

ECREA TWG COMMUNICATION AND THE EUROPEAN PUBLIC SPHERE

2016

1. Research:

A. In August 2015 – December 2016, the internal research project **”The refugees crisis and the European Union”** was undertaken and consisted of both quantitative and qualitative analysis of the way the ”refugees crisis” has been reflected in the national and international public sphere.

The project was supervised by Prof. Alina Bârgăoanu and has three components:

1. Content analysis of mass- media, building on both the classical agenda-setting theory, and, also, on the third level agenda-setting (national and international/foreign);
2. Interviews and focus groups with students, elites, and members of the civil society at large;
3. Secondary analysis of Eurbarometers. The first results of this research project have been disseminated at the ECPR General Conference (Prague, Sept. 2016), where prof. Bargaeanu co-chaired the panel on Communication and the European public sphere. Furthermore, some of the key results of this research were included in the book co-edited by Alina Bârgăoanu – *Why Europe? Narratives and Counter-narratives of European Integration*, 2017, Peter Lang Publishing House - <https://www.peterlang.com/view/product/26284?format=EPDF>.

B. Doctoral research: prof. Bârgăoanu coordinates 13 PhD students who focus on European communication, Europeanization topics, and the European public sphere (please, see above). Doctoral research on EU communication and the European public sphere represents an essential key area of the Doctoral School at the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration, where prof. Bârgăoanu is based.

C. Several members of the EPS TWG have started conducting research on various themes, the results of which will be presented during the 47th UACES Annual Conference in Krakow, 4-6 September 2017. EPS TWG will have two dedicated panels within the event:

EU's Responses to the Crises in the European Public Sphere (I)

Europeanisation of Media Discourse? Brexit Discourses in the Polish Press

The Awakening of the European Public Sphere amid the Crisis

Qualitative Inquiry into How Europe is Narrated in the Context of the "Brexit"

EU's Responses to the Crises in the European Public Sphere (II)

Russia's Strategic Communications, the Impact on the European Public Sphere and the EU Attempts to Counteract It

Defence Union as a Response to EU's Multiple Crises

European Commission's Responses to the Crisis in the EPS

2. Publications

Bârgăoanu, A., Buturoiu, R., Radu, L. (eds.) (2017). "Why Europe? Narratives and counter-narratives of European integration in the context of the refugees crisis.". Germany: Peter Lang).

Bargaoanu, A., Radu, L. (2016). The austerity discourse in of the Romanian economic-political elites: Neoliberal or (pseudo)European?. In "Discourse Analysis and Austerity: Critical Studies from Economics and Linguistics", Routledge (forthcoming).

3. Academic Events:

1. Jean Monnet Workshop „Communicating Europe to Europeans” and the official launch of the book ”United by or against Euroscepticism?” (Bucharest, March 17 2016) (link to the event web page: <http://www.eucommunication.eu/euroscepticismul-ne-uneste-sau-ne-dezbina/>)

2. DHC event for prof. Simon Hix and the round table on Brexit (Bucharest, October 2015); special guest: prof. Simon Hix, LSE (link to the event web page: <http://www.eucommunication.eu/in-luna-octombrie-profesorul-simon-hix-lse-va-primiti-titulul-de-doctor-honoris-causa-din-partea-snsa/>)

3. Academic Debate on ”Bruxelles of Europe. Romanian context” (Bucharest, March 2016); link: <http://www.eucommunication.eu/dezbateria-bruxelles-european-context-romanesc/>;

4. Special Panel of the ECREA Temporary Working Group "Communication and the European Public Sphere", held within the international conference on Qualitative Research in Communication (Sep. 2015); link: http://centrucomunicare.ro/qrc_2015/ecrea.html.

5. Academic roundtable on the implications of Brexit - organized in Bucharest (June 2016).

6. Romanian-American Workshop on ”Europe at Crossroads. A View from the United States” (Sep. 2016).

7. EPS Panel during the 6th European Communication Conference (Prague, November, 2016).