

ECREA - COMMUNICATION AND DEMOCRACY SECTION

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

The work of the section during 2016 focused on three main issues. The first was the publication of a special issue with the open access journal *Media and Communication* in the summer of 2016. The issue was based on the section's off-year symposium on the topic of 'Political Agency in the Digital Age', which was held in Copenhagen on 9-10 October 2015. It includes two short commentaries written by two of the symposiums keynote speakers, Anastasia Kavada and Guobin Yang, as well as four peer-reviewed articles based on papers presented at the symposium.

The second endeavour was the section's participation in the 6th ECREA conference in Prague, 9-12 November 2016. The section received 151 abstracts in total (including 6 panel proposals) and accepted 85 of them (56% acceptance rate) presented in 17 panels in total. A well attended business meeting in re-elected the current management team for another two years and shared ideas about the off-year symposium, which will be held in Södertörn University, Stockholm, 10-11 November 2017.

The section has been working on the symposium since November 2016. This will be a collaboration with the Media Industries and Cultural Production section. The symposium's theme is 'Digital Democracy: Critical Perspectives in the Age of Big Data' and keynote speakers will be Helen Kennedy (University of Sheffield), Joseph Turow (University of Pennsylvania) and Mikkel Flyverbom (Copenhagen Business School). Taking into account suggestions made by members during the discussion at the Prague business meeting, it was also decided to include a YECREA workshop to be held the day before the symposium. The section will continue working on the symposium throughout 2017.

The Section Management Team remain Julie Uldam (Copenhagen Business School) as Chair, and Maria Kyriakidou (University of East Anglia) and Anne Kaun (Södertörn University) acting as Vice-Chairs.

Sebastian Kubitschko (University of Bremen) has replaced Tina Askanius as the section's YECREA representative.

The section currently has 346 members, an increase of 40 members since last year, and is one of the largest sections of ECREA.