



EECERA Multilingual Childhoods: SIG Meeting

Barcelona, Spain, September 9, 2015

31 delegates participated representing 13 different countries

1. Information about the Multilingual Childhoods SIG

- Sandie M and Gunhild T. A. introduced themselves as convenors of the Special Interest Group (SIG) Multilingual Childhoods. This meeting establishes this SIG.
- Objectives for this SIG:
 - to bridge the areas of multilingualism and early years education;
 - To promote and disseminate research in early years multilingualism and its implementation in policy and practice;
 - To create opportunities for informed and constructive discussion and debate;
 - To foster possibilities for cross-national collaboration and interaction.
- SIG Membership: EECERA members, who wish to engage in cross-national collaborations around a particular theme. There is no additional cost for EECERA members wishing to belong to a SIG.
- We created an email-list for those interested in joining the Multilingual Childhoods SIG.

2. Future activities

- **Mailing lists:** Sandie has set up a discussion list with JISmail: Participants were encouraged to subscribe to receive the network emails. Subscription can be made by following the link: <https://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/cgi-bin/webadmin?A0=EARLY-YEARS-LANGUAGE-LEARNING>
- **Conferences:**
 - The International research conference *Issues of Multilingualism in Early Childhood Education: Zero to Six*,: <http://host.uniroma3.it/eventi/REYLL/>
 - 'The Young Language Learners (YLL) Symposium', Oxford University in July 2016. <http://www.education.ox.ac.uk/research/applied-linguistics/the-young-language-learners-yll-symposium-2016/>

Suggested future conferences to follow from members:

- Child language symposium – biennial conference
 - International Symposium on Bilingualism (ISB) – biennial conference <http://isb10.rutgers.edu/index.html>
 - Barcelona summer school on bilingualism - annual conference: <http://www.upf.edu/bsbm/en/>
- **EECERA Pre-conference:** A 'Multilingual Childhoods' pre-conference event at EECERA 2016 in Dublin 31 August till 3 September 2016. Sandie and Gunhild will begin to prepare for a pre-conference event on 31 August (keynotes, seminars, symposia etc.)
 - **Publications:** There are several possibilities for publications, either within the EECERA organization or outside.
 - ✓ Within EECERA there are four possibilities: individual papers in the *EECERJournal*, A Special issue of the *EECERJournal*, a section of three papers in the *EECERJournal* or the new EECERA book series at Routledge: *Towards an ethical praxis in Early Childhood series*.



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From research to practice. There seems to be quite a hard competition for the *EECERJournal* special Issues.

- ✓ Outside EECERA publishers like Multilingual Matters or Springer, with proposals for edited volumes. Sandie and Gunhild will find out more about this and share information.
- **Online networking, sharing of PowerPoints, working papers etc.:** It is possible to share our work in different media, like for example Dropbox, Yahoo! Groups and networking/sharing working papers through <https://www.academia.edu/>. Sandie will set up a folder in dropbox, and Gunhild will set up a group in Academia.edu for those interested.

3. Different research areas

The following areas of research interests were mentioned by the participants:

- Foreign language learning
- Children's play and language learning
- Bilingual education (system, practice, policy)
- Language development
- Children's perspectives and understandings of their own language(s)
- Emergent literacy and multilingual children
- Language policy
- Second language teaching and learning and multilingualism
- Teacher beliefs
- Parental involvement
- Language and identity
- Language and culture
- Early childhood teacher education (preservice, in-service)
- Children's literature
- Multilingual children in mainstream ECE
- Multilingual and monolingual ECE staff
- Transitions
- The connection of theory and practice

4. Overview of ongoing activities

- Sandie mentioned a foreign language project with Victoria Murphy (Leverhulme Trust - <https://www.leverhulme.ac.uk/funding/grant-schemes/international-networks>)
- Mila Schwartz mentioned the preparations for an edited volume to be published as a book by Springer: *21st Century preschool bilingual education: Uniqueness, diversity and challenges in light of the three-fold teachers–children–parents interaction framework*. It might be possible for others to contribute to this publication.

5. Next step:

Sandie and Gunhild will

- ✓ Distribute the minutes to those joining the email-list and the EECERA administration.
- ✓ Shortly provide information about upcoming activities via JISCmail and the SIG member list.