

Holistic Well-being SIG

Report 2017/2018

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1. Aim of the SIG:

The holistic well-being SIG aims to critically reflect on the concept of children's well-being in a holistic, inclusive manner. This is timely due to the increased awareness and interest of practitioners, researchers and policy makers at a cross-national and global level in understanding children's physical, mental, social, emotional, cognitive, spiritual and cultural well-being.

2. Activities 2017-2018:

- **Annual SIG meeting (29/08/17)**

A key area we explored was:

The International Early Learning and Child Well-being Study (IELS) running under the OECD (<http://www.oecd.org/edu/school/international-early-learning-and-child-well-being-study.htm>) aims to study globally 'children's social, emotional skills and cognitive skills' as part of mapping 'children's early capabilities to education performance at age 15, through PISA'.

How might this reflect a view of children's well-being as something measurable?

How would this establish children's well-being as an accountable area?

We also discussed about the first SIG Conference to be held in June 2018.

- **EECERA 2017 Conference**

We presented 3 self-organised symposia organised in EECERA 2017:

- ✓ Symposium set b / 22 - Holistic Wellbeing SIG: social and cultural aspects of wellbeing
- ✓ Symposium set c / 22 - Holistic Wellbeing SIG: social justice and wellbeing
- ✓ Symposium set d / 25 - Holistic Wellbeing SIG: professionalism and wellbeing

Emerging research topics were: Inclusion, refugee families, ESD, technology, empathy, wellbeing of professionals and families, dis/ability, home education.

- **December 2017 - January 2018**

Call for papers for our first Conference and communication with members.

- **February 2018**

Planning and organisation of symposia for the EECERA 2018 Conference. Proposals for 3 self-organised symposia were submitted and approved.

- **June 2018**

Inaugural Holistic Well-being EECERA SIG Conference - 28th-30th June 2018 – Liverpool, UK

The Conference was entitled: 'Debates in child and family well-being' and participants from different countries had the chance to share initiatives, projects, thoughts and reflections on aspects of child and family well-being. The Conference was devised in four stands — the child, the family, the adult, and the society, enabling a micro and macro level of analysis under a holistic, multi-disciplinary and inclusive approach.

<https://www.eecera.org/holistic-wellbeing-sig-conference-success/>

3. Future activities:

Publications, meetings, networking, cross-national collaboration, symposiums

- Proposal for a Special Issue at EECERJ on Holistic Wellbeing.
- Self-organised symposia for EECERA 2019.
- Exploration of cross-national collaborations and research project development.

4. Networks established with other institutions and organisations:

Through the Conference there was opportunity to develop networks and connections between Universities (i.e Liverpool Hope University, Nova Southeastern University, Bielefeld University) and charities and local authorities (i.e. Better Start Bradford).

5. How do the SIG's activities fit with aims and ethos of EECERA:

The Holistic Well-being SIG continues its development and aims to critically reflect on the concept of children's well-being. This is a timely matter due to the increased awareness and interest of practitioners, researchers, advocates, and policy makers at a cross-national and global level in understanding children's physical, mental, social, emotional, cognitive, spiritual and cultural well-being. The SIG aims to foster cross-national collaborations and research in a range of aspects including ESD in early childhood, child development, cross-cultural elements, policy, empowerment and agency and their synergy in examining children's holistic well-being.