

10th Central and Eastern European Communication and Media (CEECOM) Conference

Critique of/at/on periphery?

Ljubljana, Slovenia, June 15–17, 2017



Photo: Bogusława Dobek-Ostrowska and Elena Johansson

The 10th conference of CEECom in Ljubljana was dedicated to discussions on the periphery and its criticism in the areas of communications and media. Over 50 researchers from Central and Eastern Europe discussed geopolitical, economic, social and ideological dimensions. It is worth mentioning that approx. 20 percent of conference participants were researchers from Poland. Organizers of the conference pointed out that CEE could be considered as a periphery of media and communication studies. This might be due to the fact that topics discussed in CEE countries are mostly related to new or poorly researched issues. Therefore, the opportunity to present them during the conference seemed to be crucial. Moreover, the scientists have been underlining the role of critical studies.

It seems that it was possible to draw attention to the multifaceted nature of the periphery which was the subject of the 10th CEECOM conference.

Overall, 16 panel sessions and two plenary sessions were organized. The conference participants were welcomed during the opening session by the Dean of the Faculty Social Sciences — Rado Bohnic, the Conference Chair and ECREA President — Ilija Tomanic Trivundza as well as the representative of ECREA CEE Network — Zrinjka Perusko. Zlatan Krajina from the University of Zagreb (Croatia) presented his research *Why Periphery Matters: The Shifting Visibility of the Balkans and the Articulation of Crisis in Europe*. The second plenary session took place on Friday. It was dedicated to populism and its connection with the media. John Downey from the Loughborough University (UK) presented his research about the *Populism in and by the media in the UK's EU Referendum*.

The 16 panel sessions were different in character and research topics, including *Journalistic identities and practices in flux*; *Media industries and digital technologies – a critique*; *Law and policy — a view from periphery*; *Political communication — critical notes from the periphery*; or *The good, the bad and the ugly: exposing audiences and political critique*. Particular attention should be paid to panels *Exploring interaction between prime ministers and the media in Finland, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden* and *“Invested” journalism, partisanship and propaganda*, where scientists from the University of Wrocław presented their research.

During the panel “*Invested*” journalism, partisanship and propaganda participants discussed the media coverage of the crisis in Ukraine by Polish, Ukrainian and Czech media.

Conference participants had the opportunity to take part in a special workshop entitled *Mapping research funding in CEE* that was organized by ECREA. The purpose of the workshop was to identify the ways in which research initiatives in the region are being funded. Another interesting event that took place in a form of a roundtable. The discussion *Exhibiting the political: Criticality, visibility and state power* was initiated by the Slovene Communication Association. The meeting was moderated by Ilija Tomanic Trivundza. It was attended by both media (newspaper *Memorandum*, newspaper *Vecer*) and science representatives (Educational Research Institute; Institute for Strategic Solutions).

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10 Years of Central and Eastern European Communication and Media (CEECOM) Conferences

Conferences CEECom — meetings of researchers from Central and Eastern Europe

Year	Meeting	Place	Conference subject
2008	1 Forum	Książ Castle (Poland)	1 st Polish-Czech-Slovak Forum of Political and Communication Sciences
2009	2 Conference	Brno-Telcz (Czech Republic)	Channels of Transition
2010	3 Conference	Bratislava (Slovakia)	Media in Crisis. Crisis in Media
2011	4 Forum	Cracow (Poland)	Convergence: Media in Future, Future in Media
2012	5 CEECom	Prague (Czech Republic)	Media Power and Empowerment
2013	6 CEECom	Kaunas (Lithuania)	Liquidity, Fragmentation, and Individualization in the Mediascape
2014	7 CEECom	Wrocław (Poland)	Changing Media and Democracy: 25 Years of Media Freedom and Public Sphere in Central and East Europe
2015	8 CEECom	Zagreb (Croatia)	The Digital Media Challenge
2016	9 CEECom	Tartu (Estonia)	Media and Communication Studies: Bridging Disciplines, Bridging Countries
2017	10 CEECom	Ljubljana (Slovenia)	Critique of/at/on Periphery?
2018	11 CEECom	Szeged (Hungary)	Communicative Space – Political Space

The Polish Communication Association organized the 1st Polish-Czech-Slovak Forum of Political and Communication Sciences in Książ Castle (Poland) 10 years ago in 2008. The next meetings of scholars from Czech Republic, Poland, and Slovakia took place in Brno-Telcz (Czech Republic) in 2009 and Bratislava (Slovakia) in 2010. The 4th Forum was organized in Cracow (Poland) in 2011. Consortium of Central and Eastern European