

ECREA Political Communication Section

Annual Report 2011

2011 was a very successful year for the Political Communication Section (PCS). The Section Management Team (SMT) that has been elected at the general conference in Hamburg 2010 was able to continue and consolidate the good work that has been done before and to implement new initiatives to further improve the profile of the Section.

[1] One of the main objectives in 2011 was to improve the internal communication between section members. To this end, a new website/blog (<http://ecreapoliticalcommunication.wordpress.com/>) has been launched, which is run and maintained by Jesper Stromback (Vice Chair of the PCS). The aim of the website/blog is to provide topical information about calls for papers and chapters, new publications in the field of political communication and other news that might be of interest to the membership. Members can subscribe to news and updates on the website, which will then function as a newsletter. The SMT encourages all members of the Section to make full use of the website and to submit any relevant information to increase its value for the users of the website.

In addition, the SMT circulated regular emails to the membership to inform about current developments of the Section.

[2] The Section's online presentation on the ECREA website has been revised and improved after consultation with the membership.

[3] After the 2010 general conference in Hamburg a task force was formed to explore the possibility of launching a European journal of political communication that would be linked to the Political Communication Section. The group consists of Maria Jose Canel, Claes de Vreese, Frank Esser, Christina Holtz-Bacha and Philippe Maarek. The group met twice during the year to discuss the project, in particular remits, profile, market chances, possible publishers etc. Several publishers have been approached and expressed a strong interest. So far no final decision has been made, but the group is optimistic that the project would be successful and is worthwhile to be pursued.

[4] The key event during 2011 was the bi-annual sectional conference on ‘Political Communication Across Time and Space’, which took place 20-21 October at the Universidad Complutense in Madrid. The local team was led by Maria Jose Canel and was supported by ACOP (Asociación de Comunicación Política). In response to the call for papers, 93 abstracts were submitted. All abstracts went through a rigorous process of double blind peer-review, resulting in the acceptance of 45 papers, which were presented in a combination of plenary and parallel panels. The key note, entitled ‘Promise fulfilled? Comparative research on political communication systems’ was delivered by Barbara Pfetsch, Free University of Berlin, Germany. Both organisers and participants unanimously agreed that the conference was a tremendous success reflecting the high level of scholarly sophistication in comparative political communication research. Currently possibilities are being explored to publish a selection of conference papers as an edited volume.

For 2012 the Political Communication Section looks forward to the general ECREA conference in Istanbul. Katrin Voltmer will be responsible for organising the PCS panels. For the future the Section aims to intensify and broaden collaboration with other Sections and TWGs within ECREA as well as political communication sections in other associations.

December 2011

Katrin Voltmer (Chair)

Maria Jose Canel (Vice Chair)

Jesper Stromback (Vice Chair)