

## **ECREA section for Interpersonal Communication and Social Interaction Activity Report 2009**

The ECREA section for Interpersonal Communication and Social Interaction organized a three-day conference 21-23 October at the University of Tampere, Finland co-hosted by the Finnish Doctoral School of Communication Studies and the Department of Speech Communication and Voice Research of the University of Tampere. This was also the first European conference in this research area.

The conference attracted over 60 participants from 12 different countries. Themes of the conference included interpersonal communication and social interaction in close relationships and in the professional context and mediated interpersonal communication. There were two keynote speakers: Brant Burlison (Purdue University, USA) lectured on “Supportive communication in close relationships: Similarities and differences across cultures” and Owen Hargie (University of Ulster, Northern Ireland) lectured on “Training professional communication skills: Research, theory and practice”. From 42 paper proposals received, 30 were selected after an international review process for presentation at the conference. Moreover, the network of young scholars, YECREA, had a meeting of its own.

The conference, predictably, stimulated a lot of social interaction and many interpersonal relationships were established during the three days. Despite Finnish autumn weather we succeeded to create warm atmosphere to conference. Feedback from participants has been exclusively positive. The need to organize this kind of conference again two years hence was strongly articulated. I therefore hope that we established a tradition for such autumn conferences. After all, the conference was a major step for European research on interpersonal communication and social interaction.

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