

Philosophy of Communication Section

Report 2013

Management team

With a new management team at the helm, 2013 was a transitional year for the section. At the 2012 business meeting, Mats Bergman (University of Helsinki) was elected the new chair of the section, taking over from Johan Siebers. Lydia Sanchez (University of Barcelona) and Bart Vandenabeele (Ghent University) were elected vice-chairs. In 2013, Carlos Roos (Ghent University) became the section's YECREA representative in 2013.

Members

Currently, the section has more than 150 members.

Activities

The section co-organised a panel on 'Normative Approaches in Media and Communication Studies' at the Nordmedia conference in Oslo, August 2013. Three discussion openings were presented:

- Kaarle Nordenstreng (University of Tampere): "The concept of communication is normative by definition"
- Stephen J. A. Ward (University of Oregon): "Ethical normativity as a sub-set of normativity"
- Hannu Nieminen (University of Helsinki): How to distinguish the researcher as an engaged citizen from the researcher as a distanced inquirer"

The stimulating panel was moderated by Mats Bergman

The section had planned to organise a workshop on 'Communication and Materialism' in late autumn in London, but due to external circumstances, the event had to be cancelled. To compensate for the lack of Philosophy of Communication events in 2013, the section will organise two conferences in the first half of 2014:

- **Short Film Experience.** Leiden, May 2-3
This intensive two-day conference invites participants to reflect on how the audio-visual short – as both a media archaeological object, as well as a theoretic object – can help us further our understanding of the moving image and cinematic today.
- **Pragmatism and Communication.** Helsinki, June 4-5 (<http://www.nordprag.org/pac.html>)
What roles does the idea or concept of 'communication' play in pragmatisms of various stripes? What are the distinctive contributions of pragmatism to our understanding and study of communication? This two-day interdisciplinary conference aims to explore these and closely connected questions. Confirmed speakers include Robert T. Craig (University of Colorado, Boulder), Eli Dresner (Tel Aviv University), Klaus Bruhn Jensen (University of Copenhagen), John Durham Peters (University of Iowa), Stephen J. A. Ward (University of Oregon), Merja Bauters (Aalto University), Ahti-Veikko Pietarinen (University of Helsinki / Tallinn University of Technology), and Sami Pihlström (University of Helsinki / University of Jyväskylä).

Web site

At an earlier stage, the web site of the section was transferred to the ECREA site. The site had originally been designed using tools no longer available in the new environment, making maintenance and updates difficult if not impossible. Carlos Roos and Mats Bergman have now begun work on a new section web page, which will be made public in early 2014.