

2nd Early Career Researchers (ECR) SIG meeting

At our second Early Career Researchers (ECR) SIG meeting at UAB, Barcelona, Spain on 10.9.16 our membership list was updated to 31. The meeting was chaired by Jane Murray and Maelis Karlsson-Lohmander. Jane welcomed members to the meeting and an **e-mail list update** was circulated for members to include their contact details and research activities. The 2015 minutes were discussed and agreed.

The meeting then received research updates from three **SIG members**.

Helen Lyndon (Uni of Wolverhampton, UK) explained that she is doing her PhD and is researching pedagogic mediation in early years settings. She raised the issue of how she was struggling to exit and leave the settings because of the relationships she has developed. Valuable discussion emerged from Helen's sharing. This focused on participants being viewed as co-researchers and the ethics of a sudden departure which highlighted the need to develop strategies of making a transition out of the research space. It was suggested that Helen could explore reflexivity in the methodology section of her thesis and that a paper could be written, possibly for *Qualitative Inquiry*. Some outcomes from the discussion included the need to move on with research in order to honour the contributions of participants. It was also discussed whether a reluctance to move on may be a block to starting to write. This sharing highlighted the need to think about thinking as a researcher rather than a practitioner.

Jackie Musgrave (University of Worcester, UK) shared her research into supporting children's health and wellbeing. This is an area of increasing importance for practitioners to consider, especially in the current context of mass migration and movement of children around the world. This research came out of her doctoral research. There was discussion about the importance of getting the Research Question right because she felt that she her current research should have come before her doctoral research.

Ho Ka Lee Carrie highlighted the difficulty with having graduated and now trying to find employment. **This raised** the difficulties that can present when making the transition from PhD to employment. Suggestions were made about how Carrie could continue working on her publications.

The ECR SIG then enjoyed a talk on '**Planning your post-doctoral career**' (**Professor Susanne Garvis, University of Göteborg**) Susanne highlighted the following tips:

- The importance of planning your post-doctoral career and the need to gain wider experience to help sell yourself to employers. She suggested that students could avail themselves of

teaching opportunities in higher education and/or becoming a research assistant. She also suggested doing other activities, such as making a community service contribution.

- Additionally, Susanne emphasised the importance of writing and developing a writing style

Future SIG opportunities were then discussed. Maelis asked if members would like support in writing for publication. It was suggested that support for abstract writing would be useful for the 2016 conference meeting. **Jane** discussed the difficulties of getting papers published and made a proposition that there may be an opportunity to write for an on-line publication platform. This would be peer-reviewed by SIG members for emerging writers to have a peer-reviewed journal article published. Another suggestion was for there to be a support mechanism within the SIG to gain reviews from members before submitting to journals. Jane offered to coordinate this activity but emphasised that the reviewing would be in the hands of the SIG members as this is a valuable way to gain skills for writing for publication.

The 2nd ECR SIG meeting closed, with a plan for the next meeting at EECERA Conference in Dublin in 2016.