

## Temporary Working Group “Media & The City”

Report for 2011

The “Media & The City” Temporary Working Group was established in mid-2011. After the nomination of the Management Team, the group immediately started scouting and recruiting members. As of December 2011, the Working Groups counts 50 members from 13 countries, plus other scholars not yet affiliated with ECREA but who expressed an interest in participating. The present roster combines various disciplines, from economics to sociology, from architecture to philosophy to media studies. To foster and manage productive scientific dialogue among these disciplines is a key priority for the TWG.

Moreover, the TWG has been involved in the process of building bridges with other organizations with similar interests (such as the RC21 network) in and outside of Europe.

As a cornerstone of the group foundational effort, a TWG workshop has been organized for February 10, 2012 at the Catholic university of Milan. 30 papers have been selected for the event, which will have the following objectives:

- a. Establish and strengthen social and professional ties among members as well as an initial group identity;
- b. Foster the widest-possible cross-pollination of ideas, while at the same time help focusing the group’s interests and research sectors.
- c. Devise possible trans-national collective research efforts on the group’s topics;
- d. Discuss group politics and *modus operandi*;
- e. Begin preparatory work for the ECREA Assembly of 2012.

The TWG’s website was launched on July 11, 2011. It was designed to work as a hub for group-related activities – however, as of now, its operative potential has not yet been completely exploited. Advanced functions (such as collective bibliographical management) will be explained during the Workshop and activated thereafter.

In conclusion, 2011 can be seen as a foundation-building year for the TWG. The outlook for 2012 is of a period of intense scholarly and networking activity.