

Young Children's Perspectives SIG Trustees' Report: June 2018

To: EECERA Board of Trustees

From: Jane Murray and Daniela Jadue Roa

Re: Special Interest Group – Young Children's Perspectives (YCP)

Report on membership, activities undertaken and planned 2017-18

Date: 12.6.18

(i) YCP SIG Names and Emails

YCP SIG Convenors:

Dr Jane Murray - jane.murray@northampton.ac.uk

Dr Daniela Jadue Roa – dsjadue@gmail.com

We have 72 current members in the EECERA Young Children's Perspectives 2017-18 Member List
(bold blue print denotes new SIG members whom we welcomed in 2017)

Erna Adalstein	Iceland
Kelly Baird	Australia
Cathleen Bethke	Germany
Annick Biesmans	Belgium
Angeliki Bitou	Greece
Linda Bosman	South Africa
Anette Boye Koch	Denmark
Sigrid Brogaard Clausen	UK
Clare Britt	Australia
Petra Bueker	Germany
Liz Chesworth	UK
Alison Clark	UK
Aline Cole-Albäck	UK
Yael Dayan	Israel
Laura Detlefson	Denmark
Sue Dockett	Australia
Elizabeth Dunphy	Ireland
Johanna Einarsdottir	Israel
Alma Fleet	Australia
Rosie Flewitt	UK
Sue Gascoyne	UK
Luca Ghirotto	Italy
Cath Gripton	UK
Colette Gray	UK
Cath Gripton	UK
Deborah Harcourt	Australia
Linda Harrison	Australia
Jacqueline Hayden	Australia
Julia Hoeke	Germany
Riikka Hohti	Finland
Birgit Huepping	Germany

Carmen Huser	Germany
Daniela Jadue Roa	Chile
Eva Johansson	Sweden
Michaella Kadury-Slezak	Israel
Mari Kaisa	Finland
Susanne Klaar	Sweden
Kristina Konstantoni	UK
Haitmut Kupfer	Germany
Marja-Leena Laakso	Finland
Penny Lawrence	UK
Lena O Magnusson	Sweden
Valentina Mazzoni	Italy
Catherine Meehan	UK
Valentina Montu	Italy
Luigina Mortari	Italy
Jane Murray	UK
Beverley Nightingale	UK
Bob Perry	Australia
Gesine Nebe	Germany
Solveig Nordtomme	Norway
Lesley Ones	Australia
Ioanna Palaiologou	UK
Hanna Palmer	Israel
Jane Payler	UK
Porunn Helga Porvaldsdottir	Iceland
Raija Raittila	Finland
Tanya Richardson	UK
Sue Robson	UK
Pablo Rupin	Chile
Ingrid Pramling Samuelsson	Sweden
Persille Schwartz	Denmark
Elena Severina	Norway
Halldor D. Sigurdardottir	Iceland
Anne B. Smith	New Zealand
Jennifer Sumsion	Australia
Clodie Tal	Israel
Sarah Te One	New Zealand
Anja Tertoolen	Belgium
Patrizia Tortella	Italy
Helena Vidisdottir	Iceland
Tim Waller	UK
Susanne Westman	Sweden

(ii) Activities undertaken by the SIG in past year:

- ***Virtual meeting held by e-mail, to which all YCP SIG members were invited.***
- ***Meeting held at EECERA Conference, Bologna, August 2017***

See Appendix 1 for minutes.

New Co-Convenor for the YCP SIG

Colette Gray stepped down as Co-convenor of the YCP SIG in 2017, following several productive years, so calls were made for YCP SIG members to consider stepping forward for the role. Daniela Jadue Roa was the only member who expressed an interest in standing, so she is now a Co-Convenor of the SIG with Jane Murray.

