

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

ECREA'S SCIENCE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMUNICATION SECTION

Activities

While 2020 has been an unusual year in ECREA with the cancellation of the main conference, the Science and Environment Communication Section has nevertheless had some activities.

First, we ran a successful workshop in collaboration with MeCCSA entitled: *Constructed Facts, Contested Truths: Science and Environment Controversies in Media and Public Spaces*. The workshop was conducted as part of the MeCCSA general conference under the theme 'Media Interactions and Environments' in Brighton on 8-10. January 2020. The workshop was run as a combined on- and off-line event with one online paper-giver and audience participating on Zoom. This also allowed us to explore a more environmental, and in the future more pandemic-friendly, format, following also in the footsteps of the previous webinar organised by the SEC Section in 2017.

Our workshop provided an excellent fit with the overall conference theme and gave us the opportunity to consolidate our relation to the MeCCSA Climate Change Network on research topics relating to climate change and the media.

Furthermore, the workshop provided a first step towards submitting a book proposal for an anthology on the workshop topic. This will be a focus point for the Section management team during 2021.

Second, we spend time during the Spring 2020 planning the main ECREA conference. We were pleased to receive 69 abstracts for the SEC Section, most of them of very good or excellent quality. A rigorous review process was therefore carried out. We were also involved in planning a plenary intervention focusing on the topic of how academia, and ECREA, can become more environmental. The planning process gave rise to discussions of more environmental conference formats that we would like to promote, for instance with virtual speakers and participants in keynote events and section panels. Given the timeliness and great relevance of this plenary intervention, we were very happy to participate in this in collaboration with the ECREA Executive Board and the Secretariat. This gave us a chance to explore new ways forward that have become even more relevant in the light of the pandemic risks that arose during 2020.

Despite the cancellation of the ECREA 2020 conference, we hope that the planning work on both section panels and the plenary event can be carried over to the next conference in some form.

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