

## ECREA DIGITAL CULTURE AND COMMUNICATION SECTION (DCC)

### ANNUAL REPORT 2012

#### **DCC Management Team**

*Chair:*

Dr. Elisenda Ardévol

Senior Lecturer in Social and Cultural Anthropology, Researcher in Digital Culture  
Arts and Humanities Department, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Barcelona, Spain.

*Co-Chairs:*

Dr. Gemma San Cornelio

Senior Lecturer in Art, Media and Digital Culture  
Communication Studies Department, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya.

Dr Veronica Barassi

Lecturer in Media and Communications  
Department of Media and Communications,  
Goldsmiths, University of London

*YECREA Representative:*

Dr Aristeia Fotopoulou

School of Media, Film and Music  
University of Sussex and  
Department of Media & Communications  
Goldsmiths, University of London

*Publications and Webmaster:*

Christoph Raetzsch

Researcher in Media Theory and American Journalism  
Free University Berlin

#### **Report on the activities**

##### 1. DCC ECREA workshop

Between the main biannual ECREA conferences, the section organizes a workshop. During 2011, the workshop "Digital Culture: Innovative practices and critical theories", was held on the 24 and 25 November in Barcelona, at the CERC *Studies Centre for Cultural Resources* and the space *Wikilounge* of the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya. The workshop was co-organized by the DCC section and the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (Information and Communication Sciences Studies and Arts and Humanities Studies). We also got some fundings from the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation to cover some of the expenses of the event.

Topics:

a) Digital media and the senses, b) Creative practices and participation in creative new media  
c) Digital research and education in the digital culture.

Numbers:

We received about 80 abstracts for presentation of papers, 36 proposals were accepted from a procedure-blind review. The final version of the workshop program included 35 communications, distributed in 10 parallel sessions over two days, plus 2 keynote (Sarah Pink and Rosalind Gill) and four posters. We have had 61 participants.

The event was very successful in terms of exchanging knowledge, since the size of the workshop and the organization of panels allowed for very interesting conversations in focused themes.

Website of the event:

[http://www.uoc.edu/symposia/workshop\\_ecrea2011/presentacio\\_eng.html](http://www.uoc.edu/symposia/workshop_ecrea2011/presentacio_eng.html)

## 2. Publications:

Gemma San Cornelio is coordinating a publication out of the themes of Barcelona's workshop at the *International Journal of art, culture and design technologies*.

<http://www.igi-global.com/journal/international-journal-art-culture-design/41032>

## 3. ECC 2012

The Digital Culture and Communication call for papers was done according to the ECC 2012 conference theme: SOCIAL MEDIA & GLOBAL VOICES, as far as our devotion to theoretical frameworks and methodological challenges around digital media, culture and social change has been the main topics of our section.

The Digital Culture and Communication section aims at exchanging and developing research at the European level in the developing field of digital media and informational culture as this is broadly defined. We welcome work that crosses disciplines and that operates at the boundaries of what might generally be allowed to constitute media/communication systems. The section actively seeks both empirical and theoretical/critical work. It therefore welcomes work that questions the general specificity of 'the digital' and/or uses 'the digital' to rethink existing media and communication theories and approaches (as well as research methods).

### **Section participation:**

Last ECC 2010 Conference, the DCC section contributed 12 sessions for ECC10 (including 2 panels, 49 individual papers and 6 posters) with presenters from 20 countries (Austria,

Australia, Brazil, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Switzerland, Sweden, Spain, Romania, Slovenia, United Kingdom and USA). In that Conference, the section received 92 paper submissions and 2 panel submissions with 5 papers each. For this ECC Conference (2012) we received the total amount of 157 papers proposals and 2 panels (2x5 papers proposals). This was really exciting, but at the same time, very stressing for the management team.

On one hand, we have increased the number of papers proposals in relation to the past conferences, which means that our section topic and discussion lines are considered urgent and important by many ECREA members. In fact we have 410 members of ECREA listed as interested in DCC and we are one of the largest sections of ECREA along side with Reception and Audience Studies.

On the other hand, the great amount of papers proposals made the reviewing process very hard and extenuating. We have had 28 peer-reviewers, coming from different geographies and institutions (Nederland, Norway, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Great Britain, Denmark, Germany, Russia, Belgium, Greece, etc.).

In short: For the ECC 2012 Conference, the section will contribute with a total of 90 papers distributed in 16 panels and 10 posters in 1 main session.

### **Business Meeting**

During the “business section meeting” in Istanbul we elect the new management team. Elisenda Ardevol was re-elected as Chair and Gemma San Cornelio and Veronica Barassi were elected as Vice-Chairs. Following our *modus operandi*, we elected two delegates to assume new roles for the section: Aristeia Fotopoulus was elected for Yecrea representative and Christopher Raetzsch for webmaster and publications.

### **Research Group Fonta/Task Force**

Alberto Garcia and Natalia Abuin, from Fonta Research Group of the Complutense University of Madrid set up a 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 in Barcelona that we were happy to support this project that has been supported by ECREA main commission and presented during the ECREA Conference. We also encourage section members to participate in the section in terms of research projects.

### **Next DCC workshop**

In Istanbul there were some proposals for organizing the next workshop of the section, Bonn and London seemed the most promising. The new management team will work out the topic and the main ideas for the call for papers and we are open to suggestions to develop these ideas thereafter.

The DCC section wants to increase its relationship with other sections while maintaining its specificity. 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 production, circulation and audience reception. Thus, one of the aims of the DCC section is to strength its relation with other sections and at the same time, to promote critical theoretical frameworks and research methodologies in the field of Digital Culture and Communication, as well as a reflective understanding of the role of digital media in education and teaching media studies.