

Annual report – ECREA Philosophy of Communication Section - 2011

In 2011 the Section concentrated on two main activities:

1. The further development of the journal *Empedocles – European Journal for the Philosophy of Communication*. The production is now on schedule after a slow start, and special issues have been commissioned on:
 - a. Interpersonal communication
 - b. Unconscious communication
 - c. Mediality and Mediatisation

2. The organisation of a conference on literature as communication, in cooperation with Åbo Akademi University, Turku Finland (Department of English Language and Literature). Not only among literary theoreticians and critics, but also among students of rhetoric, communication and media, stylisticians, discourse and dialogue analysts, historians of the book, and social and cultural philosophers and historians, there is a growing tendency to see literary activity as one among other forms of human communication. This conference, arranged by The Philosophy of Communication Section of the European Communication Research and Education Association (ECREA) and the Literary Communication Project at Åbo Akademi University, aimed to provide a forum in which to assess both the broader and more detailed implications of this trend for our understanding of literature's place within the lives of individuals and communities. The conference assumed a nominalistic and broad definition of literature. Literature, that is to say, was viewed as consisting of all those texts which, either now or in the past, have been referred to as literary, and as not necessarily restricted to merely poems, plays and novels. The conference was held from 2-4 September, and was a great success. With ca. 50 participants, the exploration of literature as a form of communication was both broad and deep. The result of the conference is a book contract with John Benjamins for the publication of a selection of the papers. In addition, researchers in this area are considering investigating the options for applying for a TWG that looks at this theme. Also, the intention was expressed to submit a panel proposal for ECC 2012.

3. The section is pleased that membership continues to grow and is looking forward to a fruitful ECC 2012 and the continuation of its other activities.