



# **RADIO RESEARCH SECTION**

## **REPORT 2015**

### **ACTIVITIES / ACTIONS / EVENTS**

This report includes brief information on three main activities of the Ecrea Radio Research Section during 2015: the Radio Research Conference; the section's website; the project of a new scientific journal.

# REPORT 2015

## ACTIVITIES / ACTIONS / EVENTS

The current coordination team was elected in November 2014, during the 5<sup>th</sup> European Communication Conference in Lisbon. The months following the election were particularly dedicated to discuss the main projects of this team, which are briefly described in the topics bellow. From the beginning of 2015 on, the team focused on two main activities in particular: 1) the organization in partnership with the Universidad Complutense de Madrid and the Universidad Carlos III de Madrid of the 4<sup>th</sup> Radio Research Conference; and 2) the design of a new scientific journal.

### :: NEWSLETTER AND WEBSITE ::

After several contacts with some members of the Ecrea Executive Board and the former chair, the team realized that there was no access to the back office of the section's website (<http://sections.ecrea.eu/RR>). Following the recommendation of the Executive Board, the coordination team developed a new website, recovering some information of the previous one and updating news and some data. In tune with the new journal's design (see page 3), the identity of the section turned from green into blue, as shown in Figure 1. The new website can be accessed at (<http://ecrea-radioresearch.eu>). The domain and hosting costs were funded by the financial results of the Radio Research 2015 Conference.



Figure 1: Print screen of the new website's homepage

## SUMMARY

New website  
<http://ecrea-radioresearch.eu>

Quarterly Newsletter  
Sent by email

Radio Research 2015  
Conference  
Madrid :: 28-30 October 2015

New scientific journal  
*Radio, Sound & Society*

Resuming an idea of the previous coordination team, the section launched in 2015 a regular newsletter (edited by Tiziano Bonini). In a quarterly basis, a brief report of news is sent to all members of the section.

## :: RADIO RESEARCH 2015 CONFERENCE ::

The fourth conference of the section was held in Madrid (Spain), according to the decision taken during the Business Meeting organised in November 2014, in Lisbon. The conference was organised under the coordination of Manuel Fernández Sande and Ignacio Gallego Pérez, in partnership with two universities from Madrid: Universidad Complutense de Madrid and Universidad Carlos III. The conference registered about 120 participants, coming from at least 15 different countries (Figure 3); 72 papers were presented in 18 parallel sessions.

The conference theme – *Diversity, Innovation and Policies* (Figure 2) – was a truly challenging subject for academic debate. The scientific programme included the special participation of the following keynote speakers: Marc Raboy (McGill University); Marko Ala Fossi (University of Tampere); Michael Bull (University of Sussex); Carolina Guerrero (Stanford University) and David Hendy (University of Sussex).

Three pre-conference events integrated the scientific programme: one session on *prospects of radio research and sound studies in Iberoamerica*; one roundtable on *community media* and a special panel on *protest and politics in radio activism*.

The conference was disseminated through this website: <http://radioresearch2015.org/radioresearch/>. The proceedings books will be published in the first semester of 2016.



Figure 2: Conference logo



Figure 3: Picture of the group at the end of the closing session (credits: staff of the conference)

## :: RADIO, SOUND & SOCIETY JOURNAL ::

Radio studies is usually assumed as a marginal scientific area. Publishing in this field is indeed a significant challenge for researchers, as there is not many journals specially dedicated to radio and sound. The main journals in this area are *The Radio and Audio Media Journal*, published by Taylor & Francis and *The Radio Studies Journal*, published by Intellect. Both journals are accessible only by purchase or paid subscription. There is not any reference journal on an open access basis. For this reason, the Ecrea Radio Research Section established the purpose of launching a new project, meant to be an online, multimedia academic journal.

The *Radio, Sound & Society* journal was publically announced during the Radio Research 2015 Conference, in Madrid, as a publication aimed to publish the outstanding work and research of emerging international media studies scholars investigating the role of radio, and more broadly sound, in everyday life and contemporary society with an interdisciplinary approach. Designed to start in January 2016, the journal will be edited using *Open Journal Systems* software and all articles will be published under the Creative Commons license. English is the official language, but Spanish will also be accepted if accompanied by an English version.

The *Radio, Sound & Society* has already a header (Figure 4) and its online platform has been prepared to be accessible at <http://www.ecrea-radioresearch.eu/journal-rss>.



