

# Annual Report 2008

## ECREA International & Intercultural Communication Section

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The ECREA International and Intercultural Section has been active since early 2006. The Section has today 131 members.

### ***Membership***

During 2008 the section has doubled its members. The section now counts 131 members against 65 in December 2007. Most of the new members come from a personal networking exercise done by the Chair and Vice Chairs during the Symposium “**The Myth of the Global Internet**” organized at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel in October 2007, and in other conferences such as the GigaNet Conference in Rio (November 2007) and in Paris (June 2008), the IAMCR Conference in Stockholm (July 2008) and the two day seminar on Communication, Social Space and Intercultural Dialogue organized by the CIDOB Foundation in Barcelona (September 2008).

### ***ECREA 2<sup>nd</sup> European Communication Conference – Barcelona 25-28/11/2008***

Most of the activities in 2008 concerned the work necessary for the preparation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> European Communication Conference of ECREA. In order to assure a fair evaluation of the proposal received for the IIC Section and to form coherent and interesting panels for the Conference, the Chair and Vice Chairs read and each and every proposal by themselves and then gathered together in the Netherlands to discuss and evaluate possible panels.

At the Conference in Barcelona, the feedback of the audience on the panel structures and composition was highly positive.

During the business meeting, the section bureau was re-elected unanimously for another term.

### ***Future Events/Development Plans***

#### ***Membership***

The Section, which is now consolidated in terms of membership, intends to strengthen the potential benefits to its

members in terms of cooperation and networking. In order to do so it will invite its members to organize ECREA-IIC events in their institutions and to fill their profile in the ECREA database. This will be done through a mail at the beginning of 2009 (as announced in the Business meeting during the Conference in Barcelona in November 2008)

### Events

The Section intends to organize 2 IIC workshops/events during 2009. These should be done in cooperation with other ECREA Sections.

- The first, around the topic of Global Internet Governance, is intended to take place during May 2009 at the VUB premises, and will be organized in cooperation with GigaNet, the network or Internet Governance Scholars.

- The second, around the topic of European Public Sphere, is intended to take place during October 2009, in Belgium or the Netherlands, and will be organized in cooperation with the Europe of Cultures Forum.

The organizations of these two events will begin at the beginning of 2009.

The organization of the 3<sup>rd</sup> ECREA Conference in Hamburg will start also towards the end of 2009. This will also be the occasion to strengthen the collaboration with the International Section of DGPuk.