

ECREA Diaspora, migration and the media (DMM) // annual report 2019

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Website: <https://www.ecreadmm.com/>

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Section management

The management team was re-elected during the ECREA DMM business meeting, at the 7th European Communication Conference ECREA meeting in Lugano, 31 October – 3 November, 2018. This team was first elected during the ECREA DMM business meeting at the 6th European Communication Conference ECREA meeting in Prague, 9-12 November 2016. As of January 2020, ECREA DMM has 412 group members (on its Facebook Group)

Recap Digital Fortress Europe - ECREA DMM workshop

Under the guidance of Kevin Smets, ECREA DMM co-chair and the local conference chair the ECREA DMM section organized a 2-day workshop in Brussels, Belgium on 30 and 31 October 2019 at the Palace of the Academies - Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts, Brussels, Belgium. The title of the workshop was “*Digital fortress Europe. Exploring boundaries between media, migration and technology.*”

Rationale

The two-day conference intended to be a forum to reflect on the relations between media, migration, and technology. These relations demand our fullest attention because they touch on the essence of what migration means in societies that are undergoing democratic challenges. Research shows that media and technologies play a vital role for people who migrate, but that the same media and technologies serve to spread xenophobia,



increase societal polarization and enable elaborate surveillance possibilities. With its intensifying anti-migration populist discourses, humanitarian border crises and efforts to secure borders through technological solutions, the European context provides a pulsating scene to examine such deepening relations. Taking place in the heart of Europe’s political capital, this conference aimed to critically reflect on what the much-debated notion of “Fortress Europe” means in the digital age and how it can guide our future thinking on media and migration. As such, scholars of media, communication, migration and technology were stimulated to contribute to critical discussions on border politics and migration debates. The thematic focus of this conference was on media, migration and technology and all their possible linkages and intersections. While significant attention goes to digital technologies and social media, the organizers aimed for a broad focus that also includes traditional media, and aspects of media production, organization, consumption, representation and policy.

Program

Before the conference, two PhD masterclasses took place.

1) Under guidance of Melis Mevsimler (ECREA DMM PhD representative) and Yazan Badran (Vrije Universiteit Brussel), an ECREA DMM masterclass was organized that featured Prof. Myria Georgiou (London School of Economics) and Donya Alinejad (Utrecht University) who offered feedback to a selection of 8 PhD participants who shared their work.

2) Under guidance of David Ongenaert (Ghent University) and Elke Mahieu, Ghent University an ECREA International & Intercultural Communication (IIC) section PhD workshop took place with Dr. Kate Wright, featuring a selection of 9 PhD students who presented their work.

Keynote speakers:

1) Professor Myria Georgiou (LSE, UK), who delivered a lecture titled “Digital border: The symbolic and material order of Fortress Europe”

2) Professor Huub Dijkstra (University of Amsterdam, Netherlands) who delivered a lecture titled “The border as vehicle: On the multiple movements of Europe’s boundaries”;

3) Professor Payal Arora (Erasmus University Rotterdam, Netherlands), who delivered a lecture titled “Amplified activism from afar: Diasporas and social movements in the digital age”.

The program also includes a screenings of the short films by Marof Hakimi and Fatma Osman and a q&a on their role in Cinemaximiliaan, led by with Elke Mahieu, see <http://www.cinemaximiliaan.org/>.

The program furthermore included 5 parallel sessions. The parallel sessions offered 17 panels, featuring 78 presentations, there were 138 participants who registered for the conference.

Awards

Continuing a tradition started at our ECREA DMM workshop in Bilbao, we handed out two paper awards, one for a junior and one for a senior scholar, which were supported by Sage and Intellect publishing. Silvia Almenara Niebla (Universidad de La Laguna) was selected for the Young Scholar best paper award for her paper “*Making digital ‘home-camps’: mediating emotions among Sahrawi refugee diaspora*”. Rana Khaled Arafat (University of Lugano) won an honorable mention for her paper “*Re-thinking social media usage for political participation and digital activism in forced migration contexts: Anew form of democratic divide*”. Marie Godin (University of Oxford) and co-authors Giorgia Donà (University of East London) and Crispin Hughes (Professional photographer) were selected for the Senior Scholar best paper award for their paper “*Reversing the gaze on Fortress Europe: Visual interferences produced by migrants in transit at the France-UK border*”. Sanja Vico (Goldsmiths) won an honorable mention for her paper “*Identity politics on social media: the perspective of Serbian Londoners*”.

Organizing networks and support

The conference was organized by the European Communication Research & Education Association’s (ECREA) Diaspora, Migration & the Media (DMM) section in collaboration with the ECREA’s International & Intercultural Communication (IIC) section, the Young Scholars Network of ECREA (YECREA), the Netherlands-Flemish Communication Association (NeFCA) Intercultural Communication & Diversity working group. The conference also received support from the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts (KVAB) and the Research Foundation Flanders (FWO).

