

Temporary Working Group “Media & The City” Report for 2014–2015

At the end of 2014, the Temporary Working Group “Media & The City” (established in mid-2011) has renewed its status and its management team, the latter now being composed of Seija Ridell (Chair, University of Tampere), Simone Tosoni (Vice-chair, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan) and Zlatan Krajina (Vice-Chair, University of Zagreb).

By the end of 2015, the temporary working group has 109 members, and operates on a regular basis both in terms of conference activities (1) publishing (2), teaching (3) and communication efforts (4).

- 1) Regarding scientific conferences, in September 2015 (24-25th) the TWG organized the *Urban Media Studies Conference* at the University of Zagreb. The conference featured professors Ole B. Jensen (Aalborg University, Denmark) and Rob Kitchin (National University of Ireland Maynooth) as keynote speakers, a dialogic plenary and 48 presentations (divided into 12 thematic panels and a video panel) selected from more than 100 submitted abstracts. The conference was attended by over 100 scholars from 25 countries from Europe and elsewhere (e.g. Brazil, Canada, Japan and United States).
- 2) On the editorial side, the TWG started to work on an edited book derived from (but not limited to) the Zagreb conference, planned to come out from a top international publisher during 2017. The aim of this volume is to connect media studies and urban studies and in this way elaborate further the key themes of the conference. Moreover, a selection of the conference presentations will also be worked into a journal special issue in 2017. The editorial projects listed in the TWG report for 2013–2014 are ready for print: a volume with selected papers from the Leeds 2013 conference, titled *Communicating the city* (ed. by Matteo Tarantino, Giorgia Aiello and Kate Oakley for Peter Lang) and a methodological special issue for the *International Journal of Communication* (ed. by Simone Tosoni and Giorgia Aiello) will be both published during spring 2016.
- 3) In terms of teaching, the TWG has intensified its pedagogic efforts and collaboration. First, one of the management team members (Tosoni) continues lecturing on media and the city on a regular basis at the ECREA Summer School. Second, members from the University of Tampere, University of Zagreb and Università Cattolica of Milan are experimenting with joint teaching on media and the city, using as the enabling framework the Erasmus teacher exchange program. Vice-chairs Tosoni and Krajina visited the University of Tampere in the spring of 2015 and gave presentations to students and staff about their work within this field and the TWG. After collecting and analyzing experiences from the experimental phase, the TWG members will be offered the opportunity to join the collaboration.
- 4) The TWG strengthened its communication and dissemination activities through its three key public and semi-public channels:
 - The official TWG website, mainly used for informational purposes and for providing downloadable materials that derive from the working group’s activities (such as the podcasts of the *Urban Media Studies Conference* keynote speeches).
 - A Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/mediaandthecity/?ref=ts&fref=ts>) with 170 members, used both for informational purposes and as a more interactive and flexible platform than the official website. This is where students and researchers across the globe meet to share resources relevant to the study of media and the city.
 - A Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/media.city.ecrea/?fref=ts>) with 169 members, used as a space of discussion and community building, and to share resources and news connected to the topic of media and the city).