



ECREA

“Crisis Communication Section”

Annual Report 2020

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

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YECREA representative:

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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:

<https://ecrea.eu/Crisis-Communication>. The Crisis Communication Section websites are:

- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ECREACrisisComm/>
- and the newly developed <https://ecreacrisis.com/>

Membership

The section counts 197 members. They are scholars and practitioners coming from more than 30 countries in Europe, Asia and the Americas.

Activities in 2020

1. Permanent website

At the beginning of 2020, the Section launched a permanent website (<https://ecreacrisis.com/>) in extension of the already existing Facebook group. The website is meant to work as a collective repository including documents (e.g. annual reports), activities, and any content or announcement that the members want to share.

2. Launch of Crisis2021 conference

In order to support and maintain the risk and crisis communication community in 2021, the Section has planned an online conference combining monthly live panel sessions as well as pre-recorded full presentations made available on the new website – www.ecreacrisis.com. All live sessions will be free to attend and will take place the first Friday of each month beginning in February and running through July. They will be posted online afterwards. The theme of the first panel is “Covid-19: Learnings & Consequences for International Crisis Communication Research & Practice”. Further panel themes are yet to be confirmed.

3. Launch of YECREA Crisis Communication PhD Workshop 2021

As part of the online activities throughout the first half of 2021, the Section has planned the YECREA PhD Workshop in collaboration with the Young Scholars Network (YECREA) representative Janina Klingelhöfer (LMU Munich). This event will also be free to attend. Dates in May to be confirmed.

Next conferences

1. Crisis2021 conference (see above)

2. 8th ECREA conference postponed to 2021

In the light of the Covid-19 global pandemic, ECREA decided to move the 8th European Communication Conference “Communication and Trust: building safe, sustainable and promising futures” from 2020 to 2021 (6-9 September). Abstracts that were accepted for 2020 will still be accepted for 2021. Additionally, ECREA confirmed that the ECC will go back to its regular schedule for 2022.

3. Crisis7 postponed to 2023

With the ECC rescheduled for 2021, the 7th International Crisis Communication Conference hosted by the Department of Journalism, Media and Communication at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden, will take place in 2023. Conference theme: “Crisis communication in a multi-public society”. Dates to be announced.

4. Future hosting

In relation to the prospects of hosting (Crisis8 onwards), the Section will adhere to a flexible approach in case bids are not submitted. Such an approach would place the administration of the conference on the leadership team but also give the team the flexibility to target different regions.