



## EECERA Multilingual Childhoods SIG

Pre-Conference meeting - 31 August, 2016 - Dublin City University

15.30 – 17.30

Room number to be confirmed

### Second Language Learning Research in the Early Years: Ethical Considerations

The EECERA Multilingual Childhoods SIG has organised a pre-conference meeting to bring together colleagues who share an interest in language learning in the early years. Attendance is free for members of the EECERA Multilingual Childhoods SIG and any other conference participants who would like to attend.

The focus of the EECERA Multilingual Childhoods SIG meeting will be on ethical considerations in researching second language learning (SLL) with young children in a variety of settings. The format of the meeting will be one hour of presentations and then a second hour of group discussion. Dr Máire Mhic Mhathúna, Dublin Institute of Technology and Professor Nóirín Hayes, Trinity College Dublin, will open the session with an outline of issues that apply to SLL research with young children, including children's rights; the researchers' image of children; researching with and about children; sites for research including families and transitions between contexts; data collection and analysis considerations, and the power differential between adults and children. They will include both qualitative and quantitative research methodologies in early childhood education as they apply to SLL and will reference research projects in policy and practice contexts. An open discussion will follow and researchers will have the opportunity to discuss ethical issues that arise in their own research on SLL with young children.

#### Bio data

**Dr Maire Mhic Mhathúna** is the Assistant Head of the School of Languages Law and Social Sciences in the Dublin Institute of Technology. She has also worked as a naíonra educator and primary teacher and lectures on early childhood education and cultural and linguistic diversity. Her research interests and publications include second language acquisition in early childhood education particularly in relation to the Irish language, school readiness and transitions between pre-school and primary school.

**Nóirín Hayes** is Visiting Professor at the School of Education, Trinity College Dublin and Professor Emeritus, Dublin Institute of Technology. Working within a bio-ecological framework of development and through a children's rights lens she researches in early childhood education with a particular interest in early learning, curriculum and pedagogy. She has authored many books, reports and research articles and has served on a number of government working groups, commissions and advisory groups.

We look forward to meeting you in August  
Sandie Mourão & Gunhild Tomter Alstad (convenors)  
EECERA Multilingual Childhoods SIG  
<https://multilingualchildhoods.wordpress.com/>