YOUNG SCHOLARS NETWORK (YECREA)

NETWORK ACTIVITY REPORT FOR 2014

1. Organisation

Membership: The young scholars' network now (20 January 2013) has 324 members. The membership numbers are stable.

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 2014, the website yecrea.eu continued to be used for information dissemination although we must acknowledge that the importance of the website within the communication infrastructure of YECREA has decreased in terms of page visits and interaction.

The Yecrea facebook group has now become the main channel of information dissemination. The facebook presence has resulted in increased interactivity. The group now has 675 members (an increase of 159 since 2013).

In 2014 YECREA continued to develop and coordinate its network of young scholar representatives in the ECREA sections and TWGs and in most countries of Europe. The role of country representatives is currently under review and is likely to be transformed to a more action and activity orientated modus of having country liaisons for specific tasks and activities and not on a permanent basis. Representatives continued to inform young scholars through the Yecrea website and the facebook group.

Young scholars workshops

In 2014 YECREA has again organised a variety of events, workshops, master classes and roundtables. They were mainly organised by the Section and TWG representatives. As most YECREA events are linked to Section and TWG workshops the total number of activities was lower than in 2013 and it is also likely to be higher in 2015.

1) February 8, 2014 in Ljubljana

"Fieldwork in Contemporary Audience Studies" - A YECREA workshop to be held as part of COST "Transforming Audiences, Transforming Societies" Meeting 2014. (Organized by Julia Hünniger, Augsburg University)

2) April 2, 2014 in Trier

"Mediatized Celebrity and Popular Culture in Historical and Visual Communication Research" a workshop organised by the Communiation History and Visual Communication Sections of German Communication Association and YECREA (Organised for YECREA by Christian Schwarzenegger, Augsburg University; Olivier Driessens, Ghent University and Anne Kaun ‚Södertorn University/ University of Pennsylvania)

3) November 13, 2014 in Lisbon"Entering the production line. Young Scholars, Academic Careers and current Challenges oft he Academic System." YECREA Workshop at the ECC by Núria Araüna, Torgeir Uberg Naerland and Christian Schwarzenegger

YOUNG SCHOLARS FUND

YECREA developed a procedure for the selection of beneficiaries of the fee waiving for the ECC and used this routine to select six scholars who were supported by the fund. YECREA will continue to aid administering the young scholars fund for the ECC 2016.

Summer school book chapter

The YECREA management team wrote a chapter for the ECREA Summer School 2013 book that deals with the ECREA summer school and the ECREA Young scholars network as support-groups for young scholars in an increasingly competitive academic context. The book and the chapter was released in early 2014.

ECC

Besides the workshop panel at the ECC YECREA also hosted a social event in Lisbon and had a business meeting. At the business meeting former Chair Benjamin de Cleen and former Vice-Chair Anne Kaun stepped down from their positon. A new management team was elected. Christian Schwarzenegger as a chair, Núria Araüna and Torgeir Uberg Naerland as Vice-Chairs.

3. Future plans

YECREA's main plans for 2015 are to sustain and further develop its current activities and network of section reps. Further membership growth will be pursued. As the numbers above indicate, we face strong expansion in terms of facebook followers and stagnation in real membership within the organisation. One point of future action therefore is the conversion of Facebook members into YECREA members.