

**ECREA Diaspora, Migration and Media Section Annual Report 2008**  
(Period: 1/1/08-27/11/08)

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The Diaspora, Migration and Media (DMM) section has completed the first cycle of his life, successfully, and after attracting dozens of scholars from more than 20 countries in its ranks.

In 2008, the section concentrated in activities that focussed on networking and on the preparation of the Barcelona conference.

The main elements of the annual activities of the section during 2008 are highlighted below:

- **ECREA Barcelona conference, main programme:** We have received an enormous amount of panel and paper proposals for our sections at the conference, making the selection process a real challenge. The large number of proposals received was a tangible indication of the success of the section within the ranks of ECREA and beyond.
- **ECREA Barcelona conference, fringe meeting:** During the conference, we held a meeting with minority media based in Barcelona and discussed possibilities of developing links between academics working in the field of migration, diaspora and media studies and minority media practitioners. The meeting was kindly organised by the conference local organisers.
- **Networking activities:**
  - The section chair is coordinating a mailing list where DMM members and friends of the section participate in exchange of information and ideas about furthering research collaborations.
  - The section held an informal networking activity in Montreal, during the ICA conference, May 2008. The participating members discussed research proposals and potentials for collaboration.
  - One of the research collaborations initiated from within DMM and after our meeting in Montreal (led by Myria Georgiou), was a COST network proposal on transnational networks and citizenship in Europe. Unfortunately, the proposal has not been selected for funding.
  - A book proposal is currently put together by Myria Georgiou (outgoing section chair). The book proposal focuses on transnational networks and a number of DMM members are participating in this initiative.
- **Elections:** The initial management group of the section has completed its life in November 27, 2008. Myria Georgiou (first chair of the section) decided to step down, while the two vice-chairs have decided to remain on the management group (Olga Guedes Bailey; Eugenia Siapera). The decision of the management group guarantees both continuity and change on leadership level. Only one team came forward for election and this was unanimously elected. The new team consists of: Olga Guedes Bailey (chair), Sonja de Leuw (vice-chair) and Eugenia Siapera (vice-chair).
- **Future plans:**
  - Consolidate and develop further an internal conversation with more of our members, engaging particularly the younger generation of academics, and scholars from the South and East of Europe. This could be achieved by creating a virtual forum - group blog - which would open up the floor to

all members to discuss their work, issues, and concerns . The team will discuss a preliminary proposal and put to discussion to colleagues;

- Expand our transnational network of academics and practitioners in the field by building collaborative work with similar sections of other academic organizations ( e.g. ICA and IAMCR) and foster connections with non-governmental organizations and practitioners (e.g. Our-Media, Indymedia, Panos) to the development of the theory-practices ethos of our section.
- Organize the workshop of our group for 2009.

Myria Georgiou  
Olga Guedes Bailey  
Eugenia Siapera