

ECREA's CEE Network Report

Activities of 2016

1. Annual CEECOM conference, June 16-18, 2016

The 9th Central and Eastern European Media and Communication Conference (www.ceecom.org) was organized by the University of Tartu, Institute of Social Sciences. The title of the conference was "**Media and Communication studies: bridging disciplines, bridging countries**". The organizing committee received 91 submissions from authors from 20 countries. There were four keynote speakers who approached the theme of the conference from their own perspective. Epp Lauk (University of Jyväskylä) spoke about paths of media research in Eastern and Central Europe, Bogusława Dobek-Ostrowska (University of Wrocław) on Four models of media and politics in Central and Eastern Europe 25 years after communism, Peeter Torop (University of Tartu) on the topic of culture from different perspectives, and Rauno Thomas Moss (University of Tartu) on visual signs and visual communication. The conference was structured into 17 parallel sessions and three panel sessions. In addition, a fair of ideas was held as well.

The next CEECOM conference will be held in June 2017 at the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia.

2. CEE Network at the 4th ECC conference

CEE Network management team organized a Round Table at the ECREA 2016 conference in Prague on "Communication and Media Studies in CEE: Past, Present and Future", chaired by Zrinjka Peruško, University of Zagreb.

The round table discussed the state of the discipline of communication and media studies in CEE today. More than a quarter century after democratic changes, communication and media studies in Central and Eastern Europe are a growing field, starting to be recognized across Europe. While the impact of CEE scholars is still small, and their work hardly visible in the European or international academic arena, the academic community of communication and media scholars is starting to focus on itself to study and understand its history and contemporary areas of research focus, supported to a great degree by the CEECOM conference and the ECREA CEE Network. While media institutions and journalistic practices developed in the CEE Europe in comparable historical times, albeit influenced by a different political and economic framework, the academic discipline did not develop under socialism in all the countries equally, as some communist regimes were more restrictive than others in allowing development of social sciences. Thus in some CEE countries, the discipline started to develop, or to communicate with the accumulated disciplinary knowledge, only after 1990. With this Round Table, attention was focused on disciplinary developments in CEE academia both in terms of its contemporary interests and research practices in terms of the institutional and

cognitive histories of communication and media studies, including journalism studies, in socialist and post-socialist times.

The round table included five paper presentations: Stepping out of the Shadow: Internationalizing Communication Research in CEE by Václav Štětka, Loughborough University and Charles University, Czech Republic; Communication and Media Research in Poland by Malgorzata Winiarska-Brodowska, Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland; Russian Journalism and Media Studies: Moving to Global Academia by Elena Vartanova, Lomonosov Moscow State University, Russia; and Researching Journalism in Socialist and Post-Socialist Croatia by Dina Vozab, Dunja Majstorović and Zrinjka Peruško, University of Zagreb, Croatia.

Another special panel was organized during the 4th ECC conference in Prauge with support from and involvement by the CEE Network, namely “Political communication and new media in Central and Eastern Europe”. Václav Štětka was panel convenor and chair. The panel featured four presentations, by Jernej Amon Prodnik (University of Ljubljana), Jan Zápotocký (Charles University in Prague), Aukse Balčytiene (Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania) and Peter Bajomi Lázár (Budapest Business School, Hungary).

3. 4th Congress of the Polish Communication Association

CEE Network was one of the patrons of the 4th Congress of the Polish Communication Association that took place on 15-17 September in Poznan. The Congress, held under the title “Social Communication in the Era of New Technologies”, was aimed at promoting an interdisciplinary, comparative, multi-methodological approach to the study of social communication in the era of new technologies. The Congress attracted over 250 participants and was structured into 52 thematic panels. Vaclav Stetka, the Chair of the CEE Network, was one of the keynote speakers who opened the event, with a speech titled “Gates without keepers? Information control, trust and accountability in the age of social media”.

4. Dissemination activities

The Facebook page of the CEE Network grew in prominence during 2016, accounting for over 450 “likes” by the end of 2016.

5. New management team

At the Business Meeting of the CEE Network, held during the 4th ECC conference in Prague on 11 November 2016, a new management team was elected:

Chair: Zrinjka Peruško (Centre for Media and Communication Research, Faculty of Political Science, University of Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia)

Vice Chair: Lenka Vochocová (Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic)

Vice Chair: Norbert Merkovity (Department of Political Science, University of Szeged, Hungary)

6. Membership

As of 31.12.2016, there have been 157 active members of the CEE Network.

Report prepared by the CEE Network team (2015-2016):

Chair: Vaclav Stetka (Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic)

Vice Chair: Irena Reifova (Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic)

Vice Chair: Zrinjka Peruško (Centre for Media and Communication Research, Faculty of Political Science, University of Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia)