

Annual Report 2005-2006

ECREA communication and democracy section

The ECREA communication and democracy section has been active for a bit more than one year now. In this period two major accomplishments can be reported.

First of all, the section organised three sessions at the ECCR/ECA conference in Amsterdam, which was held on the 24th until the 26th of November 2005. The sessions were well attended and we hope raised the profile of the section.

The following papers were presented:

1. Past, Present and Future of Networked Activism

Tamara Witschge: *New and Old voices on Old and New Platforms of Public Debate: Representation of Difference on a Contested issue*

Bart Cammaerts: *'Activist Media Strategies in the Information Society: beyond media-centrists thinking in the relationship between media and democracy'*

Jeff Taylor: *European Indigenous Internet Representation: Potentials and Perils*

Ella Kyllönen: *Online activism as persuasive communication*

Respondent: Mario Diani

2. Communication Rights in the EU: history and contemporary perspectives

Julia Hoffmann: *Re-thinking democratic legitimacy – Communication Rights and Deliberation in the European public sphere.*

Claudia Padovani, Arjuna Tuzzi & Giorgia Nesti: *'From eGovernance to eGovernment and back. European e-strategies towards "the most democratic and dynamic knowledge society in the world'*

Arne Hintz: *Civil Society Media at the WSIS: A new actor in global communication governance*

Respondent: Cees Hamelink

3. Journalism in Democracy

Anu Kantola: *'Reason in democracy: discourses of economic journalism on politics and citizenship.'*

Karin Wahl-Jorgensen: *'Local journalism and democracy: how changing financial and technological conditions are transforming the role of local papers in the UK.'*

Kees Brants & Philip van Praag: *'Signs of Media Logic Changing political communication in the Netherlands'*

Katrin Voltmer: *Between Postmodern Democracy and the Trajectories of the Past: Mass Media and Political Communication in New Democracies*

Respondent: Nico Carpentier

Secondly, from these papers, as well as the general program of the conference, a selection was made to feature in the ECREA book series. The book was edited by Bart Cammaerts and Nico Carpentier and has been published in the mean time by Intellect Books.

Reference: Cammaerts, B. and Carpentier, N. (eds.) (2006) *Reclaiming the Media: Communication Rights and Democratic Media Roles*. Bristol: Intellect, p. 292.

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Finally, plans are being made, together with the journalism section, the political communication section and the gender and communication section, to jointly organise a two-day colloquium in Brussels in October or November of 2007. We hope that this event will be as successful as were the sessions in Amsterdam.

01/12/2006 - BC