

Communication Law and Policy Section
Report of Activities 2019

2019 was marked by activities leading to our biennial section conference titled *Communication Rights in the Digital Age*, which we co-organised in Helsinki, Finland, on the 24th and 25th of October 2019. In organising the conference we collaborated with the Helsinki Media Policy Research Group, the University of Helsinki and the Euromedia Research Group. It was also supported by the IAMCR Communication Policy & Technology Section and the Communication Rights in the Age of Digital Disruption (CORDI), a research consortium funded by the Academy of Finland.

Our main activities in 2019 therefore included preparations for the conference, organising and discussing with the partners, preparing the theme and programme, promoting the public call for papers, which we published in March. The year saw the continued success of the CLP section, shown in the many submissions and well-attended sessions during the conference.

The programme of the conference addressed the interplay of national and global characteristics of communication rights and answered questions about the definitions of communication rights, policy and other actors defining these rights, current core issues and cases. The conference keynote speaker was Philip M. Napoli from Duke University, United States, who discussed user data as a public resource on his keynote lecture *User Data as Public Resource: A New Approach to Data Property Rights and Social Media Regulation*. The conference also included ten panels discussing communication rights in the digital age, the policy framework, the importance of civic engagement and national approaches, the role of journalism and public service media and the limits of regulatory applications.

The papers, which were presented in the conference, had a chance to submit to a special issue of the Journal of Information Policy (JIP). The conference also produced a summary report detailing the content of the discussions and a five-part series podcast addressing some key topics discussed, including an interview with the keynote speaker. All of them are publicly accessible on the conference's website, which was also the provider for key information during the conference.