



SIG Gender Balance
EECERA Special Interest Group



Special Interest Group convenors
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Report 2013/2014

For some years now, researchers from several countries have formed an international network on the issue of men, women and gender balance in the ECEC work force. Since 2009, members of the network have organized research symposia on the Annual EECERA conferences. This led to a proposal for establishing a SIG "Gender Balance" in 2012. It has since then been active and has undertaken several activities.

Participants

Convenors: Tim Rohrmann, Germany; Kari Emilsen, Norway

The SIG has currently 69 research colleagues from 21 countries on its mailing list.

29 of these are listed as SIG members: Markus Andrä, Holger Brandes, David Brody, Anna Bujnowska, Manuela Cecotti, Michael Cremers, Miriam Damrow, *Kari Emilsen*, Wolfgang Englert, Ulla Gerner Wohlgemuth, Alex Gunn, Richard Harty, Johannes Huber, Charlotte Jones, Bernhard Koch, Jens Krabel, Ole B. Nordfjell, Mats Olsson, Jan Peeters, Wiebke Tennhoff, *Tim Rohrmann*, Janine Ryan, Ramazan Sak, Thordis Thordardottir, Bernd Traxl, Manjula Waniganayake, Lauk Woltring, Yuwei Xu.

SIG Activities 2013-2014

- 5/2013 Proposal for a special issue of EECER journal on Gender Balance.
- 8/2013 SIG pre-conference (all-day) connected to EECERA Annual conference in Tallinn, Estonia, with 25 participants: Theoretical debate on the question why there are still so few men in ECEC. Presentation and discussion of empiric material: a short video sequence from the German Tandem study. The SIG also decided to launch a facebook side (which has not been very active since).
- 3 self organized symposia on the EECERA Annual conference with presentations covering a wide range of issues, especially links between professionalism and gender, from several European countries. Documentation of all presentations after the conference.
- Proposal for the special issue of EECER journal accepted by the BoT.
- Joint research (but on a rather low level) on support groups for male workers in ECEC in Germany, Norway and Israel.
- 2014 EECERJ special issue: SIG members and associated colleagues work on this project. Some contributions are developed as cross-country collaborations.
- Planning and organizing of symposia for the EECERA Annual conference and also a SIG research conference with focus on children's perspectives.
- Continued networking: new colleagues come into the network, including some who already have worked on the issue for a longer time.



- 9/2014 SIG research conference connected to EECERA Annual conference in Hernossissos, Crete: "Childrens' perspectives on gender of adult workers in ECEC - Interactions and representations", with contributions from China, Germany, Greece, Turkey, and the UK.
- 2 self organized symposia on the EECERA Annual conference with contributions from Austria, Germany, Israel, Norway, Turkey, and the UK, focusing on links between gender, masculinities and professional development.

Networking, future plans and links to other institutions

Several members of the SIG continue to work on the issue of gender balance in ECEC in their countries. They exchange ideas and support each other in research projects and also in development of measures and strategies. In several countries, SIG members work together with national and regional administration developing policies and funding projects for a better gender balance in ECEC.

Moreover, some SIG members took part in debates in countries where the issue had not been much discussed before. E.g., Jan Peeters and Tim Rohrmann participated in a conference in Strasbourg, France, which resulted in two publications.

We will proceed with the EECERJ special issue and hope that it can be published in 2015.

Contacts in the SIG were a starting point for cooperation of universities with Bachelor programs in ECEC in Germany (Dresden), Norway (Trondheim) and maybe the UK (Doncaster) within ERASMUS.

Finally, ideas for a joint research project, eventually in the EU program Horizons 2020, have been discussed, but until now these are still ideas.