



**Biennial Report of Research Network 18 – Sociology of Communications and Media
Research Network
2015-2017**

To be sent: esa (at) europeansociology.org

1. Name and Number of RN

Research Network 18 - Sociology of Communications and Media Research Network

2. Names and email addresses of:

a. outgoing Coordinators and board members (past term)

2015-2017

Coordinators: Roy Panagiotopoulou rpanag@media.uoa.gr, Romina Surugiu, romina.surugiu@fjsc.ro

Co-coordinator: Marisol Sandoval Marisol.Sandoval.1@city.ac.uk

Honorary Chair: Peter Golding peter.golding@NORTHUMBRIA.AC.UK

Board members

1. Christian Fuchs christian.fuchs@uti.at
2. Peter Ludes p.ludes@JACOBS-UNIVERSITY.DE
3. Thomas Allmer thomas.allmer@uti.at
4. Sebastian Seignani sebastian.seignani@UTI.AT
5. Magdalena Kania Lundholm magdalena.kania@SOC.UU.SE
6. Raluca Petre rpetre@univ-ovidius.ro
7. Pasko Bilic pasko@IRMO.HR
8. Vicky Na yuqi.na@MY.WESTMINSTER.AC.UK
9. Paulo Alves p.alves61@GMAIL.COM
10. Regina Zervou rzervou@GMAIL.COM

b. incoming Coordinators and board members (new term)

2017-2019

Coordinators: Roy Panagiotopoulou rpanag@media.uoa.gr, Romina Surugiu, romina.surugiu@fjsc.ro

Co-coordinators: Thomas Allmer thomas.allmer@uti.at, Marisol Sandoval Marisol.Sandoval.1@city.ac.uk

Honorary Chair: Peter Golding, peter.golding@NORTHUMBRIA.AC.UK

Board members

1. Christian Fuchs christian.fuchs@uti.at
2. Peter Ludes p.ludes@JACOBS-UNIVERSITY.DE
3. Thomas Allmer thomas.allmer@uti.at
4. Sebastian Seignani sebastian.seignani@UTI.AT
5. Magdalena Kania Lundholm magdalena.kania@SOC.UU.SE
6. Raluca Petre rpetre@univ-ovidius.ro
7. Pasko Bilic pasko@IRMO.HR
8. Vicky Na yuqi.na@MY.WESTMINSTER.AC.UK

9. Paulo Alves p.alves61@GMAIL.COM
10. Tatiana Mazali, tatiana.mazali@gmail.com
11. Eran Fisher, eranfisher@gmail.com

3. Activities:

Mid-term conference

RN18 organized the mid-term conference with the title “Rethinking Power in Communicative Capitalism. Critical Perspectives on Media, Culture and Society”, at ISCTE IUL - Instituto Universitário de Lisboa, Portugal, September 8-10, 2016. The conference was organized in cooperation with ISCTE IUL - Instituto Universitário de Lisboa, DINAMIA’CET - Centre for Socioeconomic and Territorial Studies, Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, and ICUB - Institutul de Cercetări al Universității din București/Research Institute of University of Bucharest, Romania.

The conference had two keynote talk, held by Jodi Dean (Hobart and William Smith Colleges, NY, USA): “Communicative capitalism and class struggle”, and by Christian Fuchs (University of Westminster, UK): “Karl Marx and communicative capitalism”.

Total number of participants: 70
Number of papers presented: 48
Parallel sessions: 14
Total budget: 9330.2 Euros

ESA conference 2017, (Un)making Europe: Capitalism, Solidarities, Subjectivities, Athens, August, 29-September 1, 2017.

RN 18 organized a semi-plenary session with the title “The European crisis as catalyst for the constitution of a new European public sphere: The ambivalent role of the media” with invited speakers: Prof. Emerita Ruth Wodak (Leicester University) and Prof. Nicolas Demertzis (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens).

Also, the RN 18 had one request for a keynote session by Thomas Allmer with the title RN18_01 “Academic labour, digital media and capitalism”. The keynote session was accepted, and the interest of the participants for this topic was so important that we organized 3 sessions with similar topics.

193 researchers and academics responded to our Call for papers – the highest number in the history of our RN. After the evaluation process, 146 papers were accepted for presentation: 134 participants in regular parallel sessions and 12 presenters in roundtable sessions.

On that occasion, RN 18 participated in testing the “roundtable session” which was firstly implemented as an experiment at the Athens conference. This is new procedure was implemented in only 3 RNs. Roundtable sessions were organized in a similar way as the ordinary ones but they took place in the same room, at the same time. No video-projecting equipment was offered to the presenters at the roundtable, and the presentation time was short – approx. 10 min each.

We had 13 board members who functioned as reviewers for the abstracts, and also a colleague from the partner organization, ICA, Prof. Christiana Constantopoulou from the Panteion University of Athens.

Together with Christiana Constantopoulou who is the coordinator of the RC 14 Sociology of Communication, Knowledge and Culture of the ISA we tried to set up a cooperation between the ESA and ISA.

In the call for papers, we included a special topic “Theatricalization of Politics in Contemporary Media and Arts”. Three sessions on the related topics were organized in the framework of ESA conference.

Actions to improve participation of PhD students and early career researchers

It is a tradition of our RN to offer support for covering the participant fee, travel and accommodation for PhD students, early career researchers and independent researchers, attending our mid-term conference. On the occasion of mid-term conferences, the RN supported the participation of 4 PhD students and/or independent researchers. The selection is a competitive one, based on the quality of the extended abstract sent to us. Preference is given to presentations that suit the overall conference topic. More than 15 persons apply, every 2 years, for this financial support.

Actions taken to expand membership

The RN 18 has 76 registered members. Approximately 580 colleagues follow our activities via our new mailing list on JiscMail, an UK based free mailing lists service. We have 2 mailing lists: one for the board (ESA-RN18-BOARD(at) jiscmail.ac.uk) and one open for anyone to subscribe (ESA-RN18 (at) jiscmail.ac.uk).

Special thanks are due to Marisol Sandoval who set up the new mailing list in October 2016, and to Peter Ludes who took care of the old mailing list, hosted by Jacobs University Bremen.

Researchers and academics are encouraged to join us in different ways. For example, a special discount is given for the attendance fee at the mid-term conference if one is a registered member of our network. Also, we have to acknowledge the continuous effort of Christian Fuchs to encourage young researchers to join our network.

Romina Surugiu
Roy Panagiotopoulou