

ECREA, WOMEN'S NETWORK ANNUAL REPORT 2016

“The main objective of ECREA’s Women’s Network is to assess and develop the interdisciplinary and multicultural field of female scholarship in the context of European Communication and Media Studies. Furthermore, the Women’s Network aims to research the current situation of women in higher education and academic research in Europe, identifying differences, strengths, weaknesses and areas of good practice.”

Activities of the Women’s network in 2016

During the year 2016 *Women’s Network* of ECREA has had an organizing body which was elected in 2014 in Lisbon, Portugal at ECREA conference. The chair of the *Women’s Network* has been *Teija Waaramaa* (starting from the year 2012), PhD, Docent/Adjunct Professor at Tampere Research Centre for Journalism, Media and Communication (COMET), School of Communication, Media and Theatre University of Tampere, Tampere, Finland [1]. The Network has had two vice chairs: *Valerija Vendramin*, PhD, is a senior research associate at the Educational Research Institute in Ljubljana, Slovenia [2], and *Tülây Atay-Avşar*, PhD, is a faculty member and Assistant Professor of Journalism, Communication Faculty of Mustafa Kemal University, Antakya, Hatay, Turkey [3].

Women’s Network of ECREA had a business meeting and voted for a new management team at the biannual ECREA conference on November 11th 2016 in Prague, the Czech Republic. Dr. *Valerija Vendramin* will act as the chair for the next two years and Dr. *Tülây Atay-Avşar* and Dr. *Teija Waaramaa* will act as vice chairs. Participants from Belgium, Finland, Germany, Slovenia, Turkey and the United Kingdom attended the meeting.

Women’s Network organized a panel titled *Migration, Media and Women* at the conference in Prague on November 12th 2016. The panel was chaired by Dr. *Teija Waaramaa*.

The abstract of the panel:

During the past years public debate on migration has become increasingly hostile across Europe. In 2015, as over 1,2 million refugees and migrants entered Europe, views of anti-immigrant hostility and narratives of violence, sexual violence and fear have increased, with affective circulation on social media. In some sectors, refugees are seen as a reserve labor force with low wages. This is regarded as an increasing burden of unemployment and economic competition. As a result, we have witnessed emergence of nationalist security patrols in the streets, refugee center attacks, hysteria and false reports.

Women and children are defined as human groups with special needs in international human rights documents as they can be more vulnerable to hard living conditions. Refugee females, especially Syrian women today, experience difficulties due to their financial dependency, war trauma, including losing their husbands, the responsibility of having to look after large families and reproductive health problems including complications during pregnancy and after childbirth. They often live in isolation from the host community due to language barriers. There are reports of sexual exploitation of women and child marriages and of Syrian women entering local households as second or third wife. While marriage was an option to have stability and protection for some Syrian women, their dependency and lack of awareness on their rights and existing services often make them vulnerable to sexual exploitation and domestic violence.

It is necessary to question the constructions of migrations connected to gender and make a shift away from the positivist and masculinist epistemologies as they are hegemonic and lead to

multiple marginalizations of those who are neither heard nor seen. Recommendations for contributing to formulate media policies and practices sensitive to migrant women rights in international human rights documents are needed.

The presenters and the titles of the presentations were:

Dr. Reeta Pöyhtäri, Finland: *'Protected' and attacked: Women in the European migration debate*

Dr. Tulay Atay-Avsar, Turkey: *Social Impact of Syrian Female Migration on Turkey: Media Portrayal of Co-wives*

Dr. Valerija Vendramin, Slovenia: *The (In)Visible Half: Migrant Women and the Material Force of Categories*

Dr. Ruhdan Uzun, Turkey: *Representing Migration: Analysis of Media Portrayals of Syrian Migrant Women in Turkey*

Unfortunately, some of the Turkish presenters had to cancel their participation due to current political issues.

Future activities of the Women's Network were discussed at the business meeting. The management team will organize a workshop in Slovenia, at the Educational Research Institute in Ljubljana, in April 2017. One of the themes will be a joint publication which was already discussed at the workshop in Tallinn University in 2013. Dr. Teija Waaramaa promised to be the editor of the book which will concentrate on female academic careers and reconciliation of their family life. The book will combine female scholars' personal stories and analytical reflections of the stories.

