

OBJECTIVES

ECREA “Media, Cities and Space” Section

Mission Statement

The “Media, Cities and Space” Section intends to constitute an interdisciplinary arena for European research and education between a diverse range of media and urban spaces, as well as other spatial settings, in contexts ranging from analogue to increasingly pervasive computational mediations of space and social life.

The section aims to establish a strong international network, and welcomes scholarly work of theoretical, methodological and empirical nature, with a strong emphasis on crossing disciplinary boundaries. Studies within Media, Cities and Space focus on the multiple ways media and communications interconnect with and contribute to lived experience and social (inter)action in cities and other spatial contexts.

Objectives

- 1) To further the research on the field, developing and probing existing approaches and exploring new directions and topical areas whenever possible;
- 2) To establish and consolidate an international and interdisciplinary network of scholars;
- 3) To broaden the dialogue between media and communications studies and disciplines such as architecture, urban planning, urban sociology, geography and anthropology, cooperating with other ECREA Sections, Networks and TWGs, and other relevant research groups and associations;
- 4) To encourage junior researchers to participate in and contribute to the field;
- 5) To disseminate proceedings from the Section activities to the academic world and to the public at large.

Indicative Research Topics and Strategies

- 1) The role of major historical changes such as migration, internationalisation and the increasingly pervasive digital mediation of spatial structures affecting cities and regions, both individually, in terms of urbanites’ lived experience, and collectively, in terms of urban sociality, urban policymaking, smart city developments and visions of the future city.
- 2) Opportunities for advancing the knowledge and understanding of life, communication and mediation across different spatialities (e.g. urban, rural, hybrid, interstitial) by combining insights and approaches from social sciences, cultural and critical studies, human geography,

science & technology studies, urban geography and architecture studies, mobile media & locative media studies as well as media and communication studies more broadly.

3) Understanding and productively combining different theoretical approaches to the role of space and place in mediated communication via empirical investigations that use the multitude of available methods from various disciplines.

4) Understanding the major conceptual and methodological features that differentiate studies of the mediated city and other hybrid spaces from studies in both 'neighbouring' disciplines (such as political communication) and in 'non-media-centric' disciplines such as geography or urban policy & planning.

[revised on 24 September, 2019]