

ECREA Media Industries and Cultural Production Section 2018 Yearly Activity Report

Media Industries and Cultural Production was approved as a thematic Section by the Executive Board of ECREA in September 2015. As of January 2019 it has 308 members.

Our Section organised 13 panels at ECREA's 6th European Communication Conference, held in Lugano, Switzerland, from 31 October to 3 November, i.e., 65 papers. Allocations of panels are granted proportionately, on the basis of numbers of abstracts submitted (110). This was the fourth highest allocation of all Sections. The sessions were well attended.

At the conference, David Hesmondhalgh (University of Leeds, UK) stood down as Section Chair, and Hanne Bruun (University of Aarhus, Denmark) stood down as Section Vice-Chair. David Hesmondhalgh helped establish the ECREA Media Industries and Cultural Production Temporary Working Group, and helped oversee the transition to being a full Section in 2015. Hanne Bruun had served as Vice-Chair of the TWG and Section since 2012, and organised an 'off-year' conference on television industries in Aarhus in 2013. Cathy Johnson (University of Huddersfield, UK) was elected as new Chair, Julia Velkova (University of Helsinki, Finland) as Vice-Chair, and Maria Michalis (University of Westminster, UK) was re-elected as Vice-Chair. Giulia Manica was elected as YECREA Representative for the Section.

The Section was also involved in the conference on *Media Industries: Current Debates and Future Directions*, held at King's College London, from 18-20 April 2018. A second iteration of this conference, which had over 200 speakers, is set to take place in April 2020, and the Section will once again be involved in organisation.

<http://estore.kcl.ac.uk/conferences-and-events/academic-faculties/faculty-of-arts-humanities/department-of-culture-media-creative-industries/media-industries-current-debates-and-future-directions>

In 2019, the Section is involved in the organisation of a conference on *Infrastructures and inequalities: media industries, digital cultures and politics*, with the Digital Culture and Communication, and the Communication and Democracy Sections. This will take place on 21-22 October 2019, at the University of Helsinki, with keynote speakers Kaarina Nikunen (Tampere University, Finland) and Lisa Parks (MIT, USA).

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

The section is also involved in the organisation of a conference on *Public Service Media's Online Strategies: Industry Concepts and Critical Investigations*, with Charles University, Czech Republic. This will take place on 22-23 November 2019 at the National Film Archive in Prague. The CFP will be circulated by the end of February 2019.

The current management team of the Section is as follows:

Chair: Cathy Johnson (University of Huddersfield, UK)

Vice-Chairs: Julia Velkova (University of Helsinki, Finland) and Maria Michalis (University of Westminster, UK)

Young ECREA representative: Giulia Manica (University of Nottingham, UK)