

1. Activities

In the year 2018 the section

- Sponsored a pre-conference at the European Communication Conference (ECC) on “Towards a Polyphony of Memory? Media, Communication and Memory in the Digital Age” which was organized by section member Manuel Menke (University of Augsburg, Germany) and Berber Hagedoorn (University of Groningen, Netherlands). The pre-conference was highly participated and brought together scholars working in media history, media and memory, and television and film studies.
- Organized six sessions at the ECC in Lugano with papers that underwent double-blind peer review. The Communication History Section had the highest rejection rate in ECC 2018 in Lugano due to the number slots made available by ECREA.
- Made plans for the 2019 workshop of the Communication History Section that will take place in Vienna on September 18-20.
- Organized a Business Meeting at the ECC (see number 2 below).

2. Business Meeting and Election of the new Section Management Team (SMT)

The business meeting took place in Lugano, on November 1st, with 23 section members in attendance. The following topics were addressed:

- “European Communication History”. A major long-term activity of the section is the handbook project on the history of mass communication in Europe envisioned by the Section’s founder Klaus Arnold that prematurely passed away in 2017. The other two editors, Paschal Preston and Susanne Kinnebroch, have delivered all chapters to the publisher, so it is expected that the book will come out with Wiley-Blackwell in the second semester of 2019.
- Ideas for a new collective book project were discussed with the members of the section. The collective volume will focus on historicizing key concepts that are currently central in digital media and communication research. Members were very supportive of the idea and many mentioned their willing to participate. The proponents, Gabriele Balbi, Christian Schwarzenegger, Valérie Schafer and Nelson Ribeiro will go ahead with the project and invite authors to write the different chapters.
- Plans for the 2019 workshop were also discussed with the section members. The workshop will be hosted by the Austrian Academy of Sciences in Vienna in September and will be entitled “Jeopardizing Democracy throughout History: Media as Accomplice, Adversary or Amplifier of Populist and Radical Politics”.
- Elections: the SMT elected in 2016 (Nelson Ribeiro, chair; Gabriele Balbi, vice-chair; and Christian Schwarzenegger, vice-chair) ended their term and therefore a new SMT had to be elected. All members received a call, one month prior to the meeting, urging them to run for election. Only one candidacy was received: Gabriele Balbi, USI Università della Svizzera italiana (chair), Christian Schwarzenegger, University of Augsburg (vice-chair) and Valérie Schafer, University of Luxembourg (vice-chair). After presenting a brief summary of the plan for the 2018-2020 term, the new team was elect with 21 votes (all those in attendance).

The election procedure was chaired by Nelson Ribeiro who congratulated the new elected SMT.

- The Section YECREA representative, Manuel Menke, will also be stepping down as he has now finished his PhD. It was decided that the section will propose the name of **Hana Zatrepalkova (Charles University, Prague)** to become the section's YECREA representative.

The Section Management Team (January 2019)