

Activity Report – Philosophy of Communication Section

Period: 1 January 2008 – 28 November 2008

1. Section membership

During this period, section membership has steadily increased to 91 registered members.

2. Publication Activities

Section members have, individually, published widely in the field during this period. The Section's website gives some information about member activities. Special mention deserves a collection of papers regarding the theory of universal pragmatics which resulted from the Section's conference in November 2007 – this collection has been prepared during 2008 and will be published in the immediate future. Furthermore, the planning for the release early in 2009 of the journal *Empedocles*, closely related to the section's activities, has proceeded well during this period, with a reassuring number of papers having been submitted and two thematic issues having been agreed and planned during this period.

3. Conference, Research

A significant amount of effort went into the preparation for ECC08, the Section's second conference. The response to the call for papers was most encouraging, and many high quality papers had to be rejected due to lack of available presentation slots. It was especially fortunate to see that the majority of participants of the Section's first *Landmarks* conference in 2007 returned this year, and that several new members (including young scholars) made their appearance. A sense of continuity and further development of strands of discussion and investigation started in 2007 pervaded the 2008 meeting. It is hoped that, in 2009, the Section will be able to contribute further to a consolidation of the field by applying for an ESF pilot workshop grant to establish a European research agenda in the philosophy of communication. Discussions with potential partners have started in 2008 and will continue in 2009.

4. 2008 Business Meeting

A Business Meeting was held during the ECC08 conference. Members present discussed the activities of the past year. Current Vice-Chair Johan Siebers thanked the Chair, Colin Grant, and Vice-Chair Tino Meitz, both of whom stepped down this year, for their invaluable contribution to the early stages of the Section's history. Members expressed their unreserved endorsement of this laudatio. A new management team was elected (Chair: Johan Siebers; Vice-Chairs Bart Vandenabeele and Vivienne Boon); the ballot was by secret vote during the meeting and by electronic vote prior to the meeting. Nine votes were cast, eight in favour of the new team and one abstention. The new management team presented a strategic plan for the period until November 2010. The plan received support from the members who were present at the meeting and will be made available on the Section's website. A second *Landmarks* conference, to be held in November 2009 (possibly at the University of Ghent), was announced, and several proposals for smaller workshops in various European countries, to be held in the coming year, were brought up for discussion during and after the business meeting.

Johan Siebers 15/12/2008