**ECREA DIASPORA, MIGRATION AND MEDIA**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2013**

**Management team**

Chair:

Dr Gavan Titley

Department of Media Studies, National University of Ireland Maynooth

Co-Chairs:

Prof Tristan Mattelart, Centre d’Êtudes sur les Médias, les Technologies et l’Internationalisation, Université Paris 8.

Dr Monika Metykova, School of Media, Film and Music, University of Sussex.

YECREA Representative:

Kevin Smets,

Department of Communications

Antwerp University.

**Report on Activities**

*1. Statement of intentions of the new team*

In early 2013, the new section team discussed what they aimed to achieve over their term. The following statement of intentions was collaboratively drafted:

We – Gavan Titley, Tristan Mattelart, Monika Metykova – are excited at the prospect of continuing the development of our section, and continuing the dedicated work of our predecessors, most recently the outgoing chair Olga Guedes Bailey, and Vice-Chair Sonja de Leeuw.

We have all been involved for several years in the section. Gavan has presented a paper at every conference and seminar since 2007, and as Vice-Chair for 2010-12, organized the section’s seminar in The National University of Ireland, Maynooth in 2011. Monika joined the section in 2008 and has since attended conferences and contributed to the section’s behind-the-scenes work (e.g. reviewing conference abstracts),

The section has put a focus on transnational and diasporic communications at the heart of European communications research. We propose to consolidate this by encouraging exploration of the following:

* Historical studies of, and historicized perspectives on, migrant media production and transnational communications;
* Research on migrant media production and cultures of representation beyond the established, western European sites of immigration;
* The communication policies and media strategies of states in encouraging/deterring immigration, managing diasporic networks, and regulating immigrants.

We also propose to develop the scope of the section by:

* Working to involve more scholars from the newer EU states, from the wider Europe of The Council of Europe, and from beyond Europe;
* Recognising the career challenges facing early career scholars and involving them more in the section;
* Implementing a realistic networking and communications strategy for the section.
* Holding a 2013 seminar at the University of Sussex

*2. Collaborations*

Given the overlap of the section’s memberships with other networks and regional organisations with common and complementary themes and approaches, we have sought to explore collaborations through joint events and possible publication projects. The first such collaboration took place at the TheoryNord seminar in Helsinki in May 2013, where Gavan Titley presented the section and invited thematic panels from TheoryNord’s work or the Sussex workshop and Lisbon conference.

*3. Publications*

It has been a long standing aim of the section to nurture publications that feature research presented and developed within the section’s activities. In 2013 several such publications were furthered. The book *National Conversations: Public Service Media and Cultural Diversity*, was first planned at ECREA Hamburg in 2010, and the final proofs were submitted to Intellect Books in late 2013 for publication in May 2014 (stemming from a conversation with Intellect also initiated in Hamburg). Edited by section members Karina Horsti, Gunilla Hultén and Gavan Titley, it features studies of public service media in migration societies from eight different contexts, as well as synthesizing theoretical contributions.

Section members have centrally participated in the COST Action ‘Transforming Audiences, Transforming Societies’. Marta Cola, Kaarina Nikunen, Alexander Dhoest and Gavan Titley’s chapter ‘Ethnic minority audiences for public and private broadcasting’ was published in Audience Transformations: Shifting Audience Positions in Late Modernity, edited by Nico Carpentier, Kim Christian Schrøder and Lawrie Hallet, as part of the new ECREA/COST series with Routledge.

*4. Section workshop*

Following a team meeting at IAMCR in Dublin in June 2013, it was decided for logistical reasons to shift the workshop from November 2013 to March 2014, in Sussex University. The call for papers is included below. The seminar will be co-hosted by the Sussex Centre for Cultural Studies, and confirmed keynotes include Dr Sarita Malik, and Prof Miyase Christensen.

The ‘crisis’ of multiculturalism has been on the agendas of European countries for the past decade. Politicians all over Europe talk about the ‘failure’ of the multicultural project, a few even refer to the ‘nightmare’ of multiculturalism. We have witnessed some attempts at mapping the state of multiculturalism in contemporary societies and the workshop seeks to address such mappings: What is the actual state of multiculturalism in contemporary societies? What policies exist at various levels of governance aimed at managing ethnic, cultural and religious diversity, and how have they shifted during this period of supposed crisis?

But we hope also to go beyond mere ‘diagnostics’. We welcome proposals for papers dealing with policies and everyday practices that characterize living in contemporary multicultural societies and those that explore the intersections between such policies and practices. How have migrant-led groups and anti-racist networks responded to the intensive politicization of multiculturalism? What impact has this insistence on crisis had on media actors, and what roles have they played in affirming or challenging dominant narratives? The idea of everyday ‘lived multiculture’ is often opposed to the ‘nightmare’ scenarios of the past decade, but what does this idea mean in ethnographic terms, and in media activity?

We are particularly interested in proposals that use innovative or evolving approaches and engage frameworks from a variety of disciplines. Non-European perspectives on the crisis of multiculturalism are very welcome.

The organizers are keen to provide early career researchers with an opportunity to discuss their work in greater depth and will run extended sessions for them.

Abstracts of up to 300 words should be sent to Monika Metykova (m.metykova@sussex.ac.uk) by 15 December 2014, notification of acceptance will be made by 15 January 2014.