Organizing Committee

Kevin Smets, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, ECREA DMM vice-chair; Yazan Badran, Vrije Universiteit Brussel; Paola Condemayta Soto, Vrije Universiteit Brussel; Koen Leurs, Utrecht University, ECREA DMM chair; Irati Agirreazkuenaga, University of the Basque Country, ECREA DMM vice-chair; Melis Mevsimler, Utrecht University, ECREA DMM young scholars representative; Elke Mahieu, Ghent University, ECREA IIC young scholars representative; David Ongenaert, Ghent University, ECREA IIC young scholars representative; Leen d’Haenens, KU Leuven; Alexander Dhoest, University of Antwerp; Stijn Joye, Ghent University. Student assistant team: Hussein Assaf, Farzaneh Azadasl, Jolien Debraekeleer, Liang Hong, Ange-Vanessa Nsanzineza, Vicky Van Bellingen

Looking ahead to ECREA ECC8 Braga, Portugal

In 2020, the 8th European Communication Conference ECREA conference will take place in Braga, Portugal, on the theme of ‘Communication and Trust’, from 2-5 October. There were 69 papers submitted for inclusion at the 8th ECC, as well as 2 panel proposals (73 were submitted for the 7th ECC. The section is currently reviewing the submitted proposals. We would like to thank the reviewers who continue assisting us in evaluating proposals.

Proceedings and publications

Journal of Global
Diaspora & Media



Supported by ECREA DMM a new journal under the title of ‘Global Diaspora and Media’ is established and published by Intellect. Section member Ola Ogunyemi is the lead editor, and ECREA DMM management team has also joined the editorial board. The journal will publish its inaugural issue in 2020, which includes papers presented at ECREA DMM 2019. The journal has one issue planned per year. The board encourages members to request their institutions to subscribe to the journal. For more information, see: <https://www.intellectbooks.com/journal-of-global-diaspora-media>



ECREA DMM management board members Kevin Smets and Koen Leurs, together with section contributors Myria Georgiou, Saskia Witteborn and Radhika Gajjala have edited the Sage Handbook of Media and Migration, which was published late 2019. Over 60 contributors have contributed 54 chapters, two prologues and a prologue to this handbook, many of whom actively contribute to the ECREA DMM section. Kevin Smets and Koen Leurs are grateful by the community support of the section, without which this publication would not have happened. See <https://uk.sagepub.com/en-gb/eur/the-sage-handbook-of-media-and-migration/book260835#description>

Proceedings ECREA DMM section workshop 2017 “Migration and communication flows”

Vice-chair Irati Agirreazkuenaga was the local conference host for the ECREA DMM workshop held 2-3 November, 2017 at the University of the Basque Country in Bilbao, Spain. The theme of the conference was “Migration and communication flows: rethinking borders, conflict and identity through the digital”. Several proceedings of have now come out.



A selection of seven papers presented was published in 2018 in a special issue on “Global identity and conflict through diaspora media” in *Crossings: Journal of Migration and Culture* Volume 9, Number 1, 1 April 2018 (edited by section member Ola Ogunyemi), see <https://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/intellect/cjmc/2018/00000009/00000001/art00001.jsessionid=21snwnwljup79.x-ic-live-03>

Another selection was published in a special issue on the theme of ‘Migrant Narratives’ in the *European Journal of Cultural Studies*, edited by Koen Leurs, Irati Agirreazkuenaga, Kevin Smets & Melis Mevsimler (online first fall 2019)



Introduction Koen Leurs, Irati Agirreazkuenaga, Kevin Smets, Melis Mevsimler : *The politics and poetics of migrant narratives* -

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/1367549419896367>

1. Anouk Madörin: *The view from above” at Europe’s maritime borders: racial securitization from visibility to postvisibility* - <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/1367549419869356>
2. Cigdem Bozdag: *Bottom-Up Nationalism and Discrimination on Social Media. An Analysis of the Citizenship Debate about Refugees in Turkey* - <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/1367549419869354>
3. Alexandra Greene: *Mobiles and “making do” : exploring the affective, digital practices of refugee women waiting in Greece* <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/1367549419869346?journalCode=ecsa>
4. Ingrid Loland: *Negotiating Paradise Lost: Refugee Narratives of pre-war Syria. A Discursive Approach to Memory, Metaphors and Religious Identifications* <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/1367549419869352?ai=1gvoi&mi=3ricys&af=R>
5. Silvia Almenara Niebla: *Connected Sahrawi Refugee Diaspora in Spain. Gender, Social Media, and Digital Transnational Gossip* - <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/1367549419869357?journalCode=ecsa>
6. Alexander Dhoest: *Digital (dis)connectivity in fraught contexts: The case of gay refugees in Belgium”* - <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/1367549419869348>
7. Niamh Kirk: *Remembering Ireland: News flows and 1916 in Irish diaspora press* - <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/1367549419869350>
8. Liudmila Voronova: *“Conflict as a point of no return: Immigrant and internally displaced journalists in Ukraine”* - <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/1367549419869351>

Book reviews

Review 1 – Jeffrey Patterson, book review Morley ‘Communications & Mobility’

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/1367549419897640>

Review 3 – Mirjam Twigt, book review Karim & Al-Rawi – ‘Diasporas and Media in Europe + Q&A

Karim - <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/1367549419869349?journalCode=ecsa>

Review 2 – Ola Ogunyemi, book review Retis & Tsagarousianou – ‘Wiley Handbook of Diasporas,

Media and Culture’ - <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/1367549419897665>