

DIASPORA, MIGRATION AND MEDIA SECTION OF ECREA – REPORT 2011

The Diaspora, Migration and Media (DMM) section has maintained its endeavour of expanding the theoretical framework of the section and its network. The academic collaboration among scholar is a vital element of DMM and many of our members have developed research projects, Erasmus agreements, and academic publications by making use of the DMM network.

Following the mission of our section, we put a lot of effort to engage new scholars, with emphasises on young academics, which was demonstrated by the vast majority of young scholars in our symposium in Maynooth, Ireland this year.

The theoretical scope of the section has also been a priority in terms of centring the topics on DMM debates relevant to contemporary European society. The theme of the 2011 symposium reflects that concern in balancing the consolidated themes with those that are not yet fully debated in the section.

In 2011, the section concentrated on activities that focussed on networking and on the preparation of the Maynooth academic event.

- **Organizing the section symposium 2011:**

The two days symposium took place in Maynooth, Ireland, at the National University of Ireland, 2-4 December.

Target participants: scholars and professional practitioners working on areas of relevance to the section.

Submission – the section received 30 individual abstracts and one panel (five abstracts). The symposium had 29 registrations plus a fluctuating audience. The selected abstracts/papers were of high quality. After computing the people who could not attend due to lack of financial support or visa issues, we had 23 papers presented.

The symposium programme held panels on the Keywords: Continuities, complexities and challenges in the field of Diaspora, Migration and Media which aimed to assess the relevance, impact, consequences and politics of the 'keywords' and theories currently dominant in the field. We also organized two very successful round tables: one on the specific themes related to the key words, and another on the state of the art of research in the field of diaspora, migration and media. This year we had a photo exhibition on the daily life of asylum seekers which was co-produced by Zoe O'Reill with people living in the 'asylum-seeker direct provision centre' near the NUI university.

The profile of participants by gender, nationalities and institutional affiliations:

- 10 male and 14 female;
- Participants by nationalities: Irish (3) Spanish (3) Romanian (2) Danish (1) Dutch (1) Brazilian (1) Cuban (1) English (1) German (2) Italian (1) Polish (1) Norwegian (1) Zimbabwean (1) Belgian (1) Swiss (1) Israel (1) Australia (1);

- Universities represented: University of Queensland, National School of Political Studies, Bucharest, University College Dublin, Dublin City University, Uni of Lugano, Universidad Rey Juan Carlos, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, University of Antwerp, University of Navarra, University of Milan, Aalborg University, University of Kent, Ryerson University (Canada), Birkbeck, University of London, Nottingham Trent University, Utrecht University, University of Oslo, University of Munich, NUI Maynooth, University of the Witwatersrand (South Africa), University of Northumbria, University of Westminster.

We would like to thank NUI Maynooth in particular the Department of School of English, Media and Theatre Studies for their financial support (waive of costs of room and facilities hire, wine reception, funding for conference assistant, and facilitating the organization of the photo exhibition, the first in the new exhibition space). We would like to show our gratitude to Gavan Titley (co-chair) for his excellent work as the local organizer.

We are in the process of selecting the best papers presented in the section to submit to academic journals as planned in our last report.

- **Future plans:**
 - Organize the section panels for 2012;
 - Organize elections for the section in 2012.

Olga Guedes Bailey, Sonja De Leeuw and Gavan Titley
Management team of DMM

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