

ECREA GENDER AND COMMUNICATION SECTION YEAR REPORT 2015

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1. Section organization

During 2015, some changes have been made to the management team of the gender and communication section. First, Carla Cerqueira decided in agreement with the team to not continue as a vice-chair of the section. A new vice-chair was chosen to finish the official (second) term of the current management team. During the symposium in Tarragona (cf below), Marco Scarcelli was approved as new vice-chair. He is a post-doctoral researcher in the Department of Philosophy, Sociology, Education, and Applied Psychology (FISPPA) of the University of Padova. He is assistant professor of Cultural Anthropology of Digital Media at IUSVE, teaching assistant in Sociology, Sociology of Mass Communication and Social Science Methods at the University of Padova and a member of Pa.S.T.I.S (Padova Science, Technology and Innovation Studies). His research deals with youth studies, social construction of gender, sexuality and intimacy, the connection between sexuality, gender and media, internet studies and digital literacy and interested in qualitative and participatory research.

Second, Iolanda Tortajada – chair of this section – decided to step down due to personal reasons for the rest of the term. She may return for the third official term, but for the rest of the second term, current vice-chair Frederik Dhaenens will assume the role of chair. To this end, Cilia Willem will assume the role of vice-chair. Cilia Willem is currently a visiting professor at the Rovira i Virgili University, where she teaches audio-visual communication and media. She has coordinated several European projects on cultural identity and media, and is the main editor of the Catalan Journal of Communication & Cultural Studies (Intellect).

Third, the section has 136 members.

2. Symposium “Media (in)visibility: Gender and sexual diversity in European popular media culture”

The symposium “Media (in)visibility: Gender and sexual diversity in European popular media culture” was organized in Tarragona, on 16/10 and 17/10/2015 and hosted by the Rovira i Virgili University. The keynote address was given by Richard Dyer. The symposium was set out as a two-day symposium with no parallel sessions. As such, everyone was able to attend all presentations. The section received 55 abstract proposals and accepted 34 abstracts.

3. Book proposal

The Department of Communication at the Rovira i Virgili University has received a grant to publish an e-book, based on some of the papers presented at the symposium. In January, a call for papers will be sent out and a selection of papers will be incorporated in the e-book, in

collaboration with the InCom-UAB (Institute of Communication of the Autònoma University Barcelona), to be online before the end of 2016.

4. Feminist Media Studies: proceedings

The section also prepared a special issue proposal, which was accepted by Feminist Media Studies. A call-for-papers has been sent out. The topic is 'Gendered Ageing Bodies in Popular Media Culture' and the issue will be edited by Iolanda Tortajada, Frederik Dhaenens, Cilia Willem. The Special Issue of Feminist Media Studies will explore the interconnections between gender, ageing bodies and popular (media) culture in global societies.

5. Future Plans

- Preparing the 6th European Communication Conference

In November 2016, ECREA will hold its sixth European communication conference. The section appoints Frederik Dhaenens as program chair.

- GAMAG participation

The section was further asked by GAMAG to participate in it. Gamag (Global Alliance on Media and Gender) was constituted by UNESCO in December 2013. It consists of more than 500 organizations and set as key objective to improve gender equality in and through the media and ICTs. In November 2014, the GAMAG International Steering Committee created the Research Sub-Committee. IAMCR is in charge of coordinating this Sub-Committee and our interest is to improve research activities and support existing initiatives concerning media and gender equality at local, regional and global levels. The IAMCR Task Force for GAMAG members have prepared a proposal of a Plan of Action for the Research Sub-Committee, with its correspondent table. The Plan includes three actions -research, translating research into plans for action and establishing a clearinghouse. This would be the basis for future activities of this Sub-Committee. GAMAG asked the ECREA section to become a part of this global network of gender and media researchers and being involved in future projects. The section expressed interest but made clear that it wants to know more about what would be expected from the section before committing.

- Increasing visibility of the section

During 2016, a Facebook page will be created to increase visibility of the section. A page is considered more able to guide people to the official section website and to membership. All current members will also be invited to the Facebook page. Further, a good way to increase visibility and strengthen a community feel is the organization of drinks for the members during the upcoming ECC.