

ECREA GENDER AND COMMUNICATION SECTION YEAR REPORT 2017

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1. Section organization

- Since the last ECC, in 2016, the section management organizing team has remained the same: Frederik Dhaenens acts as chair, with Marco Scarcelli and Despina Chronaki acting as vice-chair. Since this is the last official term of Frederik Dhaenens, a new team will present itself during the section management team elections of 2018. Even though Marco Scarcelli and Despina Chronaki have announced their willingness to continue, we will make sure other teams are given the opportunity to propose a team.
- Compared to last ECC, the numbers have increased once more. We currently have 163 members.

2. Joint ECREA Symposium: Sexualities and digital culture in Europe

On 26 and 27 May, the Gender and Communication Section organized, together with the Digital Culture and Communication Section, a symposium entitled “Sexualities and digital culture in Europe” in Athens, at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. The focus was on sexual politics in and around the digital, which means a critical understanding of sexualities in European digital culture. We were able to accept 30 papers. Out of those, 24 were actually presented during the symposium. We underscore the high quality of the presentations and found the topical focus valuable. The keynote by Susanna Paasonen on porn taste cultures set the tone for a diversified yet topical two-day symposium that broached themes such as migration of queer people and the role of digital media, the experiences of hook-up apps or the way youth negotiate sexuality and intimacy online. Both sections evaluated the collaboration as productive, highly enjoyable and hope to be able to work together in the future.

3. Feminist Media Studies: Special Issue

The section was also involved in the preparation of a special issue for *Feminist Media Studies*. The special issue, which focuses on ‘Gendered Ageing Bodies in Popular Media Culture’ and is edited by Iolanda Tortajada, Frederik Dhaenens and Cilia Willem, is finally published. It explores the interconnections between gender, ageing bodies and popular (media) culture in global societies. For more information see: *Feminist Media Studies*, 18(1). <http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rfms20/18/1?nav=tocList>

4. Future Plans

- Preparing the 7th ECC: The section appoints Frederik Dhaenens as the program chair of ECC Lugano.
- Future off-event: Since a new management will have to be appointed, no concrete future plans have been made.