

Young Scholars Network (YECREA)

Annual activity report for 2017

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1. Organisation:

Membership: The network has currently (as of 18th January 2018) 291 registered members. This is an increase of 14 members since the last report (information provided for ECC Prague in November 2016).

Representation: Tereza Pavlickova has been elected as the Networks' representative to the ECREA Board in March 2017.

During its meeting in December 2017 the ECREA Board voted in favour of a proposition to grant an invitation to YECREA representatives to the Board in case their representative is not voted as a Network representative and the YECREA management team expresses will to participate in the Board agenda. If possible a YECREA representative (one of the YECREA MT) will be co-opted to the Board, if this is not possible YECREA will be invited to take on a role of observer (with access to the agenda and discussion but without the right to vote).

2. Activities:

Information dissemination

One of the main tasks of YECREA is to provide information. YECREA informs its members of job opportunities, conferences, workshops, and relevant publications through the website yecrea.eu, a bi-annual newsletter, and a Facebook group.

The YECREA Facebook group remains the main communication channel with its members and extended community of young scholars. This has been a very useful communication tool during ECREA's transition to its new website and database, when the use of traditional ECREA mailing lists was limited. The FB group has currently 941 (increase of 20 members since last report) members and very successfully and effectively facilitates interactivity and communication among its members. This tool also allows individual YECREA representatives to share information about relevant events, calls for papers within individual research areas that go beyond ECREA activity as such but are vital for the young scholars and their presence within academia. This FB group, through the continuous publication of information relevant to young scholars, provides support to the community, but also

contributes to community building and capacity building of individual YECREA section and temporary group representatives.

YECREA MT is actively using this communication to share and spread information about ECREA/YECREA events (including ECC), funding opportunities, as well as to activate its members and to promote ECREA membership. Recently, the FB group has been used to communicate the news about the new ECREA website and the need to activate members' profiles, join YECREA in the S/N/TWG section as well as subscribing to updates from the YECREA forum.

A new YECREA website (yecrea.eu) has been created by Raul Ferrer Conill and it was launched at the end of 2017. The old version, despite offering various communication tools in the form of discussion forums, posting etc, was very static and inactive in recent years. Therefore, with regards to the effectiveness and activity of the Facebook group, the new website is designed to provide fundamental information about YECREA's aims, objectives, structure as well as introducing the management team and individual YECREA representatives. To remain focused and relevant its aim is to communicate (Y)ECREA related information only (conferences, workshops, funding, leaving the day-to-day conversations and information sharing among its members to the FB group.

With the new ECREA website there is a new communication tool of discussion forum. As members have to actively subscribe to those, we are waiting to use this tool fully pending confirmation from the ECREA administration that a substantial number of members have done so. Subsequently, we will use the forum to communicate issues related to (Y)ECREA only (ECREA's funding for young scholars, (Y)ECREA events).

YECREA representatives within Sections and Temporary Working Groups:

To date YECREA has representatives in 18 out of 21 sections and in 6 out of 7 TWGs.

Throughout 2017 the YECREA management team has continued to systematically develop the network of YECREA representatives in individual Sections and Temporary Working Groups. We have updated the current guidelines for representatives and more clearly addressed the issue of continuity in those posts. We have managed to cover most of the Sections and TWGs.

in September 2017 some representatives had to step down from their roles as their membership in ECREA has terminated and they did not wish to extend it or they do no longer meet the definition of a young scholar. We are actively cooperating with the relevant S/TWGs to find their replacements. We wish to thank to all the outgoing representatives for their great work and contribution to YECREA's activities and we wish them success in their new roles. We can also see increasing involvement of YECREA reps in the management of Sections and TWGs, being involved in planning and organising the S/TWGs activities, conferences and outcomes with a great potential of capacity building as some YECREA representatives continue serving ECREA, being elected as vice-chairs of those Sections and TWGs.

Young scholars' workshops and events

2017 being the off-year for the ECC, S/N/TWGs organise their own conferences and events. Most of them also hosted a PhD workshop or seminar as part of their programme or in the form of a pre-conference. These PhD workshops are being organised by the YECREA representatives with great

success and feedback. Although they are attached to the particular Section or TWG, their primary focus is on issues relevant to young scholars within academia and/or as a feedback on their own research and writing.

