

ECREA TWG: Children, Youth and Media

6th Annual Report
February, 2018

About the TWG

The ECREA TWG: Children, Youth and Media was proposed in February 2012, and approved by ECREA in May 2012. Its formal objectives and modus operandi are available on the ECREA website as well as on the group's new website

<https://cymecrea.wordpress.com/about/>

The current management team was elected by members in April 2017, and consists of Prof. Elisabeth Staksrud, University of Oslo (Chair), and Vice Chairs Prof. David Smahel, Masaryk University (re-elected) and Ass. Prof. Bieke Zaman, KU Leuven.

Previous management team consisted of Chair Prof. Sonia Livingstone, LSE and Vice Chairs Prof. Cristina Ponte, New University of Lisbon and Prof. David Smahel, Masaryk University. The TWG wishes to thank Livingstone and Ponte for their efforts and vision to create the working group and for their continued support.

As of February 2018, the group consists of 127 formal members, as listed in the ECREA directory and 180 interested members from over 30 countries subscribing to our list-serv newsletter.

Objectives TWG

The rationale for the activities facilitated by the current management team includes:

- Communication and community building
- Constructing a focal point for multiple networks
- Dialogue within and across inter- and multi-disciplinarity
- Identifying new opportunities for research and practice
- Keeping track of a fast-changing socio-technological landscape
- Help with keeping research up to date, innovative and future-relevant
- A supportive environment in which to challenge each others
- Promoting children, youth and media research to the wider childhood/media research communities
- Support researchers/careers in this field
- Establish a relevant group of experts with whom to have in-depth discussions
- Find way to address the demand from media/policy makers about our research topics
- Mentoring for young scholars

Activities and achievements to date

In 2017-2018, ECREA TWG CYM management group focused on facilitating meeting places for its members and for other interested colleagues, finding ways to foster interactivity within and beyond the scholarly community, and make the group publicly visible.

In 2017, the management group has focused on the creation of various complementary online meeting places and communication channels, including but not limited to:

- The creation of a brand new website for the group <https://cymecrea.wordpress.com/>
- The creation and implementation of an online database of CYM members to map out contact details, research interests and expertise. Some of this information will also be transferred and published on the CYM website in 2018.
- The continued use and distribution of our own mailing list "CHILDREN-YOUTH-MEDIA" and the ECREA's mailing list for the TWG CYM members.
- A new internal Facebook group for members to share preliminary findings, updates about recent publications, seek a roommate for a conference, share pictures or videos of recent activities and events, etc.
- The ECREA TWG group on Children, Youth and Media co-organized a special issue in the *Cyberpsychology: Journal of Psychosocial Research on Cyberspace* in cooperation with the COST ACTION IS1410 "The digital literacy and multimodal practices of young children" (DigiLitEY). The call was launched in November 2016. A total of 38 abstracts were submitted of which 11 selected by Natalia Kucirkova (University College London, UK), Charles Mifsud (University of Malta, Malta), Cristina Ponte (Universidade NOVA de Lisboa, Portugal) and Bieke Zaman (KU Leuven, Belgium) to go to the next phase. The review process of full manuscripts was double blind. Each full manuscript was reviewed by two respected scholars in the field of children, youth and media, and shepherded by at least one special issue editor. A total of six papers were selected to be considered for publication in the special issue. In the final publication phase, these six papers were further reviewed by Bieke Zaman and Charles Mifsud as special issue editors and by Lenka Dedkova, David Smahel and Kristian Daneback as main journal editors. For the published special issue, we refer to (2017). Special issue: Young children's use of digital media and parental mediation. (Zaman, B., Ed., Mifsud, C., Ed.). *Cyberpsychology: Journal of Psychosocial Research on Cyberspace*, 11(3). <http://dx.doi.org/10.5817/CP2017-3-xx> and <https://cyberpsychology.eu/issue/view/658>

The CYM group has also been active in creating F2F meeting places, and keen to propose/(co)host events and conferences, including:

A successful proposal to arrange an ECREA pre-conference before the ICA conference in Prague, May 2018. The pre-conference “Trust, Control, and Privacy: Mediatization of Childhood and Adolescence in the Digital Age”¹ will be arranged together with the ECREA section on Mediatization, in cooperation with the Institute for Communication at Charles University Prague. Main conference contact has been Christine Trueltzsch. 34 proposals were submitted to the conference, of which 25 were selected. CYM is also cooperating with the Journal of Children and Media (JoCAM) to produce 1-2 special issues of the journal after the conference. More information and registration for the event can be found at <http://www.icahdq.org/event/CzechPC7>

The ECREA TWG CYM will host a pre-conference before the ECREA main conference in Lugano November 2018. The conference entitled “Children and Adolescents in a Mobile Media World”² will be held 31 October 2018. **Organizers:** Institute of Communication and Health, Università della Svizzera italiana (USI) and the ECREA TWG: Children, Youth and Media. A call for papers have been published, with a submission deadline of 30 April 2018. **Website link:** www.usi.ch/ecrea

The management team has also issued a call for expression of interest to host a 2019 gap-year conference for the TWG. Deadline for the call is February 28th 2018.

Future activities

For the next period, the ECREA TWG CYM will continue to invest in gaining the visibility and prestige that a section could bestow, not of temporary but a continuous importance, and carefully prepare for the application to become a permanent ECREA research section.

Report submitted by: *Bieke Zaman, David Smahel, and Elisabeth Staksrud*

¹ Young people of today are born in a digital environment and are used to observing their parents interacting with digital devices from their earliest days. In a mediatized society all fields of society are increasingly shaped by media and particularly digital media have gained ever more importance with regards to the socialisation of children and adolescents: On the one hand they see other family members using and interacting with digital media and on the other hand they start to use them at a more and more early stage of life. Amongst other societal and cultural changes the mediatization of childhood and adolescence challenges concepts of trust, control and privacy as well as their interrelation. Much of this discourse advocates for children and young people’s privacy, at the same time the control parents are seeking might jeopardise their privacy as well. Behind all these processes and meaning-making, on both individual and collective levels, can however be found a more fundamental question of “trust”.

² Brief description: Children and adolescents increasingly turn to mobile media devices, the smartphone in particular, to stay connected with family and friends and access a variety of digital media contents and services including social media, music, videos, and games. The everytime-and-everywhere access to mobile media has changed children’s and adolescents’ everyday life with potential implications on their health and development. The pre-conference wants to address these issues both from a theoretical and methodological perspective.