

Yearly report of the Digital Culture and Communication section (2018)

The DCC section is the largest section in early 2019, with 622 members.

The annual report includes updates about the following:

1. ECC Lugano 2018
2. Business meeting
3. YECREA Representative
4. Next steps: midterm Section event: Helsinki 2019
5. Social Media presence

1. ECC Lugano 2018

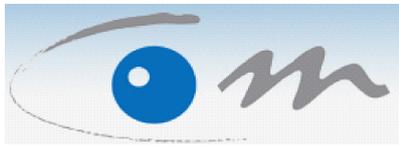
- The DCC section received a total of 142 individual paper submissions and 7 panel submissions.
- The DCC section organized a total of 21 sessions at ECC Lugano (while 20 sessions were organized in the 2016 ECC conference in Prague)
- Sander De Ridder served as Section Programme Chair

2. Business meeting at ECC Lugano 2018

- In total 16 people attended.
- The business meeting discussed the 2018 activities of the section
- The section discussed to keep on strengthening its identity within ECREA. There was a general agreement among members that we should continue valuing critical and political approaches to the study of the digital, thereby drawing on the diverse approaches as defined by the circuit of culture. Also, the section aims to be ECREA's primary place to explore and discuss new and emerging processes of mediation. We put these issues on the agenda of every event/workshop we organize.
- Elections of the new management team.
 - Sander De Ridder (candidate chair), Ana Jorge (candidate vice-chair), Ysabel Gerrard (candidate vice-chair) presented themselves.
 - The new management team received 15 votes in favor, one person abstained.
 - Outgoing chair Aristeia Fotopoulou was thanked for her work for the section.
- Discussion of a midterm section event (more details on the event, see 4).

3. YECREA Representative

After the ECC 2018, Sofia Caldeira (Ghent University, Belgium) filled the candidacy of the YECREA position. Sofia Caldeira will also work on the communication and visibility of the section. She will continue the job of, Ysabe Gerrard in sharing new about academic jobs in the field of digital culture, which she does using the DCC twitter account.



4. Next steps: midterm Section event: Helsinki 2019

The section announced a new midterm event 'Infrastructures and Inequalities: Media industries, digital cultures and politics', which will take place 21-22 October 2019, University of Helsinki, Finland.

Call for papers of the midterm section event:

Joint Conference of three ECREA Sections:
Communication and Democracy; Digital Culture and Communication; and
Media Industries and Cultural Production

Abstract Deadline 1 June 2019

Confirmed keynote speakers:

- * Lisa Parks, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- * Kaarina Nikunen, University of Tampere

In a turn to 'infrastructuralism' (Peters 2015), media and communication scholars are increasingly attentive to the materialities and politics of the technological, organisational and cultural infrastructures that underpin media today. Platforms, data centres, software, but also new forms of organising cultural production and labour, shape the politics of digital cultures and transform the media industries. Digital and media infrastructures have become elemental to everyday life. They are significant in reproducing existing social and cultural inequalities, as well as creating new power struggles. As digital/media infrastructures unfold in everyday life, they bring challenges across multiple domains, from the foundations of social justice to the industrial structures underpinning our everyday interactions with media and communication systems. This conference aims to address the politics and inequalities that emerge, as technological and media industries adopt, dismantle and transform infrastructures to channel and process communication flows. Media infrastructures (broadly) operate under different and uneven conditions that configure media labour, media production, and the politics of communication and access (Starosielski and Parks 2015). This conference seeks to examine digital/media infrastructures and inequalities from an inter- and multi-disciplinary perspective, inviting papers to interrogate the significance of the 'infrastructural turn' in media and communication studies to our understanding of media industries, democracy and digital cultures.

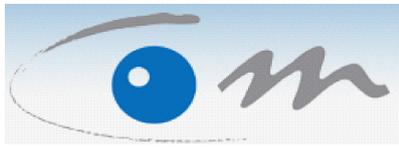
During this joint-ECREA section conference, we aim to engage with questions concerning inequalities and the infrastructures of digital culture, media industries and (digital) democracy through addressing topics such as (but not limited to):

- * The value, significance and relevance of infrastructure studies to media industry studies, the study of media and democracy, as well as digital culture
- * The industries and labour that operate and control specific technological media infrastructures, such as data centres, cloud computing, cable/satellite networks, content delivery networks
- * The politics and power dynamics of digital/media infrastructures
- * The significance of digital/media infrastructures in everyday life, especially related to the reproduction of social inequalities
- * The impact of digital/media infrastructures on culture, society, politics and democracy
- * The impact of digital/media infrastructures on media labour and cultural production
- * The organisational and cultural infrastructures of the media industries
- * Experiences and affective relationships that emerge in connection with media infrastructures
- * Forms of logistical media
- * Temporalities of media infrastructures
- * Emerging questions for the foundations of social justice in the digital media infrastructural turn

Submission details

Please submit a 300-word abstract for individual proposals.

Panel proposals should include a 300-word panel rationale plus individual 200 word abstracts from a minimum of four speakers.



All abstracts for individual as well as panel proposals should be submitted through EasyChair:
<https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=infrastructuresandin>

Deadline for submission is 1 June 2019. Notifications of acceptance will be issued by 30 June 2019.

Registration and Fees

Early bird registration €100 (until 12th August)

Early bird reduced student fee €50 (until 12 August)

Full fees €120 (to be paid until the 15th of September)

Reduced student fee €60 (to be paid until the 15th of September)

For more information and enquiries, contact:

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Or consult the conference website:

<https://www.helsinki.fi/en/conferences/infrastructures-and-inequalities>

Scientific Committee:

Ysabel Gerrard, University of Sheffield

Catherine Johnson, University of Huddersfield

Ana Jorge, Research Centre for Communication and Culture, Universidade Católica Portuguesa

Anne Kaun, Södertörn University

Maria Michalis, University of Westminster

Christina Neumayer, IT-University of Copenhagen

Sander de Rieder, University of Ghent

Emiliano Treré, University of Cardiff

Julia Velkova, Consumer Society Research Centre, University of Helsinki

5. Social Media presence

The section makes active use of a blog (<https://dcecrea.wordpress.com>), Twitter (<https://twitter.com/DCCECREA>) and Facebook account (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1005132429597657/>) to communicate to its interested parties and members.