Figure 4: *Radio, Sound & Society* journal's header

## :: MEETINGS ::

The section organised a business meeting with the participants of the 2015 Conference with the following objectives: to inform the members on the ongoing projects for the section; to invite members to participate in the 6<sup>th</sup> European Communication Conference; to collect ideas for new activities; to invite proposals for the organisation of the Radio Research 2017 Conference and to ask for the members' collaboration in the gathering new members. Besides this meeting, the coordination team has been in regular contact by email and by Skype.

## :: MEMBERSHIP ::

The coordination team has not been monitoring very rigorously the number of members associated to the section, but after the Radio Research 2015 Conference it seems that the number of members increased significantly. By the end of 2015, the section had 97 members from 27 countries (Figure

5). The community is however much larger than this number. For this reason, the coordination team is developing a strategy to strengthen the membership and all efforts with the visibility of the section (the new website, the newsletter and the new journal) are also related to this objective.

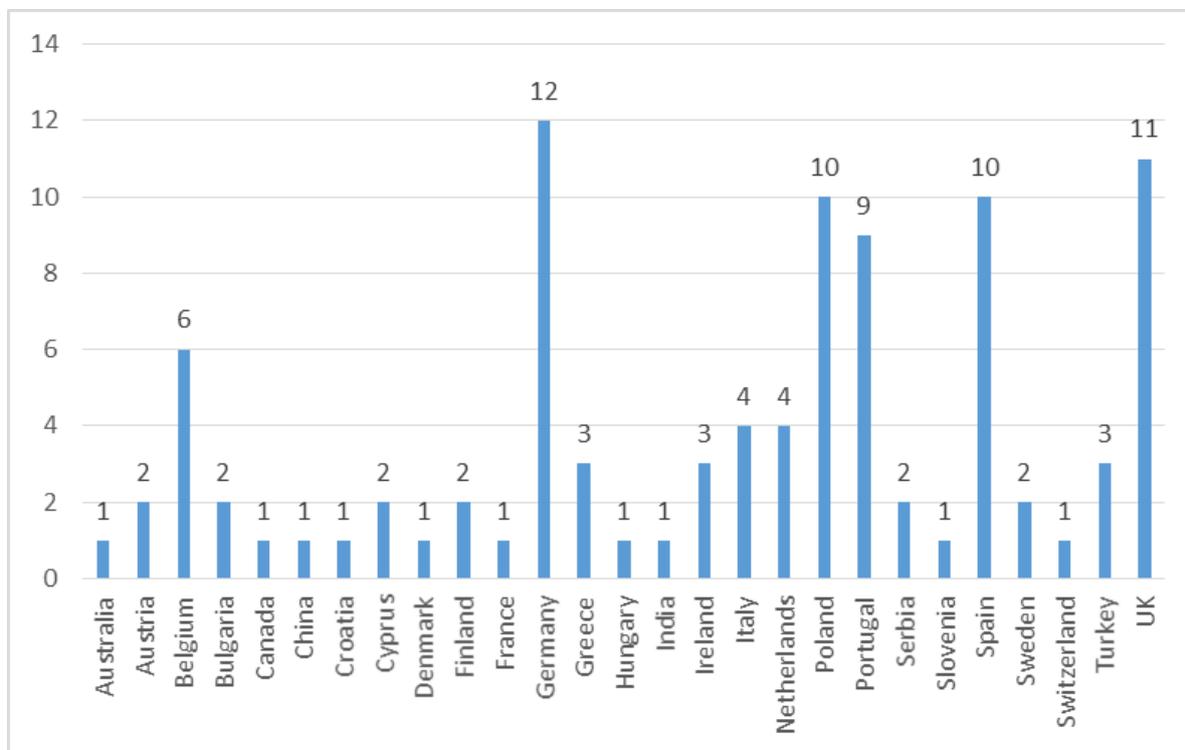


Figure 5: Section's membership by country (at the end of 2015)

## :: YCREA REPRESENTATION ::



By the end of October, the section appointed a new representative for the Young Scholars Network. The young German scholar Nele Heise (Figure 6) is the member who represents the Radio Research Section. Nele Heise is preparing a PhD on “active audience” and has been also working on podcasting. She is since 2011 young researcher at the Hans-Bredow Institute, in Hamburg (Germany) [more information at <http://www.hans-bredow-institut.de/en/node/4473>]

Figure 6: Nele Heise (credits: Hans-Bredow Institute)

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The chairs  
*Madalena Oliveira, Grazyna Stachyra & Tiziano Bonini*