This year we could see many successful events being organised across the whole of ECREA. These events usually host around 10-15 PhD participants, but in case of smaller events, YECREA representatives coordinate smaller scale feedback sessions for PhD students with senior scholars.

- YECREA workshop “Career in the making: identity, voice and place in academia” facilitating a dialogue between young and senior researchers, at the Audience and Reception Studies conference in Lisbon, in September 2017 (organized by Anna Zsubori, ARS, 26 participants)
- Young Scholars session organized during a joint workshop of the Communication Law and Policy and Media Industries and Cultural Production sections in September 2017
- Young Scholars workshop providing feedback to PhD students on their projects during the Diaspora, Migration, and Media conference in Bilbao, Spain in November 2017 (organised by Melis Mevsimler, DMM, 11 participants)
- Young Scholars Workshop (on methodological issues, and career issues) in Helsinki, Finland in May 2017(organized by Kaisa Laitinen, Interpersonal Communication and Social Interaction)
- Young scholars’ session on “Internationalization & Publication Strategies” at the Journalism Studies Conference in Odense, Denmark, March 2017 (organised by Corinne Lauerer)
- YECREA workshop as a part of the joint conference of Media Industries and Communication and Democracy sections’ conference at Södertörn University, in Sweden in November 2017 (organized by Julia Velkova, Media Industries and Cultural Production section)
- Feedback session during “Mediatization in a global perspective: Comparing theoretical approaches in a digitised world”, Lisbon, 6-7 October 2017 (organized by Matthias Berg and Cindy Roitsch, Mediatization TWG, 4 participants)
- Young Scholars panel as a part of the Radio Research Section’s conference under the title “Where do we go from here? Young scholars’ perspectives on/in the changing field of radio research” in Lublin, Poland in September 2017 (organized by Nele Heise, RRS, 10 participants)
- YECREA PhD workshop organized within the ECREA's Crisis Communication Section as part of the 5th International Crisis Communication Conference in Lisbon, 19-21 September 2017 (organized by Florian Meissner)

Funding

YECREA was invited to play a key role in devising the methodology and subsequently facilitating the selection process for granting ECREA funding to two ECREA Summer School participants. There were 14 applications in total, out of which 7 applicants were accepted to participate in the Summer School by the organisers.

YECREA was selecting the receivers of funding of travel and participation fees from those seven successful candidates only. The two successful candidates were:

- Baiba Baikovska from Riga Stradins university, Latvia
- Elisa Paz Pérez from Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain

Other activities

Tereza Pavlickova was appointed an editor in-chief of the newly founded ECREA Newsletter, with Raul Ferrer Conill as one of the editors. The first issue has been published in December 2017.

3. Future plans:

YECREA's plans for 2018 are to continue to support young scholars and promote their interests within the organisation and academia in general, play a key role in facilitating the network and communication of its members across the community of young scholars as well as within the whole organisation with more senior colleagues. We want to ensure young scholars and PhD students are aware of the option to join YECREA as a part of their institutional membership and we want to represent the interests of young scholars who are individual members – especially in relation to membership and conference fees.

With the upcoming ECC Lugano in November 2018 the YECREA management team is planning to organise the following events:

- a panel/round table on the subject of Open Access publishing (whether and how to publish open access, its strengths and weaknesses with focus on things specifically relevant to young scholars – cost, funding, exposure, promotion)
- YECREA pre-conference organised by 3 YECREA reps: Inês Amaral, Johan Dam Farkas, and Anna Zsubori. The preconference has the preliminary title “Thoretical, Methodological, and Practical Challenges for Young Researchers” and will signify the first joint YECREA pre-conference invitation students and early-career scholars from all sections and temporary working groups.

YECREA has also secured 5 fee waivers for the Lugano conference from the ECREA Board that will be granted to young scholars together with the financial support of the ECC Travel fund to attend the conference.

YECREA is also organising a Blue Sky workshop together with SECAC at the ICA 2018 in Prague on the subject of “Social media for academics: Self-promotion and career development for early-career scholars”. The Blue Sky workshop's goal is to offer room to discuss strategies for coping with an environment in which young scholars feel pressed to self-promote in social media. The joint event will be chaired by David Cheruiyot (board member of SECAC) and Raul Ferrer Conill (vice chair of YECREA).