

For people across the world 2020 is strongly marked by the covid-19 health pandemic, this also holds for colleagues contributing to the ECREA Diaspora Migration and the Media (DMM). As engaged scholars we also want to recognize the pandemic has particularly strongly affected diaspora, migrant and refugee communities in Europe and beyond who were either living under continuous lockdown in refugee camps or faced risks in working in the service sector or health care.

Board

The ECREA DMM board in 2020 consisted of chair Koen Leurs (Utrecht University, the Netherlands), co-chairs Kevin Smets (Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium) and *Irati Agirreazkuenaga* (University of the Basque Country, Spain) and young scholar representative Melis Mevsimler (Utrecht University, the Netherlands).

Conference planning

The ECREA DMM board alongside volunteers in the section reviewed submissions for the 8th ECC ECREA conference planned for Braga, Portugal in fall '20. The board hopes the conference will take place in September '21.

The ECREA DMM board has joined forces with the ERC Connecting Europe team led by prof dr. Sandra Ponzanesi to plan a section conference. The conference is planned from 21-23 April 2021, organized by Utrecht University, but fully online and free.

Conference theme:

Migrant belonging through digital connectivity refers to a way of being in the world that cuts across national borders, shaping new forms of diasporic affiliations and transnational intimacy. This happens in ways that are different from the ways enabled by the communication technologies of the past. Scholarly attention has intensified around the question of how various new technical affordances of platforms and apps are shaping the transnationally connected, and locally situated, social worlds in which migrants live their everyday lives.

This international conference focuses on the connection between the media and migration from different disciplinary vantage points. Connecting with friends, peers and family, sharing memories and personally identifying information, navigating spaces and reshaping the local and the global in the process is but one side of the coin of migrant-related technology use: this Janus-faced development also subjects individual as well as groups to increased datafied migration management, algorithmic control and biometric classification as well as forms of transnational authoritarianism and networked repression.

Confirmed keynotes:

- Paul Gilroy (University College London)
- Engin Isin (Queen Mary, University of London)
- Nicholas de Genova (University of Houston)
- Larissa Hjorth (RMIT University, Melbourne)
- Saskia Witteborn (Chinese University of Hong Kong)

A *PhD workshop* is organized by Melis Mevsimler and Philipp Seufferling (Sodertorn University, Sweden), with two confirmed facilitators: Saskia Witteborn (Chinese University of Hong Kong) and Nishant Shah (ArtEZ University of the Arts, the Netherlands)

Conference website:

<http://connectingeuropeproject.eu/home/conference/>

Publications

The board celebrated several publications showcasing work previously presented at ECREA section workshops and ECREA wide conferences, including

-Special issue of the *European Journal of Cultural Studies* on the topic of Migrant narratives. 23(5), 679–697, edited by the ECREA DMM board, see

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/1367549419896367>

The issue consists of a selection of papers presented at the ECREA DMM section conference which took place on 2 and 3 November 2017 at the University of the Basque Country in Bilbao, Spain.

-The *Handbook of Media and Migration*, edited by Kevin Smets, Koen Leurs, Myria Georgiou, Saskia Witteborn and Radhika Gajjala, with 700 pp covering the broad spectrum of research on migration and the media. The 54 chapters include a variety of scholars who are also active in the ECREA DMM section, see *Handbook of Media and Migration*

-special issue of *Global Media & Diaspora*, edited by section member Ola Ogunyemi (University of Lincoln, https://www.intellectbooks.com/journal-of-global-diaspora-media?fbclid=IwAR2Mr28jkAs75LoqYs-fv5j3nQrv_6grZDJgiSv9R_4ijMfybVVTgRIXHOU) presenting a selection of papers presented at the ECREA DMM section conference which took place 30 and 31 October 2019 in Brussels, Belgium.

Membership

The ECREA Diaspora Migration and the Media section connects via a Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/521804364497541/>, which grew to 493 members, providing a forum for colleagues to share events, job postings, and circulate publications