

ECREA section for Interpersonal Communication and Social Interaction Activity Report 2013

The ECREA section for Interpersonal Communication and Social Interaction organized a two-day conference 2-4 October in Lugano, Switzerland. This was the third ICSI Section Conference and it was hosted by the Institute of Communication and Health, University of Lugano. The chair of the organizing committee was Professor Peter J. Schulz. This biennial Conference enabled academics in the field of interpersonal communication and social interaction to come together for a specialised, intensive, two-day period to exchange ideas, learn about one another's research, and develop, maintain and further our networks. We received a considerable number of abstract submissions (70) from all over the world for presentation at the ICSI 2013 conference. The submissions entered a double-blind peer review process (acceptance rate 70%), and the top papers were selected for oral presentation in the respective thematic sections. Overall 63 participants took part to the conference. Speakers came from Europe and beyond: Italy, Spain, UK, Germany, Switzerland, Sweden, Finland, US, Japan, India, Brazil.

As in previous meetings, ICSI featured a well-balanced mixture of established and new topics such as interpersonal relationships, health communication, digital communication, linguistics and argumentation, cultural and public communication and many others. The main purpose was to provide an international forum for information exchange, discussion and collaboration of scholars interested in the field of communication. Moreover, the conference made possible research and methodological advancement in the field, stimulating discussions on instructional and educational methods. There were two keynote speakers: Judith Hall - distinguished professor at the Northeastern University, Boston, Department of Psychology - with her talk entitled "Accurate Interpersonal Perception: what I have learned so far" and Regina Jucks - full professor at the University of Münster - who talked about "Multiple demands: Managing social and instructional aspects in online communication".

During the 2013 Interpersonal Communication and Social Interaction Conference, the young scholar division of the European Communication Research and Education Association (YECREA) organized a workshop entitled: "Successful Networking for an Academic Career: The Importance of Interpersonal Communication". The workshop aimed to facilitate a discussion between junior and senior scholars focused on the essentials of building a strong network in academia.

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Peter J. Schulz
Chair of Section for Interpersonal Communication and Social Interaction