

## 2015 Report to Board of Trustees

### Names and Emails of convenors and current members of the SIG:

#### SIG Convenors:

Maelis Karlsson Lohmander - [maelis.karlsson-lohmander@ped.gu.se](mailto:maelis.karlsson-lohmander@ped.gu.se)

Dr. Jane Murray - [jane.murray@northampton.ac.uk](mailto:jane.murray@northampton.ac.uk)

#### Current SIG members (n= 27):

Angeliki Bitou
Mary Wood
Zenna Kingdon
Joana Sousa
Inês Machado
Malin Nilsen
Pernilla Lagerlöf
Jonna Larsson
Karin Lager
Lesley Jones
Zinnia Mevawalla
Faye Stanley
Helen Lyndon
Menna Godfrey
Kathryn Peckham
Annika Rosenquist
Ingmarie Bengtsson
Ingela Friberg
Maire Tuul
Pärje Ülavere
Lieny Jeon
Maša Vidmar
Maria Hatzigianni
Rebecca Runnalls
Suallyn Mitchelmore
Maelis Karlsson Lohmander
Jane Murray

#### Activities undertaken by the SIG in past year

With the agreement of the EECERA BoT, Maelis Karlsson Lohmander and Jane Murray advertised and convened the first EECERA ECR SIG meeting at EECERA Conference, Crete in September 2015. 27 members joined. At the meeting, Maelis and Jane welcomed the group; members introduced themselves and shared their research work with the group. Jane shared the starting points for the group, including its provisional aim which was agreed as the EECERA ECR SIG aim at the meeting: 'To consider and address issues that affect early career researchers in the field of early childhood education'. Additionally, the provisional definition for EECERA ECR SIG members was agreed by the meeting:

*'A wide and diverse range of research-engaged individuals in the international field of early childhood education, including post-doctoral researchers within a decade following their viva, doctoral and Master's research students and those engaging in research for the first time as part of their professional work.'*

At the meeting, a range of other points framing the group was proposed, discussed and agreed by those attending:

- The importance of each member's contributions to making the group work
- The group should be valuable for all members
- Members can support each other to get the most out of their PhD experiences by guiding one another through different stages
- The SIG will provide peer mentoring – horizontally and vertically
- The SIG is a safe place to decode
- The SIG must not be onerous
- The SIG should be easy to engage with
- The SIG should be purposeful
- The SIG can work on helping to secure research funding and getting published by helping to find ways through the barriers, paving the way for a new generation and identifying people who can help members.
- The SIG members will empower each other
- The SIG will be positive
- The SIG will share information – texts and articles
- The SIG members will gain deeper understanding of other national contexts from each other – and will share new initiatives

*A communication strategy was agreed by the SIG:*

- We agreed to have an annual SIG meeting
- We agreed to share e-mails
- We agreed to set up and use social media (Facebook, Yahoo or Google+) with the aim that it would link from the EECERA platform. People will need to be invited to join the SIG.

*Agreed actions and close:*

Jane agreed to send out the notes and minutes to SIG members and she and Maelis agreed to contact CREC to explore setting up a platform and would let SIG members know about this. The meeting was then closed.

*Following the inaugural meeting:*

- An initial EECERA ECR SIG membership list was collated (see above), with 27 members
- Jane sent out the notes and minutes to SIG members
- Jane contacted CREC to explore setting up a platform link from EECERA website but this was not possible. Jane Murray set up a Yahoo online group and invited all the ECR SIG members to join.
- We have had some online group activity but the group is still new and at the time of writing this has been limited.

### **Planned SIG activity for the coming year:**

SIG members will continue to encourage one another to join the online group and contribute messages and also research abstracts as a way to share our research. We plan to have our second meeting at EECERA Conference in Barcelona; SIG members have been invited to suggest potential discussion points for the meeting and also to suggest a good time to meet.

### **Links & networks established with other institutions and organisations**

We have a link with OMEP – the OMEP 2016 European conference meeting will be in the UK.

## **How the ECR SIG's activities fit with aims and ethos of EECERA.**

The ECR SIG's activities address the principal aims of EECERA (<http://www.eecera.org/aims/>):

- The ECR SIG provides an academic forum in Europe for ECRs to promote, develop and disseminate high quality research into early childhood education
- The ECR SIG facilitates collaboration and cooperation between European ECRs in this field and the wider early childhood community across the World;
- The ECR SIG supports its members to articulate and communicate links between research, practice and policy;
- The ECR SIG offers interaction, development and support to ECRs interested in early childhood education;
- The ECR SIG raises the visibility and status of European research in early childhood education throughout the World, through its membership.