

# **Radio Research Section**

## **ACTIVITIES REPORT**

This report includes brief information on the main activities of the Ecrea Radio Research Section during 2019, especially on the organization of the 6<sup>th</sup> ECREA Radio Research Section Conference held in Siena as well as internal discussions of the group.

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The management team  
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### :: RADIO RESEARCH CONFERENCE 2019 IN SIENA (ITALY)::

the main activity of the group during 2019 was the organization and celebration of the section's conference. The 6<sup>th</sup> Radio Research Section Conference was held at the Department of Social, Political and Cognitive Sciences of the University of Siena, from 19 to 21 September 2019. The 2019 theme was: Radio as Social/Convivial Media: community, participation, public values in the platform society (<http://www.congressi.unisi.it/ecrea2019/>). The section received 163 abstracts, of which 128 were accepted for presentation. These abstracts were produced by 230 authors. In our sixth conference, we counted on the participation of 170 delegates, coming from 35 countries of all continents, being this the first ECREA Radio Research Section Conference global. We had an intensive program conformed by seven plenary sessions (7 keynote speakers) and 32 panels distributed in 8 parallel sessions. The Siena Conference included a record number of presentations, abstracts accepted and participants, being the most successful section conference of the section to date. These data highlight the interest in our field of study and the existence of a stable and broad scientific community that needs these spaces for the dissemination of knowledge more than ever. Our aim is to continue working to expand this community of scholars by establishing bridges beyond the European territory. This Siena conference was a first and important step in this direction.

### :: 1<sup>st</sup> GUY STARKEY'S PRIZE ::

In August 2018, the group was informed that the former chair Guy Starkey had passed away. In memory of Guy Starkey, unanimously considered a reference scholar and one of the most genuine and caring members of the group, the management team decided to create the Guy Starkey's prize for the most promising and original paper presented at the section's conference (starting in 2019). In the 6<sup>th</sup> Radio Research Section Conference, the Guy Starkey's Prize was for the paper titled «"Tonight I'm Not Letting You Die": The Radio Phone-in and the Suicidal Caller», presented by Kathryn McDonald, Bournemouth University (United Kingdom).

### :: PUBLICATION ::

In Autumn 2019, the Radio Research Section is preparing a special issue of the *Radio journal: International Studies in Broadcast & Audio Media*, published by Intellect, with a selection of papers from the presentations made at Siena's Conference. During the last quarter of the year, the management team of ECREA's RRS (Radio Research Section) launched the call for papers and started the peer review process, which was carried out according to the rules of the journal. The publication of the special issue is scheduled for April 2020, and the management team of our section will be the guest editors.

Radio journal International Studies  
in Broadcast & Audio Media



### :: 8<sup>th</sup> EUROPEAN COMMUNICATION CONFERENCE 2020 IN BRAGA (PORTUGAL) ::

The management team prepared an updated description of our section for the ECC 2020 Braga and decided that the programme chair of our section for this conference would be our vice-chair, Salvatore Scifo. According to the data of ECC 2020 Braga, the Radio Research Section received 44 abstracts. This data indicated that this is higher than those submitted at the ECC 2018 Lugano (21 abstracts submitted), but it is still far from the objectives that our section's management team would like to achieve. In addition to the regular activity of ECREA's RRS at the next ECC 2020, our section along with the thematic sections Communication History and Television Studies we are co-organizing an ECREA Preconference for 1-2 October 2020 in Braga. The title of the pre-conference is "Old media persistence. An ECREA preconference on the relevance and persistence of traditional media" (<http://oldnewspersistence.com>), which will take place in Braga at the main campus of the University of Minho. The call for papers will be launched in February 2020.

### :: SECTION'S BUSINESS MEETING DEBATE ::

The regular business meeting of the section took place in Siena on 21 September. The business meeting discussed the future of the section, following five main topics: a) the closing report of the 6<sup>th</sup> Radio Research Section Conference in Siena; b) the proposal of a new section's name (Radio and Sound Section); c) the shutdown of the section's journal (*Radio, Sound & Society*); d) the need to enlarge the participation of scholars of this field in ECREA; and e) the presentation of the candidature of the next Radio Research Conference 2021 in Barcelona (Spain), hosted by the Audio-Visual Communication and Advertising Department and the Catalan Radio Observatory (GRISS-UAB) of the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB).

**:: OTHER ACTIVITIES ::**

In 2019, our section has also supported the International Symposium “Radio in Mobility”, organized by the Groupe de Recherches et d’Études sur la Radio (GRER) in association with the Practices and Resources of Information and Mediation Team of The University of Tours held in Tours (France), from 21 to 23 November 2019.