

Yearly Report to the ECREA board 2013: Media and Religion TWG

Organization of the chairing committee:

Docent, PhD. Johanna Sumiala University of Helsinki (chair, and programme coordinator)

Professor Mihai Coman University of Bucharest (vice-chair)

Professor Knut Lundby University of Oslo (vice-chair)

Events:

In 2013, we organized two panels in collaboration with two ICA divisions philosophy, theory and critique, and popular communication The panels were held in the London conference that took place 17-21 June:

I Mediating Digital Religion: Creatives, Confession, and Eloquence

Philosophy, Theory and Critique

Chair: Knut Lundby, U of Oslo, NORWAY

Participants:

Conductors for Religion Across Media Knut Lundby, U of Oslo, NORWAY

Religious Digital Creatives as New Cultural Authorities Heidi Ann

Campbell, Texas A&M U, USA

Digital Confession, Gender, and Religion Mia E. Lovheim, Uppsala U, NORWAY

On Digital Religious Eloquence Peter D. Simonson, U of Colorado, USA

Respondent:

Stig Hjarvard, U of Copenhagen, DENMARK

II Media, Ritual and Religion. Exploring Contemporary Implications in

Mediatized Rituals Online/Offline

Popular Communication

Chairs:

Johanna Sumiala, U of Helsinki, FINLAND

Mihai Coman, U of Bucharest, ROMANIA

Participants:

Media and Ritual: A Challenge for the Anthropological Thought?

Mihai Coman, U of Bucharest, ROMANIA

Amnon Yitzhak Online: YouTube and the Production of Ritual Knowledge

Michele Rosenthal, U of Haifa, ISRAEL

Synchronization Without Simultaneity? Media Rituals Beyond

Program-Television and Media Events

Guenter Thomas, Ruhr U Bochum, GERMANY

Immortals: Ritualizing Death of a Celebrity in the Present-Day Media Culture

Johanna Sumiala, U of Helsinki, FINLAND

Respondent:

Eric W. Rothenbuhler, Webster U, USA

The two other academic events were organized in SOAS London and in Bucharest. The London panel/workshop was organized in collaboration with CRESC (Centre for Research in Socio-Cultural Change) and Mediating Religion Network. The conference took place in 4-6, September at SOAS. The title of the panel was: Mediating Religion Network Panel on Media, Religion and In/Vulnerability and it was chaired by professor Marie Gillespie (Open University) and Dr. Tim Hutchings (CRESC, research fellow)

The Bucharest workshop was organized by the Media and Religion TWG of ECREA, in cooperation with the Doctoral School in Media Studies of Bucharest University and the AFCOM (Association of Educators in Journalism and Communication) and was held in Bucharest (Romania) on October 11 and 12, 2013. The title of the workshop was Media

and Religion. The interplay of Profane and Sacred and it was chaired by professor Mihai Coman (one of the vice chairs of the TGW)

Research Activities:

In terms of other research activities our TGW has close connections with Mediating Religion network (British origin, coordinator Tim Hutchings) and the Nordic Network on Media and Religion, present coordinator Dr. Mona Abdel-Fadil, (Fafu, Norway).

Knut Lundby took part in the NOREL research program. This project analysed the role of religion in the Nordic public sphere from a comparative perspective. NOREL was a NORDCORP project (Nordic Collaborative Research Project) awarded by Joint Committee for Nordic Research Councils for the Humanities and the Social sciences (NOS-HS).

The Nordic network on Media and Religion also organized a panel at the NordMedia conference that was held in Oslo 8-11 August, 2013.

At the national level Johanna Sumiala was co-directing a research project on Media and Religion in Finland: Covering Religion. Challenge of globalization in the Finnish newspapers (2011-2013). This research project was carried out in collaboration with the University of Helsinki and University of Tampere, Finland (Katja Valaskivi being co-director at the University of Tampere). The research project was funded by the Helsingin Sanomat Foundation. One of the outcomes of the project was a special issue on Media and Religion in *Media & Viestintä* -journal (the leading academic media and communication studies journal in Finland)

At the largest international level Media and Religion TGW works in collaboration with ISMRC, that is, International Society for Media, Religion and Culture. The academic home for this scientific association is the Center for Media, Religion, and Culture, University of Colorado, Boulder.

In ECREA Media and Religion TGW has close connections with Mediatization TGW. In recent years, this collaboration has produced several workshops and publications related to the question of mediatization of religion.

Publications (compiation):

ECREA Media and Religion TGW is planning to publish a special issue on Media and Religion to be published 2014/2015. Potential journals are being mapped out at the moment.

The most recent publication by the chairing group to be listed is: *Religion Across Media: From Early Antiquity to Late Modernity* edited by Knut Lundby (Peter Lang, 2013)

One important series for publications in media and religion is the Routledge series on Media, Religion and Culture edited by Stewart Hoover, David Morgan and Jolyon Mitchell. Some new items to be listed by the active members and collaborators with ECREA Media and Religion TGW:

Media, Religion and Gender. New Issues and Challenges by Mia Lövheim (Routledge, 2013),

Media and Ritual. Death, Community and Everyday Life by Johanna Sumiala (Routledge, 2013),