

Digital Culture and Communication section 2016 Annual report

1) Section and Programme development for the European Communication Conference in Prague (ECC16)

The DCC section received more than 200 abstracts (167 abstracts in Lisbon 2014), accepted 113 abstracts (approx. 50% acceptance rate), which were allocated 21 sessions of 5 papers each, and posters. The number of submissions shows increasing interest in the themes of the Section, and that the Section is still highly relevant. The Section currently has 465 members and continues to grow.

2) Elections and new management team

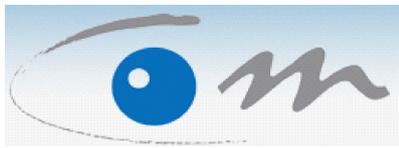
Gemma San Cornelio accomplished her period as Chair in the management team, so she stepped down as chair. We want to thank her for her engagement and enthusiasm for the activities of the section. Christoph Raetzsch stepped down as Vice-Chair. We also want to thank Christoph for his work in our past workshops in Bonn (2013), and in Salzburg (2015), and for the important work that he has done for the DCC blog, initially as Communications Officer.

Gemma San Cornelio published a call for nominations and collated the nominations, and organized the election at the Business Meeting, held in Prague. In accordance with the section's Modus Operandi, Aristeia Fotopoulou (University of Brighton) put herself forward as Chair, to ensure continuity in the Management team. The other candidates were Sander De Ridder (Ghent University, Belgium) and Ana Jorge (Universidade Católica Portuguesa). All the three candidates were elected by a unanimous decision of the section members present during the business meeting. The new team aims to develop a stronger identity for the DCC section around emerging digital practices, cultures and technologies, such as datafication; on methodological issues, as well as a critical approach to these advances.

The management team was complemented by the new YECREA Representative Ysabel Gerrard (University of Leeds).

3) Internal Communication

The Facebook Group was set up in November 2016 to aid discussions and communication with members beyond the email list. It currently has 200 members. We continue to maintain the blog of the Section (<https://dccecrea.wordpress.com>). Anne Mollen stepped down as representative for networking and outreach activities in the DCC in preparation for her new role with YECREA. We would like to thank Anne Mollen for her help with the blog, and the interviews she took, publicising important work in the field. Ysabel Gerrard is maintaining the blog with the rest of the management team, as part of her YECREA representative role.



4) Next Conferences

The next Section meeting will be held November 6 & 7, 2017, at the University of Brighton. The Conference title is “Digital Culture meets Data: Critical Perspectives”. The DCC Section also organised a joint Symposium called “Sexualities and Digital Culture in Europe”, with the Gender and Communication Section, to be held in May 26 & 27th, 2017 in Athens.