

To: EECERA Board of Trustees

From: Jane Murray and Colette Gray

Re: Special Interest Group on Young Children's Perspectives:

Report on membership, activities undertaken and planned 2014-15

Date: 11th May 2015

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

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Activities undertaken by the SIG in past year and planned SIG activity for the coming year:

We have 51 members and enjoyed a busy meeting at EECERA Crete. In Colette Gray's absence, Jane Murray and Deborah Harcourt convened the meeting, at which founder convenor Deborah announced that she would be stepping down. We shall miss Deborah very much as an outstanding convenor, however we are delighted that she remains a member of the YCP SIG.

Two writing projects were the focus of the remainder of the meeting. Alma Fleet invited colleagues to contribute to a 'Young Children's Perspectives' chapter in the 'International Handbook on Early Childhood Education and Development', edited by Marilyn Flear and Bert van Oers, with Alma Fleet and Deborah Harcourt as contributing editors. A number of YCP SIG members did indeed contribute to this book which is currently in production.

The second project that was discussed has led to quite an exciting year in terms of planning but as is often the way in a democratic forum, progress has been rather slow. Nevertheless, we have moved forward. At our YYCP SIG meeting in September 2014 we originally agreed to pursue a project that had first been mooted at our SIG meeting in September 2013: a second book to follow the YCP SIG's original - Harcourt, D., Perry, B. and Waller, T. (Eds.) *Researching Young Children's Perspectives*. London: Routledge. The SIG discussed the possibility of the second book and we agreed that we would pursue a book concerned with 'Young Children's Perspectives and Rights', to be edited by Deborah Harcourt, Colette Gray and Jane Murray. At EECERA Conference 2014, Deborah Harcourt and Jane Murray approached a publisher who was interested and we put together an initial proposal.

However, subsequent discussion led to decisions to change the mode of publication and refine the focus. The reasons behind the decisions were twofold: we reflected that a peer reviewed special issue of EECERJ would attract the high quality writing that would further enhance EECERA's reputation and we believed that our new focus on 'Perspectives from Young Children on the Margins' would offer the field something more innovative than a focus purely on children's rights. Therefore, in March 2015, we approached Júlia Formosinho with an initial proposal for an EECERJ SI focused on 'Perspectives from Young Children on the Margins' and we were delighted that Júlia informed us that there was a possibility of an EECERJ SI in 2016. The first Call for Papers went out to the YCP SIG in March 2015 and a number of SIG members said they would send proposals. However, we do not yet have sufficient proposals of the right quality for the SI and we need these to complete our formal proposal. We have, however, just sent out the call again (with the timeline - see below) and at this point we are also targeting colleagues whom we understand have current projects that would be a good fit for the proposed SI title. As can be seen from the timeline we are aiming for a publication date of July 2016 for the SI. We hope very much that the Board will be able to agree to this.

The other planned activity for the next year is our forthcoming YCP SIG meeting at EECERA conference in Barcelona in September 2015. Firstly, we will of course discuss progress with the SI, alongside three further items. Secondly, we will revisit our aims as the YCP SIG and consider whether or not we wish to maintain these or refresh them. Thirdly, we hope to discuss the other networks the YCP SIG members may have and consider how we might engage with these proactively as the EECERA YCP SIG. And finally, YCP SIG members will identify other directions of travel in which we would like to take our work, for example, new ways to stay in touch and continue to develop our work between meetings.

Links & networks established with other institutions and organisations

As identified above, the YCP SIG will be focusing on identifying our members' links and networks in our forthcoming meeting in September 2015. We already have potential links with OMEP and TACTYC in the UK and at our meeting we will discuss how we might draw on these further for mutual benefit in advocating for young children's perspectives to be realised.

How the YCP SIG's activities fit with aims and ethos of EECERA.

Through our planned publication, our meetings, membership and discussion, typified by the narrative above, we address the principal aims of EECERA (<http://www.eecera.org/aims/>).

TIMELINE for PROPOSED EECERJ SI – YOUNG CHILDREN’S PERSPECTIVES FROM THE MARGINS

2015							2016									
March	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oc	No	De	Ja	Fe	Mar	Apr	May	June	July
11.3.15 1 st Call placed		10.5.15 Second call placed		31.7.15 Deadline to receive proposals ----- Proposal sent to Júlia		Receive SI confirmation from EECERJ ----- 30.5.15 Decisions made on which papers to take through. Authors informed	Authors write full draft papers for review →					1.3.16 Full draft papers submitted and sent to reviewers	30.4.16 Reviews to authors	31.5.16 Final amendments made and final paper submitted	Production	31.7.16 Publish