

SIG Report

Special Interest Group

Rethinking Play

SIG Convenors

Convenor: Sofia Avgitidou, Professor University of Western Macedonia, Greece Co-convenors: Mandy Andrews, University of Plymouth, UK mandy.andrews@plymouth.ac.uk and Annerieke Boland, University of Amsterdam, a.boland@ipabo.nl

Number of SIG members

15

Activities undertaken by the SIG since establishment

2010 -initial discussion by Hännikäinnen, M., Singer, E., & van Oers, B. For the development of a SIG group in Birmingham

- submitted formal proposal to establish SIG and received approval by the Board of Trustees;

2011 SIG convenors, Hännikäinnen, M., Singer, E., & van Oers, B

- held inaugural meeting in Geneva;

- collated a list of contact addresses to enable participants to pursue points of discussion raised at that meeting;

2012: SIG convenors, Hännikäinnen, M., Singer, E., & van Oers, B

initiated a proposal for a special issue

organized the themes of papers and made a call for papers

2013: The SIG has proceeded to the publication of a Special Issue in the EECERJ titled "Promoting Play for a Better Future". Guest editors: Hännikäinnen, M., Singer, E., & van Oers, B. (2013).

Hännikäinnen, M., Singer, E., & van Oers, B. (2013).Promoting play for a better future. Editorial to special issue for European Early Childhood Education Research Journal, 21(2), 165 - 171.

2014: During the SIG meeting in Crete conference 2014, Elly Singer and Bert van Oers retreated as convenors of the Sig and Maritta Hannikainen proposed Sofia Avgitidou for the post of Sig convenor and all members agreed. Maritta kept the post of co-convenor.

- Members shared research interests.

- The SIG created a website <https://rethinkingplay.wordpress.com/about/> and asked members to join in.

2015: In the Barcelona conference the SIG had a symposium with academics from Greece, Canada and Netherlands. During the SIG meeting we organized the research themes around play and shared information. The website created in 2014 had few participants, so we decided to keep the e-mail list. We also discussed about a position paper in the inaugural meeting is made based on the current trends in ECE curricula that emphasize structured learning across different subject matter. A committee was formed to make a draft paper.

2016: During Dublin conference a new co-convenor, Mandy Andrews, was elected as Maritta retreated from this post. During the SIG meeting the final structure of the position paper about play was decided. Members had a vivid discussion through e-mails, sending amendments and proposals. The SIG convenors prepared the final paper based on these amendments and proposals and invited comments from all the members. It was published to the SIG webpage and to EECERA webpage, inviting researchers and academics from all over the world to contribute

drawing from their studies in different countries and thus enriching the perspectives included in the paper. We also tried to invite play symposia for the conference in Bologna by asking members to share with others their title presentations in order to be grouped into symposia evident in the programme rather than scattered in different paper presentations.

2017: The SIG has proceeded to the preparation of the SIG's information for the EECERA webpage. It has also sent two e-mails to its members reminding them of sending the papers to the convenors to organize different play papers to SIG symposia.

Report on SIG Activities this past year

undertaken by the SIG in past year;

1) SIG meeting held at the 29th EECERA conference in Thessaloniki with more than 25 participants. In the meeting we discussed the development and use of a database on play research in order to describe our research on play and share research methods and tools for new and experienced researchers and also foster international co-operation.

2) Organisation of a symposium SIG Rethinking play in the 29th EECERA conference.

3) Sofia Avgitidou and Annerieke Boland developed an excel form that was sent to the members of the SIG taking into consideration the discussion during the Thessaloniki meeting. We present the details of the data base below:

RESEARCHER Name,
affiliation,
3 SPERATE
e-mail

RESEARCH THEME Please choose one or more of the following:

play and learning,
children's perspectives on play,
play and social interaction/ relationships,
play and curricula,
play for under three's,
cross-cultural perspectives of play,
play and adult role,
play and educational practice,
play and practitioners' beliefs,
out-door play

OTHER: PLEASE DESCRIBE

5 key words

THEORETICAL BACKGROUND Refer to your theoretical context and choose your main references

RESEARCH QUESTIONS Write your research questions

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY Refer to one or more of the following:

Qualitative,
quantitative,
mixed,
case-study,

action research,
exploratory research,
developmental research

RESEARCH METHODS/TOOLS: Choose one or more methods and refer to citations that describe the tools: 1. Observation 2. Questionnaire 3. Interviews (with children, practitioners or others) 4. Document analysis 5. Teachers' diaries/ journals 6. OTHER: PLEASE DESCRIBE

IF YOU WANT YOU CAN DESCRIBE THE MAIN THEMATIC AXIS OF YOUR OBSERVATION OR INTERVIEW OR QUESTIONNAIRE PROTOCOL

MAIN FINDINGS Present your main findings as research highlights in bullets

IMPLICATIONS FOR RESEARCH

IMPLICATIONS FOR PRACTICE

PUBLICATION Please make a citation of the published work. Otherwise state if it is work in progress or unpublished. In the case of work in progress or unpublished please state if you are available for personal contact through e-mail

4) The position paper of The SIG Rethinking Play was translated by Aleksander Veraksa (Lomonosov Moscow State University) and was published in the journal Preschool Education Today 2019. Issue 13, Volume 6 (96). Avgitidou, S., Andrews, M., Boland, A., Canning, N., Hännikäinen, M., Loizou, E., van Oers, B. European Early Childhood Education Research Association Special Interest Group Rethinking play: Position paper about the role of play in early childhood education and care. This was an initiative of Aleksander Veraksa who attended the meeting in Thessaloniki and the SIG has accepted with many thanks.

Members so far include (to our knowledge)

Andrews Mandy mandy.andrews@plymouth.ac.uk
Araujo Sara sararaujo@gmail.com
Avgitidou Sofia saugitidou@uowm.gr, savgitidou@gmail.com
Boland Anne-Rieke a.boland@ipabo.nl
Einarsdottir, Johanna, Professor University of Iceland, joein@hi.is
Gunning Irene irenegunning@gmail.com
Hannikainen Maritta maritta.hannikainen@jyu.fi
Hreinsdóttir, Anna Magnea annamagnea@borgarbyggd.is
Karlsdóttir Kristin krika@hi.is
Karlsson-Lohmander Maelis maelis.karlsson-lohmander@ped.gu.se
Loizou Eleni eloizou@ucy.ac.cy
Kyriakou Maria Kyriakou.maria@ucy.ac.cy;
Lemay Lise lemay.lise@uqam.ca
van Oers Bert bert.van.oers@vu.nl
Worthington, Maulfry maulfry@blueyonder.co.uk

There are another at least 30 academics and researchers who are in the SIG's list but are not official members since they are not EECERA members. However, it is important to have a broader list since it can act as a motive for those involved to become EECERA members.

How SIG activities fit with aims and ethos of EECERA

In the context of EECERA, Rethinking Play aims to be thought provoking and reflecting on issues that relate to

developments in understanding of play at a philosophical, scientific, social, educational and policy level. It is multidisciplinary and open for theoretical and practice based research; but also sensitive to issues of diversity, and rights experienced within the lived experiences of children. Specifically, the SIG on Rethinking play addresses relevant questions linked to a continually emerging and developing discourse on play and learning, children's voices, play based curricula and power relations in ECE. In both research and practice development, the SIG pays special attention to a critical consideration of play practices in different early childhood education contexts. It aims at creating a space for shared thinking about the concept and for creating synergies between participants from different countries and contexts.

Networking, future plans and links to other institutions

Organisation of symposia for the 30th EECERA conference.

Fostering international collaborations on play research.

- I have read the privacy policy and agree