

YOUNG SCHOLARS (YECREA)
NETWORK ACTIVITY REPORT FOR 2009

1. Organisation

YECREA chair Tamara Witschge resigned in September 2009 after being awarded a full time lecturer position. Tamara Witschge has been involved in YECREA since its foundation (with Pille Pruulmann-Vengerfeldt and Liina Puustinen) and has played a very active role in the development of the network. Following Tamara's Witschge's departure, there have been some changes in the YECREA board. Former vice-chair Benjamin De Cleen moved to the chair position and Alenka Jelan joined the board as vice-chair.

The executive board now consists of
Chair: Benjamin De Cleen
Vice-chair: Joanna Redden
Vice-chair: Alenka Jelen

Alenka is the representative to the ECREA board
Benjamin and Joanna are members (ex-officio) of the editorial board of "PLATFORM: Journal of Media and Communication", a biannual open-access online postgraduate publication. Tamara Witschge also remains a member of the editorial board.

Membership: The young scholars' network now has 159 members.

2. Activities

Information dissemination

One of the main tasks of YECREA is to provide information dissemination. YECREA informs its members of job opportunities, conferences, workshops, and relevant publications through the website yecrea.eu and a bi-annual newsletter.

The website yecrea.eu is fed on a regular basis by a web editor (Itir Akdogan) and by YECREA's country and section representatives (see below)

Newsletter editor Panayiota Tsatsou compiled two YECREA newsletters in 2009 informing young scholars of the activities of the network. The newsletter also included information relevant to young scholars (e.g. on research ethics) and interviews with relevant academic personalities.

Media, Communication, and the Spectacle conference organisation

YECREA was involved in the organization of the Media, Communication, and the Spectacle conference in Rotterdam, November 26-27, 2009 with the Communication and Democracy, Film Studies, and Gender and Communication sections. YECREA also organized a workshop on Academic Publishing for Young Scholars (by Nico Carpentier) at this conference.

A network of section and country reps

In 2009 YECREA continued to develop its network of young scholar representatives in the ECREA sections and in all countries of Europe.

The section representatives form the link between the sections and YECREA. The representative provides information to young scholars about activities within his/her section and represents the young scholars' interests within the section. Depending on both the sections and the representatives this involvement can be extended to the organisation of other activities and other possible input.

YECREA now has young scholar representatives in 14 of the 17 ECREA section.ⁱ

The positions in the Organisational and Strategic Communication, Philosophy of Communication, and Television Studies are vacant at this point in time. Our aim is to fill these vacancies by the ECC in October 2010.

In 2009 some of the section representatives organized young scholar workshops at the respective ECREA section workshops. An overview:

Mediated Citizenship: Political Information and Participation in Europe

Leeds, September 17-18, 2009

Organized by the Political Communication section

Young scholar workshop organized by Fabro Steibel and Alenka Jelen, with speakers Sophia Kaitatzi-Whitlock (Chair of the Political Communication section) and Katrin Voltmer (conference organiser and Vice-Chair the Political Communication section)

Radio Content in the Digital Age

Limassol, October 14-16, 2009

YECREA workshop organized by YECREA representatives Judith Purtkarhofer and Petra Pfisterer – attended by Guy Starkey (section chair) and Stanislaw Jedrzejewski (vice chair)

The 1st Autumn Conference of Interpersonal Communication and Social Interaction

Tampere, October 21-23, 2009

Organized by the Interpersonal communication and social interaction section

Young scholar workshop organized by YECREA section representative Jonna Koponen and with mentors Teija Waaramaa (and Saila Poutiainen

Theories in international and intercultural communication'

Mannheim, October 29-31, 2009

Organized by the International and Intercultural Communication section
PhD workshop (chaired by Hartmut Wessler) co-organized by YECREA section
representative Stijn Joye, and YECREA representative for Germany Sven Engesser,
with respondents Leo Van Audenhove and Gerd Hallenberger

Media, Communication, and the Spectacle

Rotterdam, November 26-27, 2009

Organized by the Communication and Democracy, Film Studies, Gender and
Communication, and YECREA
Young scholar workshop on 'Academic publishing for young scholars' (by Nico
Carpentier) + social gathering on the eve of the conference (with help from Pauwke
Berkers of the Erasmus University in Rotterdam)

Apart from these young scholar workshops, YECREA country and section
representatives organized informal **social events** for young scholars before the
start of some of the section conferences.

