

ECREA - Communication and Democracy Section Annual Report 2014

The work of the section during this year has been mainly directed towards organising the section's sessions in the 5th European Communication Conference that was held in Lisbon in Autumn 2014.

After the Call for Papers for the Conference was launched, the section received 159 submissions (149 individual abstracts and 10 panels), and was amongst the three ECREA sections receiving more submissions. Due to the high quality of the submissions received, the section finally organised 19 sessions (as opposed to the 15 that were initially allocated to the section). Iñaki Garcia-Blanco was programme chair on this occasion, and as such he coordinated the revision process, which involved fifteen reviewers. Both himself and the section as a whole would like to thank the reviewers for their generous and valuable work reviewing the abstracts.

A section business meeting was held in the conference in Lisbon, where the goals and challenges for 2015 were discussed. Different locations were discussed for the section's off-conference year event in 2015, leaving the final decision to the Section Management Team. A new Section Management Team for the period 2014-16 was elected in the business meeting, with Julie Uldam (Copenhagen Business School) as Chair, and Maria Kyriakidou (University of East Anglia) and Anne Kaun (Södertörn University) acting as Vice-Chairs. Tina Askanius (Lund University) continues to be the section's YECREA representative.

The section's Symposium for 2015 will be hosted by the Copenhagen Business School, and its overarching title is "Political Agency in the Digital Age: Media, Participation and Democracy". Confirmed speakers include Nick Couldry, Anastasia Kavada and Guobin Yang.

The section currently has 560 members.