

THE 10TH ECREA CONFERENCE “COMMUNICATION & SOCIAL (DIS)ORDER”, LJUBLJANA, SLOVENIA, 24–27 SEPTEMBER 2024

Media and communication scholars from all around Europe participated in the 10th Conference of the European Communication Research and Education Association (ECREA). The theme of the conference, “Communication & social (dis)order,” reflects disruptions in the fields of politics, economy, health, and technology that have significantly reshaped contemporary communication. Recent technological developments and changing communication practices have often been labeled as exacerbators and even the origin of these systemic disruptions, emphasizing their destructive (disorder) or creative potential (new order) (<https://ecrea2024ljubljana.eu/conference-theme/>). The keynote speakers, Dr. Vesna Leskošek and Dr. Jelena Kleut, addressed “Communicating the welfare state through a discourse on welfare fraud” and “The interplay of uncertainties in transitional media systems”, respectively.

Before the general conference, eight pre-conferences took place. The topics of these events corresponded with the main theme and represented major concerns related to changes in the communication field, such as disorder in academic culture, the future of journalism, the informational influence of autocracies, digital content creators, platforms, and changing cultural institutions, as well as the impact of AI.

The conference was accompanied by the General Assembly of ECREA, the election of ECREA’s Governing Body, and voting on General Assembly items. Elections were held in each thematic section and temporary working groups, as well as in permanent networks. Members of the Polish Communication Associations have been actively participating in ECREA’s activities for many years. This year, two of them were elected to serve as members of the Governing Body: Małgorzata Winiarska-Brodowska and Beata Klimkiewicz – both from the Jagiellonian University, Cracow, Poland. Małgorzata Winiarska-Brodowska was elected as ECREA vice-president. She will be responsible for co-ordinating the Sections, Temporary Working Groups, and Networks. She became a member of the Bureau (the Daily Governing Body), and an IOC member for ECC conferences. Małgorzata Winiarska-Brodowska’s role also encompasses being a member of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Subcommittee (including scholars at risk). Last but not least she will be a member of both the Subcommittee on minimizing the environmental impact, of the Subcommittee

responsible for cooperation with other associations (e.g. ICA, IAMCR, ALAIC). Beata Klimkiewicz was elected as the Ethics Committee Liaison Officer. She will have seats on the ECREA Book Series Subcommittee, the Public Statement Committee, and the Subcommittee for research, data, and policy collaborations (incl. EASSH and EAO cooperations).

Other members of the Polish Communication Associations were elected as either a chair or vice-chair of the following sections and networks: Agnieszka Stępińska (Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Poland) is the chair of the Political Communication Section, Tomasz Gackowski (University of Warsaw, Poland) is a co-chair of the Mediatization Section, while Marlena Szyber-Popko (University of Warsaw, Poland) is a vice-chair of the same section. Also, Mateusz Sobiech (Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, Poland) is the YECREA representative of the Mediatization Section and Roksana Gloc (Jagiellonian University, Poland) is the vice chair of the Central and East-European Network. It is worth mentioning that Nicoleta Corbu, who served as an associate editor of the CEJC in 2019-2022 was elected a vice-chair of the ECREA Political Communication Section.

At the conference, we celebrated the launch of the CEJC Special Issue on “The Construction of the Future of Platforms.” The Special Issue Launch Party was organized on September 27th, 2024 by the special issue guest editor Nico Carpentier (Institute of Communication Studies and Journalism, Charles University, Prague, Czechia).

Agnieszka Stępińska

ADAM MICKIEWICZ UNIVERSITY, POZNAŃ, POLAND