

## **ECREA TWG: Children, Youth and Media**

7<sup>th</sup> Annual Report

January 2019

### **About the TWG**

The ECREA TWG: Children, Youth and Media was proposed in February 2012, and approved by ECREA in May 2012. Its formal objectives and modus operandi are available on the ECREA website as well as on the group's website

<https://cymecrea.wordpress.com/about/>

The management team for the year 2018 was elected by members in April 2017, and consists of Prof. Elisabeth Staksrud, University of Oslo (Chair), and Vice Chairs Prof. David Smahel, Masaryk University (re-elected) and Ass. Prof. Bieke Zaman, KU Leuven.

As of January 2019, the group consists of 201 registered members, an increase of 74 members in one year.

In addition, the group communicates with 188 interested scholars from over 30 countries subscribing to our list-serv newsletter.

### **Objectives TWG**

The rationale for the activities facilitated by the current management team includes:

- Communication and community building
- Constructing a focal point for multiple networks
- Dialogue within and across inter- and multi-disciplinarity
- Identifying new opportunities for research and practice
- Keeping track of a fast-changing socio-technological landscape
- Help with keeping research up to date, innovative and future-relevant
- A supportive environment in which to challenge each others
- Promoting children, youth and media research to the wider childhood/media research communities
- Support researchers/careers in this field
- Establish a relevant group of experts with whom to have in-depth discussions
- Find way to address the demand from media/policy makers about our research topics
- Mentoring for young scholars

## Activities and achievements to date

In 2018, ECREA TWG CYM management group continued to focusing on facilitating meeting places for its members and for other interested colleagues, finding ways to foster interactivity within and beyond the scholarly community, and make the group publicly visible.

In 2018, the management group has focused on the creation of various complementary online meeting places and communication channels, including but not limited to:

The group arranged a successful **ECREA pre-conference before the ICA conference in Prague, May 2018**. The pre-conference “Trust, Control, and Privacy: Mediatization of Childhood and Adolescence in the Digital Age” was arranged together with the ECREA section on Mediatization, in cooperation with the Institute for Communication at Charles University Prague. Main conference contact has been Christine Trueltzsch. A total of 34 proposals were submitted to the conference, of which 25 were selected. CYM is also cooperating with the Journal of Children and Media (JoCAM) to produce 1-2 special issues of the journal after the conference. More information about the event can be found at <http://www.icahdq.org/event/CzechPC7>

The ECREA TWG CYM hosted a **pre-conference before the ECREA main conference in Lugano November 2018**. The conference entitled “Children and Adolescents in a Mobile Media World” was held 31 October 2018. **Local organizers:** Institute of Communication and Health, Università della Svizzera italiana (USI) and the ECREA TWG: Children, Youth and Media. Chair: Anne-Linda Camerini, PhD, with support of the scientific committee Prof. Peter J. Schulz, Serena Petrocchi, Anna Carrara, and Laura Marciano. Keynote: Patti Valkenburg, PhD, University distinguished professor, University of Amsterdam. **Website link:** [www.usi.ch/ecrea](http://www.usi.ch/ecrea)

The ECREA TWG CYM will host a gap-year conference entitled **Children’s online worlds, digital media and digital literacy**<sup>1</sup>. The conference will be hosted in Athens, May 24th-25th 2019, with keynote speaker emeritus Professor David Buckingham. The conference is organized in cooperation with Department of Communication and Media Studies, School of Economics and Political Science, National and Kapodistrian University of

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<sup>1</sup> Description of conference topic based on the call for papers: Digital media is not just part of children’s cultures but is inherently part of their everyday practices through which they explore and construct the world. Within this context, children develop a large range of literacy skills and practices related to education, consumption of media and cultural texts, lifestyle, sexuality. Young people use digital media for school work, communication, flirting, news consumption, political engagement, activism or for interaction with their favourite celebrities (on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter and other platforms). As such, digital media serve as a multipurpose platform of self-performance, identity construction and self-projection, enriching children’s lived experiences and everyday culture. Considering such skills and practices as agentic claims to citizenship and claims to broader participation in different aspects of the public discourse, we invite contributions from researchers working within media studies, cultural studies, education, psychology and sociology, looking at how children develop or engage with literacy practices through the use of digital media and cultural consumption.

Athens (NKUA). Local organizers are Prof. Liza Tsaliki and Dr. Despina Chronaki.

**Website link** <https://sites.google.com/view/twg-children-youth-media/home?authuser=0>

The ECREA TWG CYM will host a gap year conference "**Children and Adolescents in the era of SmartScreens: Risks, threats and opportunities reloaded**"<sup>2</sup>, International Off-year Conference ECREA-CYM-TWG-2019, Thursday 19th of September to Friday 20th of September 2019, Salamanca (near Madrid), Spain. Keynote speakers are Prof. Dr. Sonia Livingston (LSE, London School of Economics, UK) and Prof. Dr. Antonio García-Jiménez (URJC, University Rey Juan Carlos, Madrid, Spain). The conference is organized in cooperation the University of Salamanca, Faculty of Social Sciences, Salamanca. Local organizer are Prof. Dr. Félix Ortega, from the Department of Sociology and Communication, Faculty of Social Sciences, Salamanca University and Prof. Dr. Patricia Nuñez-Gómez, from the Faculty of Information Sciences, University Complutense Madrid. Website link: <http://www.childrenandsmartscreens.eu/>

In addition the management group continued to develop communication platforms including

- The website for the group <https://cymecrea.wordpress.com/>
- The online database of CYM members to map out contact details, research interests and expertise.
- The continued use and distribution of our own mailing list "CHILDREN-YOUTH-MEDIA" and the ECREA's mailing list for the TWG CYM members.
- A internal Facebook group for members to share preliminary findings, updates about recent publications, seek a roommate for a conference, share pictures or videos of recent activities and events, etc.

### **Future activities**

For the next period/2019 the ECREA TWG CYM will arrange two gap year conferences and, importantly, will apply to become a permanent ECREA research section.

Report submitted by: *Bieke Zaman, David Smahel, and Elisabeth Staksrud*

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<sup>2</sup> Description of conference topic based on the call for papers: Children and adolescents increasingly turn to mobile media devices and SmartScreen's, the Smartphone in particular - at home, at school or on the move-, to stay connected with family and friends, for schooling activities and to access a variety of digital media contents and services including social media, music, videos, and games. The everytime-and-everywhere-access to mobile media has changed children's and adolescents' everyday life with potential implications on their -from a broad perspective- socialization, consumer patterns, schooling orientated behaviour among others. This conference wants to address these issues both from a theoretical and methodological perspective. We welcome Case Studies and research in the conference topics.