

Management of the TWG

2017 has been the seventh year of the activity of the Temporary Working Group Media and the City, aimed at advancing research on urban communication and developing Urban Media Studies as a resolutely interdisciplinary research field.

The management team of the temporary working group, as of November 2016, consists of Simone Tosoni (Catholic University of Milan) as chair, Seija Ridell (University of Tampere) and Tanya Lokot (Dublin City University) as vice-chairs.

The TWG has an *advisory group* since 2016 to increase the diversity and scope of expertise of the working group activities. The advisory group currently includes Zlatan Krajina (University of Zagreb), Matteo Tarantino (Confucius Institute University of Geneva), Giorgia Aiello (University of Leeds), Shaun Moores (University of Sunderland), Scott Rodgers (Birkbeck, University of London), and the YECREA representative Fabien Cante (London School of Economics).

Currently, the temporary working group has 71 members, involving an active network of researchers across the field of media studies and other disciplines. The TWG continues to advance interdisciplinary research on urban communication and mediation.

The TWG activities in 2017 were pursued in the following areas (detailed below): *events, teaching, publishing, research collaboration and dissemination*.

Events

On April 20-21 2017, the TWG collaborated in the organization of the 4th International Conference “Visuality 2017: Tourism vs Urban Heritage in a Creative City” in Vilnius, Lithuania, organizing the panel ‘Smart tourism. Consuming and preserving urban heritage and culture in an age of ubiquitous mediation’.

Teaching

The TWG considers its teaching and educational effort of key relevance for the institutionalization of the field of research on media and the city. In 2017, the management team members continued the teaching collaboration started in 2015. For example, Ilija Tomanic Trivundza (University of Ljubljana) visited as a guest lecturer in the course ‘Space, technology and action’, coordinated in the Spring term 2017 by Seija Ridell at the University of Tampere.

Moreover, the active involvement of the TWG in the ECREA-affiliated SUSO Summer School through its chair Simone Tosoni, started in Bremen in 2014, has intensified in 2016 and 2017, for the first and second editions held in Milan: along with lecturing on Urban Studies and Urban ethnography, and supporting students working on these topics, Simone Tosoni has also assumed a key role in the overall

arrangements of the school as local organizer (2016, 2017) , and program organizer (with Fausto Colombo) for the forthcoming 2018 edition.

In the upcoming year, the TWG aims to strengthen its teaching collaboration efforts, both in terms of intensifying the existing collaborations and in involving more universities in the network.

Publishing

In 2017, the TWG accomplished and continued its existing publication projects as well as initiated new ones.

The volume titled *Communicating the city*, with papers selected from the Leeds conference and edited by Matteo Tarantino, Giorgia Aiello and Kate Oakley, was published by Peter Lang in 2017.

Simone Tosoni, Seija Ridell and Zlatan Krajina continued the TWG's collaboration with *IJoC* by editing for the journal a special section on *The mediated city between disciplines: A call for Urban Media Studies*, based on (but not limited to) the papers presented in the *Urban Media Studies* conference in Zagreb in September 2015. Expected publication date of the special issue is second half of 2018.

Seija Ridell continued to co-edit with Marco Santangelo a special issue for the *International Communication Gazette* on the *Complexity of power in the smart city* (publication scheduled for August 2019), based on (but not limited to) the panel presentations in the EURA2016 conference held in Torino in June 2016.

Seija Ridell (with Johanna Ylipulli and Jenni Partanen) began co-editing an issue of *WiderScreen Journal* titled "City imaginings and urban everyday life", which features some work by the TWG members. The issue is scheduled for publication in June 2018.

Zlatan Krajina continued the contracted editorial work, with Deborah Stevenson (Western Sydney University, Australia), on *The Routledge Urban Media and Communication Companion*, planned for publication in late 2018. The book, first of its kind, will feature 44 chapters, encompassing major media and the city issues that have surfaced the many discussions and research projects on the topic thus far. The book will feature the work of the majority of active members, TWG management team and the advisory group.

Research Collaboration

TWG members, advisory board members and management team representatives participated in several international research project proposals in 2017.

Several TWG representatives, including Zlatan Krajina, Seija Ridell and Tanya Lokot, joined the Network of Proposers for COST Action Proposal OC-2017-1-22403 "Culture and technology for sustainable

development ". The COST Action Proposal is currently under consideration and awaiting feedback from the EU funding agencies.

TWG management team members Simone Tosoni, Zlatan Krajina and Tanya Lokot, and advisory board member Giorgia Aiello have collaborated to submit a project proposal to the 2017 HERA EU JRP call "Public Spaces: Culture and Integration in Europe" (HERA JRP PS). The project proposal, titled "Spatial Imaginaries and Controversies in Public Space. Cultural Challenges and Promises for Refugees and Asylum Seekers in European Cities", has passed the first stage of the application process and the project collaborative team are currently working on developing an extended proposal for submission to the second stage of the HERA JRP PS competition in May 2018.

Dissemination

The TWG's communication and dissemination activities continued on its three key public and semi-public channels: the TWG website, a Facebook page and a Facebook group.

The TWG website, recently migrated to ECREA's servers and to the Wordpress platform, is used for informational purposes and as a repository of downloadable materials (such as the podcasts of keynote speeches from the *Urban Media Studies Conference* held in Zagreb in 2015). In the upcoming years, the TWG plans to publish on the website a series of webinars, produced by its members, featuring the key concepts of Urban Media Studies.

The Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/mediaandthecity/?ref=ts&fref=ts>), used both for informational purposes and to keep in touch with the TWG members, currently has 189 members.

The membership figure in the Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/media.city.ecrea/?fref=ts>), used as a space of discussion, community building, and sharing resources, has increased from 209 to 233.

Plans for 2018

In 2018, the TWG will be participating in the ECREA 2018 Lugano conference by organising two panels and hosting a business meeting for TWG members. The call for papers for the panels is active until February 28, 2018.

In 2018, the TWG plans to have several publication outputs, including the special section of the *IJoC* titled *The mediated city between disciplines: A call for Urban Media Studies* (co-edited by Simone Tosoni and Seija Ridell); the issue of *WiderScreen Journal* titled "City imaginings and urban everyday life" (co-edited by Seija Ridell); and *The Routledge Urban Media and Communication Companion* (co-edited by Zlatan Krajina).

A dense program of teaching exchange between the universities of Zagreb, Dublin, Tampere and Cattolica di Milano, has also been scheduled for 2018.

2018 will also see further work on research collaborations in the TWG network, including COST Action and HERA EU projects.