

SIG Rethinking Play

Report 2016

Convenor:

Sofia Avgitidou, University of Western Macedonia, Greece

saugitidou@uowm.gr, savgitidou@gmail.com

Co-convenors:

Natalie Canning, Open University UK, natalie.canning@open.ac.uk

&

Mandy Andrews, University of Plymouth, UK,

mandy.andrews@plymouth.ac.uk

We had a short meeting as a SIG in Dublin where 10 old members and 11 new ones were present showing interest for our SIG. The following were discussed and decided:

1. The **new co-convenors** of the SIG are Natalie Canning (Open University, UK) and Mandy Andrews (University of Plymouth, UK) who offered themselves in the effort to keep the SIG sustainable and forward its possibilities. Special thanks were given to Maritta Hannikainen for her contribution so far since she decided to retreat from the position of the co-covenor.
2. We discussed **the position paper** of our SIG and the points decided to be added during the meeting were:
 1. Play as a fundamental aspect of development
 - a. Protect play-play is central-play as a right (taking into

consideration immigration, children's busy schedules, war which make it difficult for children to play)

2. Distinguish between the different terms : Play, playful learning and learning through play
3. Adult role in play
 - a. Teacher-child relationship in play- co-construction of play experiences
 - b. Teacher education- how we prepare teachers for a play pedagogy- how we support in-service teachers with professional development programs
4. Play environment

Natalie, Mandy and myself made an effort to respond to the proposed additions and **propose a second draft of the position paper, open to be amended by you** with additions, comments and thoughts (please see attachment). The position paper is now larger but it is up to us to decide its final form (i.e. if we want references or not).

After receiving responses from the SIG members the position paper has been put forward to be uploaded in our webpage with the notice that is understood as an ongoing process to be continuously modified and not as a finalized paper.

3. The EECERA website will be organized around January 2017 to include a specific space for all SIGs and include activities and list/details of presentations given at EECERA conferences, projects & publications (projects, Published papers, Special Issues, Books), news & events (latest news, dates of meetings/conferences etc.), an internal discussion forum as well as shared discussion forum with other SIGs and archived reports. This will assist our communication and collaboration.
4. The EECERA board has proposed a set of requirements for the function of SIGs (please see second attachment). We need 15 registered EECERA members to keep our SIG going as a minimum but still the SIG will keep to be open to non EECERA members. Please send an e-mail to state if you are an EECERA members at savgitidou@gmail.com

5. The conference had more than 40 paper presentations on play and only one symposium organized under the SIG's name. The next conference will be held in Bologna, Italy. **In the next conference we will try and organize more symposia under the SIG for those who will participate. Thus we ask you to send to our e-mails the titles and abstracts before submitting them to the conference so to organize them into symposia regarding play.**

6. We can also have until 4 hours of a meeting and thus can include a short conference on play on the first day of the conference (before the welcome reception). This is something we can decide according to your wishes and participation some time before the conference.

Because of the many parallel presentations on play in Dublin conference, one could not attend most of them. **If you want to share your work with the other members please send your ppt presentation to savgitidou@gmail.com** and we can have upload them to “publications and activities” of our webpage hosted in the EECERA website. This can act as a "pool of current research" that one can draw from, find common interests and thus enhance research collaborations.

Sofia, Natalie and Mandy