

ECREA Section for Interpersonal Communication and Social Interaction (ICSI) Annual Report 2015

At the 5th European Communication Conference in Lisboa, Portugal (14.10.2014), the section elected as chair Dorthe Refslund Christensen (University of Aarhus, Denmark) and Tuula-Riitta Välikoski (University of Tampere, Finland) and Peter J. Schulz (University of Lugano, Switzerland) were elected to serve as vice-chairs until the Prague conference, Nov. 2016. In February 2016, the Interpersonal Communication and Social Interaction Section had 293 members.

The following activities should be highlighted:

1. It has been a focus of the chair to create a more close collaboration and community in the section. In order to pursue this, in the spring 2015, two new initiatives were started up in the section:

- A Facebook group called *Friends of the ECREA section Interpersonal Communication and Social Interaction (ICSI)*. "Friends" means both members of the section and of ECREA (European Communication Research and Education Association) and others working in the field as researchers. The group is an attempt to reach out for potential members and to share conferences, seminars and other events that might be relevant and make new colleagues interested in sharing our and their work.

While both members and non-members of ECREA/ICSI can become members of the facebook group if they are interested in vivid exchanges of ideas etc, to engage in the section's conferences etc, one should be a member of ECREA/the section (cf ECREA's website).

- Newsletter from the chair to the members of the section produced regularly when there are news of relevance and distributed through the ECREA email lists to members of the section.

2. The off-year event was organized as a 2 days conference (Nov. 10. – 11. 2015) and a 1 day ph.d. course (Nov. 12. 2015) at Aarhus University, Denmark, School for Communication and Culture. The call for papers were announced through the ECREA network, the new FB group, the newsletter and in the networks of members and relevant colleagues. All abstracts were peer reviewed.

The conference had 3 invited keynote speakers and, moreover, 30 researchers from Germany, Ireland, Finland, Australia, US, Slovenia, Italy, Netherlands, China, UK and Denmark presenting their papers in 4 x parallel sections:

- PS 1A: Interpersonal Interaction and Media

- PS 1B: Online Sociality and Identity
- PS 2A: Panel: Communication around Death and Dying in Digital Media
- PS 2B: Media, Participation and Presence
- PS 3A: Mediated and Non-Mediated Crisis Communication
- PS 3B: Social Encounters, Learning and Development
- PS 4A: Mediated Political Interactions
- PS 4B: Mediated Professional Communication

Moreover, 8 ph.d. students from Australia, China, Finland, US and Germany attended the ph.d. course that was co-funded by the ph.d. school for ICT, Media, Communication and Journalism at ARTS, Aarhus University. Part of the ph.d. course programme was co-organized by YECREA representative, ICSI, Sarah Atanasova (Univ. of Ljubliana).

The section has now XXX members