'International Journal of Early Years Education' Special Issue published

Following the publication of the EECERJ Special Issue '*Perspectives from Young Children on the Margins*' in April 2017 (Eds. Colette Gray and Jane Murray), a Special Issue was published by Taylor and Francis in the *International Journal of Early Years Education* (25,3): '*Hearing Young Children's Voices through Innovative Research Approaches*' in September 2017. This Special Issue featured seven papers, several of which were authored by from YCP SIG members:

- *Editorial: Hearing Young Children's Voices through Innovative research Approaches* (Colette Gray and Jane Murray)
- *Photo Elicitation: reflecting on multiple sites of meaning* (Sue Dockett, Johanna Einarsdottir and Bob Perry)
- *Hearing young children's voices through a conversation analysis approach* (Amanda Bateman)
- *The work of interpreters to gain children's perspectives within culturally and linguistically diverse classrooms* (Maryanne Theobald)
- *Tanzanian and Canadian children's valued school experiences: a cross case comparison* (Jodi Streelasky)
- *An innovative methodology for capturing young children's curiosity, imagination and voices using a free app: Our Story* (Natalie Canning, Jane Payler, Karen Horsley and Chris Gomez)
- *The use of vignettes in participatory research with young children* (Ioanna Palaiologou)
- *Being hip to their hop: tapping into young minds through Hip Hop play* (Anthony Broughton).

'Early Child Development and Care' Special Issue published

YCP SIG members Jane Murray and Ioanna Palaiologou were co-editors for another SI, published online in March 2018 by Taylor and Francis in *Early Child Development and Care* journal (188, 7): '*Young Children's Emotional Experiences*'. Articles authored by YCP SIG members in this SI included:

- *Editorial: Young Children's Emotional Experiences* (Jane Murray and Ioanna Palaiologou)
- *Love, satisfaction and exhaustion in the nursery: methodological issues in evaluating the impact of Work Discussion groups in the nursery* (Peter Elfer, Sue Greenfield, Sue Robson, Dilys Wilson and Antonia Zachariou)

'Young Children's Perspectives' chapter in an international handbook

The '*International Handbook on Early Childhood Education and Development*' was published (Eds. Marilyn Fler, Bert van Oers, and Feiyan Chen with Alma Fleet and Deborah Harcourt), featuring a chapter from YCP SIG members:

Fleet, A. and Harcourt, D. with A.B. Koch, S. Gascoyne, J. Einarsdóttir, C. Gray, P. Lawrence, J. Merewether, S. Mitchelmore, J. Murray, A. Salamon (in press). (Co)-researching with children. Chapter in M. Fler and B. van Oers, (Eds.). International Handbook of Early Childhood Education and Development. Vol 1: Methodologies. New York: Springer.

Our thanks to Alma Fleet for this opportunity.

Forthcoming Article:

We look forward to reading a forthcoming article co-authored by Daniela Jadue-Roa and due for publication in October 2018:

Jadue-Roa, D. S., Whitebread, D., & Gareca Guzmán, B. (in press). Methodological issues in representing children's perspectives in transition research. *European Early Childhood Education Research Journal*.

Call for chapters for the *International Handbook of Young Children's Rights*

Following discussion with Routledge, editors Jane Murray, Beth Blue Swadener and Kylie Smith issued a call for chapters for the *International Handbook of Young Children's Rights* and received over 40 proposals, many of which came from YCP SIG members. Publication of this handbook is

planned to coincide with the 30th anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The full book proposal is under review at the time of writing.

(iii) SIG activity planned for the future

- Development of the YCP SIG online space within the EECERA website
- Mid-year YCP SIG meeting – before EECERA conference 2018
- Continue to develop the *International Handbook of Young Children’s Rights*
- Explore the development of a second new YCP SIG book: different modalities young children use to express their views to serve as a tool for researchers and practitioners.
- Develop a proposal for a series of children’s books to mark the 30th anniversary in 2019 of the United Nations CRC (OHCHR, 1989)
- YCP SIG members to create new proactive links to their networks, institutions and organisations with a focus on the 30th anniversary in 2019 of the United Nations CRC (OHCHR, 1989) (volunteers required)

(iv) Links and networks established with other institutions and organisations

- Links to OMEP and TACTYC (UK) established through YCP membership.

(iv) How the YCP SIG’s activities fit with the aims and ethos of EECERA:

YCP SIG activities focus on...

- Generating critical reflection on children’s perspectives and children’s rights
- Supporting and encouraging cross-national perspectives on seeking children’s perspectives
- Supporting SIG members’ research in a collaborative and cooperative manner
- Sharing innovative and reflexive research on children’s perspectives and children’s rights.

In this way, the YCP SIG...

