

YOUNG SCHOLARS (YECREA)
NETWORK ACTIVITY REPORT FOR 2011

1. Organisation

There have been no changes to the Network Management Team elected in Hamburg. The team consists of Benjamin De Cleen (chair), Alenka Jelen (vice-chair) and Julie Uldam (vice-chair).

Alenka remains the representative to the ECREA Executive board, now representing all ECREA Networks.

Benjamin, Alenka and Julie are members (ex-officio) of the editorial board of "PLATFORM: Journal of Media and Communication", a biannual open-access online postgraduate publication.

Membership: The young scholars' network now (26 December 2011) has 280 members, an increase of 43 since 2010.

2. Activities

Information dissemination

One of the main tasks of YECREA is to provide information dissemination. YECREA informs its members of job opportunities, conferences, workshops, and relevant publications through the website yecrea.eu, a bi-annual newsletter, and a facebook group.

In 2011, the website yecrea.eu continued to be used for information dissemination.

A Yecrea facebook group is now also used for information dissemination. The facebook presence has resulted in increased interactivity. The group now has 280 members (an increase of 98 since 2010).

A network of section and country reps

In 2011 YECREA continued to develop its network of young scholar representatives in the ECREA sections and in all countries of Europe. Representatives to the TWG's are also being installed. Representatives continued to inform young scholars through the Yecrea website and the facebook group.

Co-organisation of conference

YECREA (Julie) co-organised the ECREA Symposium The Mediation of Scandal and Moral Outrage with the Communication and Democracy and Gender and Communication section.

At this conference, YECREA organised a young scholar workshop Writing Academic Applications for young scholars in media, communications and gender studies.

The workshop was open to all young scholars, and was especially tailored to the interests and needs of those in the last stage of their PhD or in the early steps of their academic career, who are faced with the task of job hunting and application writing. The workshop aimed at providing advice and guidance on writing successful applications for academic posts in the areas of teaching, research and postdoctoral funding proposals. Speakers were Bart Cammaerts, Senior Lecturer, Department of Media and Communications, London School of Economics and Political Science; Nico Carpentier, Senior Lecturer, Department of Social Sciences, Loughborough University; Mia-Marie Hammerlin, Assistant Professor, Department of Communication and Media, Lund University; Tonny Krijnen, Assistant Professor, Department of Media and Communication at the Erasmus University Rotterdam.

YECREA presence at other ECREA conferences

YECREA representatives organised several workshops for young scholars at ECREA sections conferences in 2011, addressing and representing young scholars' interests and dilemmas and enhancing networks between young and senior scholars.

At the Interpersonal Communication and Social Interaction Section 2011 Conference, YECREA representative Tero Ipatti and young scholar Sarah Boyles organised a workshop on how to publish and considered key factors when preparing and submitting articles and other publications, with specific attention to journals in the field of interpersonal communication and interaction.

YECREA representative Christian Schwarzenegger organised a workshop entitled Is There Future in Communication History? Perspectives, Challenges, Careers and Dead Ends at the Crossroads of Communication and History at the ECREA Communication History section conference.

During the 2011 conference of the ECREA Radio Section, YECREA representatives Judith Purkarthofer and Petra Pfisterer organised a YECREA meeting with a recently established group of Portuguese young scholars and discussed experiences and possible future collaborations.

YECREA special issue of Platform

A special YECREA issue of PLATFORM: Journal of Media and Communication, was published in November 2011. The special issue was edited by YECREA management and features a collection of articles based on papers presented by young scholars at the 3rd European Communication Conference (ECC 2010) in Hamburg. The articles discuss the role of traditional mass media, mainstream online (digital) media, and computer games in contemporary societies in relation to collective identity, cultural identifications and democratic involvement. In addition to the articles, the special issue presents a report of the YECREA workshop Planning an academic career: International perspectives, which discusses issues of early academic career dilemmas, career planning, balance between publishing, teaching and other activities, and finding a way in the academic landscape.

Ecrea Wikipedia presence

Yecrea representatives Anne Kaun, Christian Schwartzenegger and Ana Alacovska wrote and published the Ecrea Wikipedia entry.

3. Future plans

YECREA's main plans for 2012 are the following:

Elections

Elections for a new network management team will be held in Istanbul. Benjamin and Alenka will step down. Julie and two new vice-chairs will put themselves forward as candidates.

ECC12 YECREA workshop

Working title: Visiting PhDs: practicalities, opportunities and challenges of studying a term abroad during the PhD. For ECC12 YECREA is planning a workshop on doing (part of) your PhD research abroad as visiting student or researcher. The workshop will address questions such as: How much time does it take to plan your stay? In what ways can it be an added value for your research and for yourself as a researcher? What are the criteria? How much does it cost and how/where to get funding? The workshop is planned to feature a panel of senior scholars who have experience with facilitating and supervising visiting researchers as well as young scholars who have done (part of) their study abroad. The workshop is organised by Anne Kaun (YECREA rep for Sweden), Christian Schwartzenegger (YECREA

communication history section rep), Esengül Ayyildiz (YECREA rep for Turkey) and Olivier Driessens (YECREA rep for Mediation TWG).

ARS, YECREA and COST Action workshop Audiences: A Cross-Generational Dialogue (11 April 2012)

Addressing key questions for the future of the field of audience studies, the ARS (Audience and Reception Studies) section of ECREA, YECREA (the young scholars' network of ECREA) and COST Action IS0906 Transforming Audiences will bring together three generations of audience researchers in an intensive daylong workshop Audiences: A Cross-Generational Dialogue in Brussels on 11th April 2012. About 20 advanced graduate students contributing to audience studies, including print, radio, film, television and internet audiences and users will engage with mentors who have spent decades working in the field. The workshop will bring together Professors Denis McQuail, Kim Schroder, Sonia Livingstone, David Buckingham, Martin Barker and Elizabeth Bird. The intensive workshop will feature opening and closing statements from each faculty mentor, organised in a plenary, and parallel workshops focusing on student work. The workshop is organised by Ranjana Das, YECREA representative for the Audience and Reception Studies section and post-doctoral scholar at the University of Luneburg, Germany. There is a funding available for 10 doctoral students, who need to be members of the COST Action Transforming Audiences Transforming Societies.