

Executive Board Annual Report 2021

Name of the Section/Network/Temporary Working Group:

Communication History

Management team:

Chair: Gabriele Balbi (USI Università della Svizzera italiana, Lugano, Switzerland)

Vice-chair: Janne Nielsen (Aarhus University, Denmark)

Vice-chair: Valérie Schafer (University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg)

Young Scholar Representative: Niklas Venema (Freie Universität Berlin, Germany)

Social media:

Website : <https://ecreahistorysection.com>

Twitter : <https://twitter.com/COHEcrea>

Activities in 2021:

During the pandemic year 2021, the section was involved in different activities, especially in September 2021, when:

- The edited book [Digital Roots. Historicizing Media and Communication Concepts of the Digital Age](#) (edited by Gabriele Balbi, Nelson Ribeiro, Valérie Schafer and Christian Schwarzenegger) was published by De Gruyter. This book is a long-term effort of the section started at least in 2018 and it involves several members. All the chapters are in open access and it received a lot of attention in the academic community of communication and media historians;
- The postponed EEC Conference in Braga happened. 6 panels plus the business meeting (where the new management team was elected) were allocated to the section and all were held through Zoom. For an overview of the panels, see [here](#).
- Immediately after the end of the general conference, the section co-organized with two other ECREA sections (Radio and Sound and Television Studies) a joint post-conference entitled *Old Media Persistence*. The one day online symposium, held on Webex, was very interesting and engaging with several scholars from different world regions. To check the program see [here](#). A special issue of SCOMS on this topic will be published by 2023, so far a [call for paper](#) is out.

Plans for 2022:

In 2022, the section will have two main key moments:

- The workshop *History of Digital Media and Digital Media Historiography*, co-sponsored by the ICA Communication History Division, and hosted by the Centre for Contemporary and Digital History (C²DH), University of Luxembourg, 2-4 February. This will be an hybrid event and for more information see the program [here](#).
- The ECC 2022 conference in Aarhus will be a second crucial gathering for the section's members, hopefully in person. In order to attract more submissions, the management

team has released a specific call: see <https://conferences.au.dk/ecrea2022/call-for-papers/>. The section is also sponsoring two preconferences

- [The Transformation of Public Dissent: From Counter-Publics Spheres and Alternative Media to Disinformation Ecologies?](#), held on 6-7 October, 2022
- A second one is still in negotiations and will be jointly organized by COH section and International and Intercultural communication section. The call will be out by March 2022.