

## **ECREA - Communication and Democracy Section Annual Report 2013**

The work of the section during this year has been mainly directed towards organising the section's symposium, and preparing for the 5<sup>th</sup> European Communication Conference to be held in Lisbon in Autumn 2014.

The section's bi-yearly symposium was once again successfully co-organised with ECREA's Gender and Communication section. The symposium was titled "(Mis)understanding political participation", and was held on the 11th and 12th October in the Ludwig-Maximilians Universität (Munich – Bavaria, Germany). In addition to the ECREA sections organising the event, the symposium was supported by the Media and Communication sections of the German Communication Association (DGPK), the German Sociology Association (DGS) and YECREA. Bart Cammaerts (London School of Economics and Political Science, and founding chair of the ECREA C&D section), Christina Scharff (King's College London), and Andreas Hetzel (Fatih University Istanbul) were the keynote speakers for this conference that had 45 papers presented over two days. The Section management team would like to thank the host university, the sponsors, the keynote speakers, the participants, and the panel chairs for making this convivial and stimulating event possible. We would also like to thank Cornelia Wallner for all her support organising the conference and its very successful social events.

A section business meeting was held in the section's symposium in Munich, where the goals and challenges for 2014 were discussed. Cornelia Wallner, Jeffrey Wimmer and Karoline Schultz proposed to prepare an edited collection including a number of papers presented in the symposium held in Munich, which was approved. The proposal is currently under consideration by the editors of a well-known book series in the field of study.

The next challenge for the section will be the 5<sup>th</sup> European Communication Conference, which will be held in Lisbon in Autumn 2014. Iñaki Garcia-Blanco will act as programme chair on this occasion, and the reviewers for the selection of papers and panels have already been selected and contacted. The section management team would like to thank them for their willingness to co-operate in this essential, but anonymous task. The next section business meeting will be held during the 5<sup>th</sup> European Communication Conference in Lisbon. A new (or a partially renewed) management team will be elected then, since Jeffrey Wimmer and Iñaki Garcia-Blanco have reached the three terms section chairs and vice-chairs can stay in office according to ECREA regulations and the section's own Modus Operandi.