

Yearly Report to the ECREA board 2012.

Media and Religion TWG

Organization of the chairing committee:

Docent, PhD. Johanna Sumiala University of Helsinki (chair, and programme coordinator)

Professor Mihai Coman University of Bucharest (vice-chair)

Professor Knut Lundby University of Oslo (vice-chair)

Activities/Past Events:

Media and Religion TGW chairing team has spent its first year of the TWG in organizing the TWG, inviting and contacting new members to the TWG as well as organizing three events and planning for future events for the academic year 2013.

The first chair meeting and workshop took place at the University of Helsinki on Feb 10, 2012. This meeting was organized as part of the one-day workshop hosted by the Finnish Media and Religion research project carried out at the University of Helsinki and University of Tampere. This project is co-directed by Docent Johanna Sumiala (Univ. of Helsinki) and Docent Katja Valaskivi (Univ. of Tampere). The Finnish project is funded by the Helsingin Sanomat Foundation. Professors Stewart Hoover and Deborah Whitehead (University of Colorado, Boulder) and Heidi Campbell (Texas A&M University) were among the speakers at this venue. The workshop had about ten participants.

As the first public event Media and Religion TWG organized a panel/workshop "*Media and Religion in Europe. Transformations and Struggles*" in collaboration with the International Society for Media, Religion and Culture (ISMRC) conference that was held 8-12 July at the University of Anadalu, Turkey. The conference theme was: Crossroads of Civilizations: Media, Religion and Culture.

As its main event Media and Religion TGW organized a panel (and a business meeting) at the ECREA 2012 conference held in Istanbul. The panel title was: "*Media and Ritual. Exploring religious implications in mediatized rituals online/offline*". Participants in the panel were: Mihai Coman (Univ. of Bucharest), Farida Vis (Univ. of Sheffield), Stig Hjarvard (Univ. of Copenhagen), Johanna Sumiala (Univ. of Helsinki), and Knut Lundby (Univ. of Oslo, chair).

Activities/Future Events:

For the academic year 2013 Media and Religion TWG chairs have submitted two panel proposals for ICA London 17-21, June.

TGW will also organize a panel/workshop in collaboration with CRESC (Centre for Research on Socio-Cultural Change) on 4-6 September to be held at School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.

Another TGW workshop will be organized in Autumn 2013 at the University of Bucharest (hosted by professor Mihai Coman). The dates and the topic of this venue will be announced later.

The TGW chairing team will also organize a meeting at the Nordic Network on Media and Religion conference to be held at the Sigtuna Foundation in Sweden 29-31 Oct 2013. In this meeting the team will make plans for the future events to be organized in 2014.