

Executive Board Annual Report 2021

Name of the section/network/temporary working group:

Interpersonal Communication and Social Interaction (ICSI)

Management team:

Chair: Associate Professor Alexander Schouten, Tilburg University, the Netherlands (until 8.9.2021), Associate Professor Leena Mikkola, Tampere University, Finland (from 8.9.2021 onwards)

Vice-chair: Professor Anu Sivunen, University of Jyväskylä, Finland (until 8.9.2021), Associate Professor Alexander Schouten, Tilburg University, the Netherlands (from 8.9.2021 onwards)

Vice-chair: Senior Lecturer Karyn Stapleton, Ulster University, Northern Ireland, UK (until 8.9.2021), Assistant Professor Dominika Popielevic, Kazimierz Wielky University, Poland (from 8.9.2021 onwards)

Number of members:

168

Social media:

Facebook group: Friends of ECREA Interpersonal Comm and Social Interaction (ICSI)

Twitter feed: @ECREA-ICSI

Activities in 2021:

During the year 2021, the most important activity was the **8TH European Communication Conference 2021**, which was held online on 6–9 September 2021. The ICSI section of the conference hosted four sessions: 1) *Social Interaction with (Ro)Bots and Virtual Agents*, 2) *Social Interaction in Professional and Organizational Contexts*, 3) *Possibilities and Perils of Online Social Interaction* and 4) *Family & Health Communication*. Altogether, 21 papers were presented in these sessions, and the conversation was vivid.

The Business Meeting of the ICSI section was conducted as a virtual meeting on 8 September 2021. During the meeting, the new management team was elected and future plans and actions were discussed. Enhancing member recruitment and improving social media communications were seen as the most important tasks for the next year.

The ongoing activities to enhance **communication and collaboration in our section** were continued on social media. The Facebook group called 'Friends of ECREA Interpersonal Comm and Social Interaction (ICSI)' was created in 2016. 'Friends' means members of the section and of the European Communication Research and Education Association (ECREA), as well as others working in the field. The group is an attempt to reach out to potential members, announce conferences, seminars and other events that might be relevant, and make new colleagues interested in sharing our and their work. In addition, on the Twitter account of the section (@ECREA-ICSI), we posted information relevant to section members, and the ICSI section's discussion forum on the ecrea.eu intranet was used to deliver current information.

Plans for 2022:

Year 2022 will be an active year, as **the 9th European Communication Conference 2022** will take place in Aarhus and will focus on the theme 'Rethink impact'. The ICSI section will take part in conference arrangements on its own behalf and will prepare several sessions. The ICSI section will also arrange **a virtual preconference titled 'Rethinking relationships'**, which will allow participation in a high-quality distance programme for all ICSI members.

The business meeting will take place in Aarhus in October 2022, and the possibility of hybrid participation will be examined. During the business meeting, the management group will be elected and **the organizers of the next ICSI Section Conference 2023** will be launched.

The ICSI section is **continuing and strengthening its collaboration with the Interpersonal Division of the International Communication Association (ICA)**. For example, the ICSI section's representatives will participate in a panel at the ICA Conference, which will discuss the internationalization of interpersonal communication studies.

We will continue our ongoing activities to enhance **communication and collaboration within our section**. The social media strategy will be renewed and polished, and a new Facebook group will be launched. The group will be used as a platform for scholarly discussions and to reach out to potential members. On Facebook, we will share information about potentially relevant conferences, seminars and other events and make new colleagues interested in sharing our and their work. The Twitter account @ECREA-ICSI will be actively used, and information relevant to section members will also be posted in the ICSI section's own discussion forum on the ecrea.eu intranet.