

**International Association for Media and Communication Research
Academic Conference, July 13-17, 2011, Istanbul (Turkey)
'Cities, Creativity, Connectivity'
Communication Policy and Technology (CP&T): Section Report**

IAMCR-CPT Sessions Istanbul 2011

The Communications Policy and Technology (CPT) Section was an active and leading participant in the recently concluded IAMCR conference, held in Istanbul (Turkey) from July 13-17, 2011.

Following circulation of our call for papers, we received a total of 129 abstracts from interested applicants from all continents. However, the majority came from Europe and the United States. We accepted a total of 96 abstracts (90 full papers and 6 posters), representing 74% of those received. This resulted in a CPT conference programme with one plenary slot and 19 regular slots (of which two joint sessions and four panels) and one business meeting, with each time around 5 presentations. The four thematic panels were:

- Panel 1: Between Security and Privacy - Understanding the Balance between Surveillance and Data Protection as Local, Regional and Global Policy Issues
- Panel 2: Informing evidence-based policy for children's online opportunities and risks
- Panel 3: WikiLeaks - Control, resistance and civil society (with Law section)
- Panel 4: User Empowerment in a Social Media Culture

In the end 59 full papers were effectively submitted, besides a few presenters with only presentations notes and/or slides. Most of the presenters were present with a limited number of no-shows in comparison to other years, thanks to an active follow-up during the preparation of the conference. For each session a chair and discussant were allocated, which has generated more lively debates. However the poster session was less of success, due to many no-shows and a suboptimal location of the poster session at the conference site (being hard to find).

The CPT section, together with the Law section, organised two sessions on topic of WikiLeaks. First there was a special plenary session on *'The significance of WikiLeaks: Law, Society, Politics'*, with four invited speakers and Sandra Braman as chair.

- John Downing, 'WikiLeaks and alternative media';
- Peter Jakobsson, 'WikiLeaks and Swedish law';
- Stefania Milan, 'WikiLeaks from the hacktivist perspective';
- Paschal Preston, 'WikiLeaks and the practice of journalism'.

Second a panel session was organised (see also above) with the title *'WikiLeaks - Control, resistance and civil society'* with four presenters, Jo Pierson as chair and Damian Tambini as discussant.

Slot	Title	Present.	Full papers	Attend.
1	Ethics and the reconfiguration of internet and media design	5/5	4	23
2	Connectivity, online privacy and data protection	4/5	5	47
3	Copyright infringements, its enforcement and the alternatives	5/5	4	38
4	Regulating media to foster diversity and participation	4/5	5	10
5	PANEL 1: Between Security and Privacy - Understanding the Balance between Surveillance and Data Protection as Local,	5/5	4	16
6	Regulating media to foster innovation and creativity	4/5	5	21
7	International inclusion policies and approaches	3/5	5	13
8	PANEL 2: Informing evidence-based policy for children's online opportunities and risks	4/5	0	15
9	Understanding and predicting ICT preferences and user adoption	5/5	3	20
10	National and global information infrastructure policies	4/5	3	15
11	Socio-technological trajectories in ICT design	5/5	3	18
12	ICTs and the Urban-Rural Divide	3/5	1	8
13	<i>IAMCR-CPT Business meeting</i>	-	-	-
14	PANEL 3: WikiLeaks – Control, resistance and civil society (with Law section)	4/4	2	12
15	Young citizens and ICT-use	4/5	3	16
16	PANEL 4: User Empowerment in a Social Media Culture	4/5	4	19
17	Social and Political consequences of the networked media ecology	4/5	4	10
18	Imagining and creating new media uses	4/5	2	26
19	Copyright resistance	2/5	2	11
20	<i>POSTER Session 2CH2: Transitions in ICT adoption and policy</i>	2/6	-	-
21	<i>Special plenary session: The significance of WikiLeaks: Law, Society, Politics (with Law section)</i>	4/5	-	-

IAMCR and CPT meetings

The CPT section also participated in the 'Open Conference System' Tutorial meeting on 13th July 2011, where it delivered some feedback on the use of the OCS system. CPT, together with the ESN (Emerging Scholars Network) section, was invited to the meeting as being best practices in using the OCS.

CPT strongly supports the motions approved at the Section/Working group heads meeting on 13th July 2011, aiming at making the abstract submission procedure more strict in order to strengthen the quality of the conference with less no shows and less people with no full paper, presentation outlines or powerpoint. The section was also represented at the special session '*Mapping Digital Media? Questions and answers - IAMCR in dialogue with the Open Society Media Programme*', a cooperation between the Global Mapping project and the Open Society Media Programme (OSMP).

The section's business meeting was held on 16th July, attended by 10 members. Besides reporting and debriefing on the OCS meeting, the Section/Working group heads meeting, the IC and the separate CPT sessions, several other agenda points were discussed. For next year's conference the section is planning to organise a best paper award. The procedure and the evaluation criteria will further be discussed. CPT will also update its membership database, starting from the official membership list as registered by IAMCR secretariat, adding the scholars that handed in an abstract in past conferences and the participants at our conference sessions that also want to be affiliated with CPT. At the business meeting also some ideas on section related publishing opportunities were discussed, like the possibility of working papers via the institutions of the chairing team members. Finally it was also agreed that the section would revise and update its mission statement and consider whether to change the name in next year's conference in Durban. This fits in with the on-going IAMCR scholarly revision and the revision of mission statements by other sections and working groups (e.g. Law). The revision would especially need to stress more those aspects that have been present in our sessions, but are not reflected adequately in the official mission statement or the section naming. This refers a.o. to more focus on user practices and technology. This will enable CPT to more clearly differentiate itself from related IAMCR sections and working groups.

Chair: Jo Pierson

Vice-chairs: Bart Cammaerts & Maria Michalis

12th August 2011