

## THE 8<sup>TH</sup> ECREA CONFERENCE “COMMUNICATION AND TRUST: BUILDING SAFE, SUSTAINABLE AND PROMISING FUTURES”, SEPTEMBER 6-9, 2021 (ONLINE)

The 8th ECREA conference, initially scheduled for October 2020, was postponed to September 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Still, given the state of the pandemic in the fall of 2021, the International Organising Committee decided to arrange the event in a fully virtual format. The theme of the conference addressed several fundamental questions, including What futures are we building up? What is the role of media and communication in these processes? What type of social, political and cultural futures are media and communication inducing and modelling? What relations exist between them and what are their main normative cornerstones?

Scholars from around Europe accepted invitations to diagnose, discuss and rethink the roles and responsibilities of academics and professionals in the contexts of the present circumstances and in the anticipation of future challenges. During the online conference, as many as 1185 registered participants from more than 17 countries presented their papers in 229 parallel sessions, 3 plenary sessions, and 5 special sessions. ECREA members participated also in 31 business meetings. As ECREA reported on its website, the opening plenary session about “Decolonising the curriculum” attracted the interest of many – with more than 300 participants listening in on the discussions. The most popular sessions, however, dealt with the topics surrounding *Children, Youth and Media*, *Journalism and its audiences*, and *Disconnection and the good life*.

The conference was accompanied by the General Assembly of ECREA and ECREA’s Executive Board Elections and voting on General Assembly items. Furthermore, the elections in each of 24 thematic sections and 4 temporary working groups, as well as 3 permanent networks, took place. Members of the Polish Communication Associations have been actively participating in ECREA’s activities for many years. This year, four of them were elected to serve as either a chair or vice-chair of the following sections and networks: Katarzyna Kopecka-Piech from Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin, Poland (a member of the Executive Committee of the Polish Communication Association) is a vice-chair of Mediatization Section, Dominika Popielec from Kazimierz Wielki University in Bydgoszcz, Poland is a vice-chair of Interpersonal Communication and Social Interaction

Section, Agnieszka Stępińska from Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Poland is a vice-chair of Political Communication Section, and Małgorzata Winiarska-Brodowska from Jagiellonian University, Cracow, Poland is a chair of Central and East-European Network.

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