

**SIG Gender Balance**  
EECERA Special Interest Group



Special Interest Group convenors  
**Prof. Dr. Tim Rohrmann, Germany**  
rohrmann@wechselspiel-online.de  
**Kari Emilsen, Norway**  
Kari.Emilsen@dmmh.no

## Report 2014/2015

The international network on the issue of men, women and gender balance in the ECEC work force has continued its activities in 2014 and 2015.

### Participants

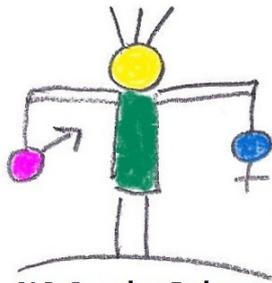
*Convenors:* Tim Rohrmann, Germany; Kari Emilsen, Norway

The interest in the SIG is still rising. It has currently 81 research colleagues from 25 countries on its mailing list.

29 of these are listed as SIG members; but at the moment there is no clear definition of “SIG member”, “participating in SIG activities” and “mailing list”. This issue will be discussed on this year’s SIG meeting.

### SIG Activities 2014/2015

- 9/2014 SIG research conference (all-day) connected to EECERA Annual conference in Hersonnissos, Crete, with 18 participants on *Children’s perspectives on gender of adult workers in ECEC: Interactions and representations*. Five presentations of recent research from Germany, UK, Greece, China, and Turkey.
- 2 self organized symposia on the EECERA Annual conference with presentations on (1) *Researching masculinities in early childhood settings*, and (2) *Gender and professional development in ECEC*. Many interesting talks and new contacts.
- 9-12/2014 EECERJ special issue on Gender Balance in the ECEC work force: Peer review of contributions within the SIG network, including cross-country collaborations.
- 1/2015 The SIG has its own website [www.siggender.eu](http://www.siggender.eu), with all presentations from past SIG symposia and conferences for download, and information about recent publications. The website is hosted at and supported by Dresden University of Applied Sciences.
- 1-3/2015 All contributions for EECERJ special issue accepted in blind peer review.
- 1-5/2015 Planning and organizing of symposia for the EECERA Annual conference and SIG research conference in Barcelona, 9/2015.
- 3/2015 ERASMUS+ Research workshop on gender issues at Dresden University for Applied Sciences, Germany, with contributions of colleagues from Norway, Portugal and the UK.
- 5/2015 Final conference of research project on *Strategies for more men in ECEC*, aiming at policy makers on national and regional level, in Innsbruck, Austria. With contributions of international SIG colleagues.



**SIG Gender Balance**  
EECERA Special Interest Group

*In preparation:*

9/2015 SIG research conference connected to EECERA Annual conference in Barcelona, Spain: on *Diversities: New perspectives on gender balance research in ECEC* with contributions from the UK, China/Hongkong, Turkey, Sweden, and Norway.

2 self organized symposia on the EECERA Annual conference on (1) *Research and strategies for a better gender balance in ECEC*, and (2) *The role of gender in teacher-child-relations in ECEC*, with contributions from Austria, Belgium, Germany, Israel, Norway, The Netherlands, and the UK.

**Networking, future plans and links to other institutions**

We continued our networking. New colleagues come into the network, including some who already have worked on the issue for a longer time, and others who have started research in related fields. Contacts in the SIG were a starting point for cooperation of universities with Bachelor programs in ECEC in Germany (Dresden), Norway (Trondheim), the UK (Doncaster), and Turkey (Van) within ERASMUS+.

Much energy went into the project of a EECERA special issue on Gender Balance, which will be published this summer after more than a year of hard work. Peer review within the SIG before submission of the contributions was a very fruitful experience, and resulted in acceptance of all submitted articles.

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.

We are still working on the idea of a European research project but this is a difficult challenge, as the demands for applying for such a project on international level are very high. Many SIG members do not have the resources to put much time and energy in the development of such a project.