get to know people, focused enough to be productive – a great mix of conviviality and critical dialogue."

The topics have been related with the chosen topics for the workshop such as:

- Materiality and new forms of conceptualizing space and time in new media.
- Art practices, locative media and urban spaces.
- Museums audiences and citizenship engagement in art projects.
- Participatory filmmaking, co-creativity and crowdfunding and copyright in the digital creative economy.
- Digitally Augmented Reality, videogames, transmedia storytelling and fan cultures.
- Users' engagement in minority languages media, Journalistic Practices and Audience Participation, information diffusion in Twitter's political events, senses, material culture and political belonging amongst social activists.
- Social networks applied to university teaching, Augmenting teaching and learning through the reuse and re-appropriation of open and 'closed' source digital media.
- Remix culture, remixing methods, critical issues on sentimental analysis, and gender politics in the Digital Humanities.

We expect to publish some of the results of the workshops during next year.

Publications:

The last ECREA workshop (Berlin) produced a journal special issue in "Communications: The European Journal of Communication Research" added to the Social Science Citation Index (SSCI). Volum 36, Issue 3 (September, 2011). Summary:

Introduction: Revisiting Digital Media Technologies? Understanding Technosociality
Caroline Bassett , Maren Hartmann , Kate O'Riordan

Practices of place-making through locative media artworks
Gemma San Cornelio , Elisenda Ardévol

Studying the interpretive and physical aspects of interactivity: Revisiting interactivity as a situated interplay of structure and agencies
CarrieLynn D. Reinhard

Revisiting digital technologies: envisioning biodigital bodies

Kate O'Riordan

Revisiting cyberfeminism

Susanna Paasonen

reenacttv.net: re-working the site(s) of new television: participants, contemporary and historical television, and the archive

Phil Ellis

Communication, blog and website content:

The DCC section needs volunteers. We recognized the necessity of creating specific roles within the section to support management team in relation to web diffusion, community management and section dynamization. Suggestions for action were to recruit volunteers to help with publicity and other secretarial and admin roles including dissemination, and managing the blog and website content. Volunteers are welcomed!

Connections with other ECREA sections:

The DCC section needs to increase its relationship with other sections while maintaining its specificity. We realized that digital culture is more and more present in other sections – since digital communication technologies have been pervasively introduced in almost every 'traditional' media transforming practices of producing, circulating and audiencing. Given this, one of the tasks of the section is to think about our main focus in media research and education and to look for further lines of development of the section.

Next steps: Main Conference

Istanbul 2012

The next ECREA main conference is in Istanbul. The call for papers will be launched on the 1st of December and of course you are all invited and welcomed to submit. There is generally a large response to the papers and so we're also looking for people to volunteer to help peer review abstracts. The system is automated, peer review is blind and abstracts are always assessed by at least two people independently. If you are prepared review please let us know.

Further steps: next section workshop

The next section workshop series should take place in two years time: various places were mooted as possible - Poland, Sweden, Portugal amongst others. If you would be interested in hosting or co-hosting a workshop – then once again, please let us know.

Digital Section Involvement:

We are very happy with the response of the members of the section to our events, calls for help and involvement, and we expect even more as far as we will need a new deputy-chair from Istanbul onwards following the ecrea process of section elections and renewal.

Fonta/Task Force:

Alberto Garcia and Natalia Abuin, from Complutense University of Madrid wish to set up an ECREA task force (a group constituted around a specific project for a limited period) to produce research mappings European communication and digital media courses and employment. The section agreed to support that project.