Both workshops and social events were well attended and appreciated by young
scholars.

YECREA now has country representatives for 13 European countries.ⁱⁱ

In 2009 the country representatives provided young scholars with country specific
information by posting to the YECREA website. They developed and posted lists of
national media and communication associations, in some cases of media research
centres, and of media and communication departments.

Country representatives also continually keep young scholars informed of upcoming
events, conferences, jobs etc by posting to the news section of the website. In
addition, representatives promote YECREA to young scholars in their country
through local events and their networks.

3. Future plans

YECREA's main plans for 2010 are the following:

ECC 2010

There will be a business meeting that will include elections for the board, and a
presentation of country and section representatives.

YECREA will organize academic as well as social events at the ECC to enhance the
contacts between young scholars. This includes a workshop on 'How to build a CV'
at the ECC in Hamburg in October. A pre-conference social event is also planned to
welcome young scholars to the conference.

Young scholar conferences

YECREA is involved in the organization of two young scholar conferences in 2010. One is linked to the inaugural conference of ECREA 's Communication History Section in Potsdam (June 3-15 2010) and is co-organized by YECREA section representative to the Communication History section Christian Schwarzenegger. The other is the First International Graduate Conference on Media and Communication, held at the University of Porto (May 13-14 2010). YECREA country representative for Portugal, Ana Jorge, is part of the programme committee of this conference. In both cases, YECREA members will get a reduced conference fee.

We plan to continue and enhance the organisation of young scholar workshops and social events. Guidelines will be formulated to facilitate and structure the involvement of YECREA in the organization of young scholar workshops and conferences, and the organisation of young scholar social events

Communication and promotion

Now that the networks of country and section representatives has been set up, and information dissemination through the website and the newsletter have been established, we want to:

- enhance the communication between the representatives
- stimulate debate and interaction between members on the website
- promote the use of the website yecrea.eu

Communication between young scholars and senior scholars

YECREA will develop a PhD support scheme that will facilitate the communication between young scholars and senior scholars working on similar topics.

ⁱ Audience and Reception Studies: Ranjana Das; Communication and Democracy: Julie Uldam; Communication Law and Policy: Cristina Cullell; Diaspora, Migration and the Media: Christine Horz; Digital Culture and Communication: Katie Goeman
Film Studies: Mariana Liz; Gender and Communication: Carla Cerquiera; International and Intercultural Communication: Stijn Joye; Journalism Studies: Frank Boddin; Political Communication: Fabro Steibel; Radio Research: Petra Pfisterer and Judith Purtkarhofer; Interpersonal Communication and Social Interaction: Jonna Paulina; Science and Environment Communication: Miguel Vicente; Communication History: Christian Schwarzenegger

ⁱⁱ Austria: Christina Ortner and Christine Wijnen; Armenia: Narine Khachatryan
Belgium: Olivier Driessens; Bulgaria: Katia Christova; Cyprus: Andreas Masouras
Czech Republic: Lenka Waschková Čísařová; Finland: Maarit Jaakola
Germany: Sven Engesser; Italy: Paola Savini; Lithuania: Aušra Vinciūnienė, Inesa Birbilaite; The Netherlands: Linda Duits; Portugal: Ana Jorge and Paulo Nuno
Russia: Denis Dunas; Spain: Roberto Suarez and Alejandro Barranquero; Sweden: Anne Kaun; + three regional liaisons: Asia: Badri Praksh Ojha; North America (Canada): Delia Dumitrica; Oceania: Esther Chin