Activities of the management team

Dr. Tulay Atay-Avşar has published two book chapters in 2016 in her native language, Turkish. One is entitled as "*Social Media and Children*" and the other one is entitled as "*Respect and Women*". She was an Erasmus Visiting Scholar at Karkonosze College in Jelenia Góra, Poland during the period 04.04.2016 – 08.04.2016. During her stay, she gave lectures about "*Freedom of Speech*" & "*Women's Status in Turkey*". She also attended to CIEG 1st International Congress ISCSP-ULisboa, Lisbon, Portugal 25 to 27 May 2016 representing her university's Women's Center. She delivered her speech under the title of *The Language of Policy: An Analysis of Turkish 5-year Development Plans and Gender Issues in the Agro-rural Sector*. She also attended International Symposium on Culture and Communication in Anatolia: Past, Present and Future 15-17 June 2016, Ankara-Turkey Atılım University. Her speech title was "*The Transfer of Cultural Memory from One Generation to the Next: The Story of the Silkworm Cocoon*", She was one of the panellists at IAMCR 2016, held at The University of Leicester between 27th- 31st July 2016. She attended via Skype and delivered her speech on Academic Freedom.

Dr. Valerija Vendramin has been active in the field of gender (in)equality in education, as thematised especially through the concepts of postfeminism and neoliberalism (talks in Trubar's House of Literature in February 2016, Ljubljana, Slovenia; and on the First National Conference on Education *Research in Education Today* in September 2016, Ljubljana, Slovenia). Her co-authored article "*Testing Gender Equality in Education: Success and Neoliberal and Postfeminist Discourses*" is in print at the *Šolsko polje*. She was on the editorial board of the journal *Šolsko polje* and as a member of the Commission for Women in Science (at the Slovenian Ministry of Education, Science and Sport) co-organized the conference and co-edited the book of abstracts (*Mehanizmi izkoriščanja in diskriminacija v znanosti: knjiga povzetkov*). She was a reviewer for *CEPS Journal* (Ljubljana, Slovenia) and *Gender and Education* (Abingdon, Carfax).

Dr. Teija Waaramaa has published three articles during the year 2016:

Abo-Hasseba A, Waaramaa T, Alku P, Geneid A. Differences in voice problems and noise reports between teachers of public and private schools in Upper Egypt. *Journal of voice*. Published online Nov 14th 2016. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jvoice.2016.10.016>.

Waaramaa T. Gender differences in identifying emotions from auditory and visual stimuli. *Logopedics Phoniatrics Vocology*. Published online Nov 21st 2016. DOI: 10.1080/14015439.2016.1243725.

Waaramaa T, Kukkonen T, Stoltz M, Geneid A. Hearing impairment and emotion identification from auditory and visual stimuli. *International Journal of Listening*. Published online Nov 23rd 2016. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10904018.2016.1250633>.

Dr. Waaramaa visited the University of Reykjavik, Iceland, as an Erasmus exchange teacher in spring 2016. She was teaching radio speech for the Icelandic students in journalism. Dr. Waaramaa attended several domestic conferences and seminars in Finland and two international conferences during the year 2016, the ECREA 2016 conference being one of them. She was chairing an ICSI (section of Interpersonal Communication and Social Interaction) session and had her own presentation there on November 12th 2016. The title of Waaramaa's presentation was: *Emotion perception from recorded stimuli by children with hearing impairment*. Waaramaa also acted as a referee for the abstract proposals of the ICSI section. In spring 2016 Waaramaa attended the 8th annual Juri Lotman seminar at the Tallinn University, Tallinn, Estonia. There, her presentation was: Waaramaa T., Hoppu P., Niemi J.: *Emosphere, kinesphere and affordance: analysing multimodal cultural performances*.

According to the earlier alignment Women's network concentrates on the problems and questions raised in the discussions at international conferences and meetings, and on political issues in general. One of the essential interest areas of Women's network is the gender issue in communication studies, within universities, polytechnics, colleges, and research centres in Europe. Women's Network of ECREA will continue this alignment also in 2017.

On 3 January, the Women's Network had 195 members.

References

- [1] http://www.uta.fi/cmt/yhteystiedot/henkilokunta/teija_waaramaa.html
- [2] <http://www.pei.si/sifranti/PersonalPage.aspx?id=50> (Retrieved: 18 Nov. 2015)
- [3] <http://www.mku.edu.tr/main.php?page=readpage&id=7402&location=ifgazete>
<https://mku.academia.edu/TulayATAYAVSAR>