# Executive Board Annual Report 2021

## Name of the Section/Network/Temporary Working Group:

International and Intercultural Communication Section

## Management team:

Chair: Dr Romy Wöhlert, Kindervereinigung Leipzig e.V., Germany,   
 [rwoehlert@googlemail.com](mailto:rwoehlert@googlemail.com)

Vice-chair: Dr Mélodine Sommier, University of Jyväskylä, Finland, [melodine.c.m.sommier@jyu.fi](mailto:melodine.c.m.sommier@jyu.fi)

Vice-chair: Dr Cristina Fernández-Rovira, University of Vic-Central University of Catalonia, Spain,   
 [cristina.fernandez1@uvic.cat](mailto:cristina.fernandez1@uvic.cat)

## Social media:

Twitter:@ECREA\_IIC, <https://twitter.com/ECREA_IIC?s=20>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/786508932007271/>

## Activities in 2021:

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Unfortunately, also in 2021 the Covid-19 pandemic and, consequently, the manifold restrictions regarding travelling and the hosting of analogue events in most European countries resulted in a very limited range of organized events and activities on behalf of the IIC section. On February 5, 2021, one of our section’s representatives for YECREA, David Ongenaert, co-organized an online panel session about diversity issues in academia for young scholars (Master/PhD students) at the annual Etmaal conference in Brussel, Belgium (see also <https://nefca.eu/etmaal-2021/etmaal-2021-young-scholars-network/>). The panel was co-organized together with the NeFCA’s Young Scholars Network (YSN) and supported by our first vice chair, Mélodine Sommier (as IC&D board member). Our section also organized and hosted contributions to the 8th European Communication Conference which took place in a virtual format in September 2021. For the peer review and selection process we were assisted by a group of 19 reviewers from different nationalities who volunteered in reviewing abstract submissions and to whom we would like to express our sincere gratitude in taking on this task! Altogether, our section received 26 submissions for individual paper presentations & 1 panel submission. Altogether, we accepted 15 paper presentations (incl. 2 withdrawals & 2 succeeding presenters from waiting list) & the submitted panel, thus hosting 4 panels. During the conference, in the section’s business meeting on September 8, 2021, we also selected a new management team (see above), since our second vice chair, Ricardo Carniel Bugs (Univ Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain) stepped down from his position.

## Plans for 2022:

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In 2021, our section plans to organize and host section panels at the 9th European Communication Conference in Aarhus (October 19-22, 2022), and we look forward to many interesting contributions! For the peer review and selection process we again are assisted by a group of around 20 reviewers from different nationalities who volunteered in reviewing abstract submissions. Thank you again to everyone who is volunteering! Together with the ECREA Communication History section, the IIC section is also planning to host an ECREA pre-conference on October 19, 2022, in Aarhus, which will focus on „*The Trajectory of Emerging Media & Technology Companies: Transnational Businesses, Transcultural Communications.*“ The call for papers will be published in the end of March 2022. On September 9, 2022, one of our section’s representatives for YECREA, David Ongenaert, will be a co-organizer of a half-day workshop for PhD students about how to conduct intercultural research during a pandemic, considering also essential methodological and ethical aspects (e.g., transparency, reflexivity, positionality). The workshop will be embedded in the annual 2022 Etmaal conference in Brussels (Belgium). Finally, to stimulate more bottom-up communication, engagement and interactivity, the management team has switched from a Facebook page to a Facebook group in which all members can post about relevant events, publications, job opportunities, etc. (link, see above). Here, our section’s representatives for YECREA also provide young IIC scholars with information about activities, events, publications, and opportunities within and beyond the section (e.g., job vacancies, calls for papers).