

ECREA Media Industries and Cultural Production Section 2017 Yearly Activity Report

Media Industries and Cultural Production was approved as a thematic Section by the Executive Board of ECREA in September 2015. It currently has 168 members from 28 different countries.

Two 'off year' events were held in 2017, each jointly organised with another ECREA Section. These were as follows:

The Future of Media Content: Interventions and Industries in the Internet Era, a joint Workshop of the ECREA Communication Law and Policy and Media Industries and Cultural Production Sections, held at the University of East Anglia, Norwich, United Kingdom, 15-16 September 2017. The keynote speaker was Professor Eli Noam (Columbia University Business School). 50 people attended, from 14 countries.

Digital Democracy: Critical Perspectives in the Age of Big Data, a joint conference of two ECREA Sections: Communication and Democracy; and Media Industries and Cultural Production, held on 10-11 November 2017, at Södertörn University, Stockholm, Sweden. Keynote speakers were Helen Kennedy (University of Sheffield), Joseph Turow (University of Pennsylvania), Mikkel Flyverbom (Copenhagen Business School). Over 100 people attended, from some 20 countries.

Plans for 2018 centre on the 6th European Communication Conference, to be held in Lugano, Switzerland, from 31 October to 3 November. The 2016 ECC in Prague was the first occasion on which the Section had the opportunity to organise a full programme. Because of the large number of paper and panel proposals we received (94 papers in total), the Section was permitted to organise 11 panels involving 55 papers. These were well attended, in spite of taking place in a room some distance from the heart of the conference. Topics included independent production companies in film and television, the relations between the IT and cultural sector as they apply to music, serving audiences in the post-broadcast era, and amateur creativity and media ecologies. We hope to repeat this success at Lugano.

The Section is also involved in the conference on *Media Industries: Current Debates and Future Directions*, to be held at King's College London, from 18-20 April. This is a major conference, with over 200 speakers.

<http://estore.kcl.ac.uk/conferences-and-events/academic-faculties/faculty-of-arts-humanities/department-of-culture-media-creative-industries/media-industries-current-debates-and-future-directions>

The current management team of the Section is as follows:

Chair: David Hesmondhalgh (University of Leeds, UK)

Vice-Chairs: Hanne Bruun (University of Aarhus, Denmark) and Maria Michalis (University of Westminster, UK)

Young ECREA representative: Julia Velkova (Södertörn University, Sweden)