

ECREA Section for Communication History

2011 Yearly Report to the ECREA Executive Board

1. Establishment – Organization

The Communication History Section was approved by ECREA executive board in October 2009.

Section Management Team:

- Klaus Arnold, University of Trier – Department of Media Studies – Germany (Chair)
- Paschal Preston, Dublin City University – School of Communication – Ireland (Vice Chair)
- Susanne Kinnebrock, RWTH Aachen University – Institute of Language and Communication Studies – Germany (Vice Chair)

YECREA-Representative: Christian Schwarzenegger, RWTH Aachen University – Institute of Language and Communication Studies – Germany

2. Activities

In the year 2011 the section ...

- **Increased its membership** throughout the year. The section has now 116 members (Dec. 2011).
- **Organized a workshop “The History of Mass Media in Europe: Towards Post-National Perspectives and [Hi-]Stories”** (September, 7-9, 2011, Dublin). The workshop was hosted by the Dublin City University; keynote speaker was Andreas Fickers, University of Maastricht, Netherlands. The call for papers drew 31 proposals, of which 25 were selected to be presented at the workshop. The workshop was attended by 35 participants. The workshop also served as a kick-off for the section’s plan to publish a handbook on the history of mass communication in Europe in the next years.
- **Organized a panel on “European Perspectives on Communication History” on the Annual Conference of the ICA** (May, 27, 2011, Boston) including six speakers from five European countries and an US American respondent.
- **Published** the outcome of the ECREA workshop and the ICA panel in **two special issues** of the journal media&time/medien&zeit (3/2011 and 4/2011) in which the question “What is Communication History?” was posed by the editors (Susanne Kinnebrock, Ed McLuskie and Christian Schwarzenegger) and specific “European Answers” were given by authors from all European regions. Both issues will be made fully accessible as a free PDF via the journal’s and the section’s websites.
- **Transferred the section’s website** with news and information about the section and its activities to a new server, which made it necessary to restructure the website.
- **Organized a Business Meeting** (September, 8, 2011, Dublin).
- **Informed its members** and other interested scholars about the section’s activities and relevant calls or workshops via email.

YECREA section activities in 2011 included ...

- **The organization of a young scholars’ workshop** on the question “Is there a future in communication history?” (September, 7, 2011, Dublin). This question was discussed in terms of making an academic career when specializing in the field of communication history.
- **Efforts to popularize the section and YECREA** among PhD-Students and to foster peer contact and counsel for young scholars in the section.

3. Future plans

The Section plans...

- **To edit a handbook on the “History of Mass Media in Europe”.** One major present and future activity of the section is the handbook project on the History of Mass Communication in Europe. It is not intended to assemble several parallel national media histories but to look at certain problems or historical situations all European countries had to face in an integrated and transnational manner. To organize this major project one additional meeting or small workshop is planned for 2012.
- **To organize the section’s next workshop for 2013.** It will take place in Lisbon in cooperation with the Catholic University of Portugal.

The Section Management Team (Dec. 31, 2011)