

# Foreword

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This edited volume is an enduring outcome of the scientific conference Radio Evolution, hosted by the Communication and Society Research Centre (CECS) of the University of Minho, in Braga, Portugal, from 14-16 September 2011. This was the second conference to be organised on behalf of the Radio Research Section of the European Communication Research and Education Association (ECREA) and it coincided exactly with the second anniversary of the section's first conference, held at Cyprus University of Technology (CUT) in 2009. Radio Evolution, like its predecessor, was organised through one of the two Vice-Chairs of the Radio Research Section, Professor Stanisław Jędrzejewski of Kozminski University of Warsaw, who was on a two-year research attachment to the University of Minho, and who works closely with our other section Vice-Chair, Professor Angeliki Gazi of CUT, and me. These separate section conferences are held every two years, and in cyclical fashion the whole of ECREA joins together in full plenary conferences of all seventeen thematic sections in another single location in each of the intervening years. In 2012 this will be at the Istanbul Bilgi University, Turkey.

The work of organising Radio Evolution in Braga was very ably undertaken by Doctor Madalena Oliveira and her colleagues on the organising committee – in particular Pedro Portela, also of the Communication and Society Research Centre. With the full cooperation of the University of Minho and CECS, and financial support from our sponsors, Rádio Renascença, the conference was another resounding success. Abstracts were received from scholars in many countries in Europe, and in keeping with the inclusive nature of ECREA, in other continents including the Americas, Asia and Australasia. Delegates were greeted by another early-Autumn heat wave, with temperatures again in the mid-thirties, and we were able to enjoy the warm hospitality of our hosts and the many other attractions of Braga and its environs to the full. Coincidentally, Rádio Renascença – Portugal's most listened-to radio group - was celebrating 75 years of broadcasting. We would like to place on record here our sincere gratitude to them for their financial assistance and to Madalena and her team for their dedication, organisational skills, professionalism and obvious enthusiasm for radio.

The work of Radio Evolution did not end in September 2011. The publication of this very timely e-book will enable many of the papers given in Braga to live on as a testament to the dedication and commitment to scholarly research into radio of our hosts, our sponsors, the scientific committee who peer-reviewed the abstracts, and the many delegates. Radio is truly evolving, in ways that would have been inconceivable to our predecessors, and radio content is now available in many different forms and on many different platforms. This collection of papers, and the considerable work undertaken behind the scenes since September 2011 to prepare it for publication, represent a welcome addition to the growing body of informed literature about our subject.