# Executive Board Annual Report 2021

## Name of the Section:

Visual Cultures Section

## Management team:

Chair: Joanna Kędra, PhD, University of Jyväskylä, Finland

Vice-chair: Maria Schreiber, PhD, University of Salzburg, Austria

Vice-chair: Patricia Prieto-Blanco, PhD, Lancaster University, UK

YECREA Representative: Hadas Schlussel, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel

## Number of members:

193 (as of 14 Feb. 2022)

## Social media:

Section’s website: <https://visualculturesecrea.wordpress.com>

FB page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1196258053754182>

## Activities in 2021:

The Section organized three panels with 13 presentations at the European Communication Conference 2021 (postponed from 2020; organized online due to Covid-19 pandemic). At the Business Meeting on Sept. 7, 2021 at the ECC 2020/21 the new Management Team was elected: Joanna Kedra, Univ. of Jyväskylä (as Chair) and Maria Schreiber, Univ. of Salzburg, and Patricia Prieto-Blanco, Lancaster Univ. (as Vice-Chairs). The Section has a new YECREA Representative: Hadas Schlussel, Hebrew Univ. of Jerusalem. We are grateful to the outgoing members of the MT: Asko Lehmuskallio (Chair), Tampere Univ., and Paolo Favero (Vice-Chair), Univ. of Antwerp, for their long-lasting commitment to the Section, including establishment of Visual Cultures, first as the TWG, and then as a Section.

The new MT organized the first informal online meeting with the Section members on 16 Dec 2021, where we discussed plans for future activities of the Section. The discussion included sharing the results of the survey conducted among members as to their expectations toward the Section (e.g., types of events, mentoring, collaborative publishing, etc.).

Section members have been actively sharing their scholarship and expertise in visual cultures in various events. This includes, among others, the workshop “Exploring Visual Analysis” at ECREA Doctoral Summer School by Patricia Prieto-Blanco and three feedback sessions to doctoral students during this event.

We updated the Modus Operandi document. We also moved to the new address and renewed the Section website.

## Plans for 2022:

In addition to the active involvement in Section’s presence at the ECC 2022 in Aarhus, we also plan an online pre-conference “Visual Politics & Protest – Current Challenges” on 6-7 October 2022. Before these events, we will continue with the semi-formal online meetings with Section’s members interested in research-based collaboration; the next one takes place on 20 May 2022 in a format of a research seminar. The MT have also started working around the idea for an edited volume on visual cultures – a publication that intends to engage more Section’s members in collaboration.

The MT will continue to work with a supportive body of the Steering Group, which includes a few of the “old” members (Asko Lehmuskallio, Paolo Favero, Shireen Walton, Cornelia Brantner, Katharina Lobingera), willing to remain actively involved in the Section’s activities and with the new members, who are currently taking responsibility to organize Section’s pre-conference at ECC 2022.

For 2022, the ECREA Section Visual Cultures has decided to continue to organize events along major conferences, as well as to invite further interested colleagues to the Section’s various activities.