

ECREA

“Crisis Communication Section”

Annual Report 2017

Foundation: June 2011 by Andreas Schwarz (Ilmenau University of Technology), Winni Johansen (Aarhus University), and Alessandra Mazzei (IULM University)

Transformation into full ECREA section: summer 2015

Current management team

Chair:

- Andreas Schwarz, Ilmenau University of Technology, Germany
e-mail: andreas.schwarz@tu-ilmenau.de

Vice Chairs:

- Audra Diers-Lawson, Leeds Beckett University, UK
e-mail: audra.lawson@leedsbeckett.ac.uk
- Silvia Ravazzani, Aarhus University, Denmark
e-mail: sr@mgmt.au.dk

Mission

The group aims at building a platform for European and international communication scholars to critically discuss different theoretical approaches and empirical findings on crisis communication and to collaborate across sub-disciplines.

The Crisis Communication Section advocates a broad understanding of crisis communication, which includes work in different sub-disciplines of communication such as journalism, public relations, corporate communication, organizational communication, audience research, media psychology, political communication, health communication, computer-mediated communication, and international/intercultural communication. The Section is a scholarly platform that helps recognize and develop common patterns of how crises are socially constructed by organizations and involved actors, how the media bring up and frame crises, and how different audiences perceive and make sense of crises.

For further details about the goals of the Section and its modus operandi see this website: <http://www.ecrea.eu/divisions/twg/id/24>

The Crisis Communication Section websites are:

<http://www.ecrea.eu/divisions/section/id/34>

<https://ecreacrisis.wordpress.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ECREACrisisComm/>

Membership

The section counts approx. 150 members. They are scholars and practitioners coming from more than 30 countries in Europe, Asia and the Americas.

ECREA's 6th European Communication Conference 'Mediated (Dis)Continuities: Contesting Pasts, Presents and Futures', November 9-12, 2016, Prague, Czech Republic

For the ECREA's 6th European Communication Conference (November 9-12, 2016, Prague, Czech Republic), the CCS arranged 7 panels with 35 presentations. Out of 62 submissions (1 panel submission), 32 were accepted (52%). The Section panels included: Assessing Social Media Use; The European Migrant Crisis and Humanitarian Communication; Public Health Crisis and Crisis Communication; Crisis Response Strategies, Empathy, and Reputation; Global, International, and National Perspectives on Crisis Communication; Social Media and Traditional Media in Crisis Communication; Risk Communication, Crisis Prevention, and Disaster.

During the conference, the first Business Meeting of the newly established CCS at ECREA was held (November 11th, 2016). A new management team was elected: Andreas Schwarz (Ilmenau University, GE) was re-elected as Chair; Audra Diers-Lawson (Leeds Beckett University, UK) and Silvia Ravazzani (Aarhus University, Denmark) were elected as new Vice Chairs.

Section Conference: Crisis5, Universidade Católica Portuguesa, October 19 – 21, 2017, Lisbon, Portugal

In October 2017, the section held its biennial section conference hosted by Universidade Católica Portuguesa. The topic of the conference was "Risk and Crisis Communication in the Digital Age". The local organizing committee included Carla Ganito, Nelson Ribeiro, and Maria Inês Romba. The program included 10 parallel panels with a total of approx. 45 presentations. Panel themes included social media in crisis communication, disaster and emergency response, public health crises, crisis theory, journalism and crisis communication, crisis and emotions, crisis management, and crisis policies. Dr. Timothy Coombs (Texas A&M University) offered a keynote entitled "The "Social-fication" of Crisis Communication: The Reverberation of the Digital Naturals".

In addition to a PhD workshop (see details in this report in the YECREA section), the section's YECREA representative Florian Meissner organized and moderated a panel discussion on future research trends and career opportunities in crisis communication. Members of the panel were Winni Johansen (Aarhus University), Deanna Sellnow (University of Central Florida), Audra Diers-Lawson (Leeds Beckett University), and Pavel Rodin (University of Gothenburg).

Business Meeting, 2017

The Business Meeting of the Crisis Communication Section (CCS) at ECREA took place on 19 October 2017 during the 5th International Crisis Communication Conference in Lisbon. The meeting was well attended and moderated by the section chair. The Agenda was the following:

1. Welcome note & CCS status report
2. Past and present business:
3. Conference Report ECC2016, Prague
4. YECREA (young scholars at the CCS)
5. New Facebook group
6. Future business:
7. Next conference: ECC, 2018, Lugano
8. Next conference: Crisis6, 2019, Leeds
9. Upcoming elections of the next management team
10. Open slot, Q&A

YECREA: Young scholars at the Crisis Communication Section

The section designated a YECREA representative in 2016: Florian Meissner (Dortmund University of Technology). His role is to devise and develop ideas and activities for engaging young scholars in the Section and at conferences. During the 5th International Crisis Communication Conference in 2017 in Lisbon, Florian contributed to organize a PhD workshop and a panel discussion. The PhD workshop was held on October 19, 2017 at Universidade Católica Portuguesa, Lisbon. During the workshop 6 PhD students presented their PhD projects and discussed them with the workshop respondents Dr. Timothy Coombs (Texas A&M University) and Dr. Andreas Schwarz (Ilmenau University of Technology) as well as the audience.

Management team elections

During the business meeting in October 2017 in Lisbon, the section chair invited to put forward candidacies for the upcoming elections to be held at the ECC 2018 in Lugano: as section Chair (1) and Vice Chair (2) for the next two years. The deadline for submission is 16 July 2018. Interested scholars should email a mission statement and a short biography to the section chair.

Future conferences

ECC: The next conference with submissions to the Crisis Communication Section will be the European Communication Conference 2018 held in Lugano: the 7th European Communication Conference will be hosted by the Faculty of Communication Sciences, Università della Svizzera italiana, 31 October-3 November 2018, under the theme 'Centre and Periphery. Communications, Research, Translation'. The CC Section is expecting to hold approx. 7 panels dedicated to different topics in risk and crisis communication.

Section Conference: The next section conference as part of the conference series Crisis Communication at the beginning of the 21st Century "Crisis6" will be held in 2019 in Leeds, UK. The conference chair is going to be the section's vice-chair Audra Diers-Lawson.