

## **ECREA Section for Interpersonal Communication and Social Interaction (ICSI)**

### **Activity Report 2008**

The initiative for establishing the Section for Interpersonal Communication and Social Interaction was taken by Professor Maarit Valo (University of Jyväskylä, Finland) to the ECREA Executive Board in June 2007. After consulting with Board Members she wrote the focus and purposes documents as well as the Modus Operandi for the section. She then asked Professor Owen Hargie (University of Ulster, Northern Ireland) and Professor Pekka Isotalus (University of Tampere, Finland) to join the proposed executive team as vice-chairs.

The ICSI Section was approved and founded by the ECREA Executive Board in August 2007. The composition of the section's executive team remained the same for the year 2008.

The main focus of the activities in 2008 was on sending information about the new section to all the section members *in spe*. A large number of messages about the ICSI Section were sent through a variety of mailing lists and to individuals across Europe. At the end of the year 2008 (14.12.2008) the section members numbered 72. The members come from 22 different countries.

Preparations for a successful participation in the European Communication Conference 2008 in Barcelona in November were being made from the beginning of the year. The ICSI Section received 76 submissions (1 panel, 72 papers, and 3 posters) from academics across 23 different countries. There were 8 reviewers and each submission was evaluated by a reviewer from a country different from that of the contributor. In all, 36 submissions from 11 countries were programmed (1 ready-made panel, 30 papers for 6 panels, and 5 posters). The acceptance rate was 47%. The themes of the parallel sessions were Participating and relating through communication technology, Interaction in online social networks, Socio-cultural forms of interaction, Community integration through interpersonal communication, Communicating social support, and Interpersonal communication in health care.

The ICSI Section held its business meeting at the ECC08 conference (26.11.2008). The election for the section team took place in the business meeting. Pekka Isotalus was elected to serve as chair and Owen Hargie and Maarit Valo were elected to serve as vice-chairs for the next two years 2009–10. (See the Minutes in appendix).

Maarit Valo  
December 2008

Appendix

**ECREA Section for Interpersonal Communication and Social Interaction**

**Business Meeting 26.11.2008 (14.00 h., CCIB, Barcelona, Room 132)**

Present: Maarit Valo (Section Chair); O. Hargie (Section Vice-Chair); P. Isotalus (Section Vice-Chair); M. Almonkari; M. Artkoski; M. Campos; I. Roos-Cabrera; L. Kokkonen; J. Koponen; S. Marzo; A. Nissen; M. Porhola; T. Valikoski; M. Siitonen; I. Virtanen; T. Waaramaa.

1. **Introductions.** Professor Valo welcomed everyone to this inaugural meeting. She then outlined the nature and objectives of the Interpersonal Communication and Social Interaction (ICSI) Section of ECREA, which was established in August 2007. She distributed two papers giving full details of the purposes, structure and membership of the Section.
2. **Membership.** As of 22.11.2008 there were 68 members registered in the ICSI Section. Some of those present pointed out that their names were not on the register and they were urged to rectify this on the ECREA site.
3. **Conference.** Professor Valo pointed out that the ICSI Section had received an excellent response in relation to Conference papers. A total of 76 submissions was received from academics across 23 different countries. There were 8 reviewers across countries and each paper was evaluated by a reviewer from a different country from the contributor. The acceptance rate for papers was 47%. In all 36 submissions from 11 different countries were programmed at the Conference (1 panel; 30 papers, 5 posters).
4. **Election of the Section team.** A call for candidates for Chair and Vice-Chair was distributed by e-mail on 31 August 2008. Section members were invited to declare their candidacy by 22 September 2008. By the deadline Professor Isotalus had declared his interest to serve as Chair, and Professor Hargie and Professor Valo expressed their interest to serve as Vice-Chairs. It was unanimously agreed at the meeting that Professor Isotalus be elected to serve as Chair and Professor Hargie and Professor Valo be elected to serve as Vice-Chairs.
5. **Workshop for 2009.** Professor Valo explained that each Section is expected to organise a workshop in the year between Conferences. Professor Isotalus volunteered to hold this in the Autumn of 2009 in Tampere, Finland (exact date to be announced later). This was agreed by all members. There was some discussion about the form that this event should take. Eventually there was agreement that an ICSI Section Conference and Workshop would be the most appropriate format. This would include Keynote Speakers, submitted papers and Workshop sessions. Professor Isotalus pointed out that a local committee would be formed to organise the event and welcomed suggestions from members about its shape and format.
6. **Thanks.** In his role as incoming Section Chair, Professor Isotalus gave a vote of thanks to Professor Valo, the founding Chair, for all her work in setting up the Section and making it such a success. This was warmly endorsed by all of the members.

**Meeting Secretary:** Professor Owen Hargie