- Promotes and disseminates multi-disciplinary research on early childhood and its applications to policy and practice
- Seeks to sustain and develop the rich tradition of European early childhood thought in a context of appreciation for other equally rich early childhood traditions and concepts across the World
- Encourages the exploration of new paradigms, methodologies, concepts and applications in the ever-changing context of early childhood studies.

Appendix 1:

**Minutes of the EECERA 2017 Young Children’s Perspectives SIG Meeting
Bologna Italy**

1.0 Welcome, apologies and contact list

1.1 The meeting was held on Tuesday 29th August 2017 at 13.00-14.00 at University of Bologna.

1.2 Those who attended were:

Jane Murray (convenor)	UK	Member
Persille Schwartz	Denmark	Member
Patrizia Tortella	Italy	
Lena O. Magnussen	Sweden	
Anja Tertoolen	Netherlands	
Daniela Jadue Roa	Chile	Member
Pablo Rupin	Chile	
Linda Bosman	South Africa	
Sue Robson	UK	
Johanna Einarsdottir	Iceland	Member
Sigríð Brogaard Clausen	UK	Member
Alma Fleet	Australia	Member
Alison Clark	UK	
Luca Ghirotto	Italy	

Birgit Huepping	Germany	
Clodie Tal	Israel	Member
Michaella Kadury-Slezak	Israel	
Elena Severina	Norway	
Porunn Helga Porvaldsdottir	Iceland	
Erna Adelstein	Iceland	
Helena Vidisdottir	Iceland	
Halldor D. Sigurdardottir	Iceland	

1.3 Jane Murray noted that a number of apologies had been received, particularly from YCP SIG members who were visiting early childhood settings which had been scheduled for the same time as the SIG meetings.

2.0 Minutes from last meeting

Minutes from the last meeting had been circulated prior to the meeting and were shared during the meeting and agreed.

3.0 YCP publication news

3.1 There was discussion concerning ways to mark the 30th Anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

3.2 Prior to the meeting, Jane Murray had approached Routledge with an initial suggestion for an edited book with chapters from Young Children's Perspectives SIG members to mark the 30th Anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Routledge suggested that the proposal should be for an international handbook. Early thoughts on this proposal were shared. The handbook would focus on how young children's rights are afforded in different countries and contexts across the World. An outline structure was suggested:

- Introduction
- Policy and legislation
- Protection
- Provision
- Participation
- Reflections and Conclusions.

A team of editors was proposed, such that each section would be edited by a different editor, coordinated by Jane Murray. Professor Laura Lundy was suggested as editor for the policy and legislation section. An outline timeline was proposed, with publication in the second half of 2019 to coincide with the UNCRC 30th anniversary. A question concerning how authors for whom English is an additional language might be supported; it was proposed that those authors could work with a co-author whose first language is English.

3.3 There was **further discussion** about ways to mark the UNCRC 30th anniversary.

3.3.1 It was suggested that the handbook could be an EECERA book.

3.3.2 It was pointed out that a handbook is a lot of work and a concern was raised that a handbook can be forgotten on a library shelf.

3.3.3 A suggestion was made for a smaller project that could be a journal-sized collection of original country overviews focused on lots of small things that are being done for young children's rights.

3.3.4 Another concern was raised that books can be inaccessible for practitioners.

3.3.5 The point was made that we should consider what we want to write and for whom we are writing.

3.3.6 It was noted that children's rights are not always covered in early childhood education and care and that it would be good for the SIG to create a publication that is accessible for practitioners, separate to a handbook which may not be so useful for practitioners.

3.3.7 The point was made that a publication that reaches those working with children would be important consideration because of its potential for impact in the field. This might include accessible materials for children in order to reach children.

3.3.8 The possibility of a book made by children about their rights was suggested, perhaps focused on research with young children; it was noted that Reggio Emilia pre-schools have already done this.

3.3.9 Another suggestion was made for a journal special issue.

3.3.10 Luca Ghirotto shared that he has been working in a hospital and has been working on how to make children conscious of assent in research. He plans to work with atelierista to develop this further at Reggio Emilia preschools.

3.3.11 Alma Fleet highlighted the value of researching with children. She noted that with respect to the work of Reggio Emilia pre-schools, there may be a tension with representing children's views fairly where peer reviewed articles are required. She noted that books on the Diana School and children's rights include conversations with educators and children's voices.

3.3.12 A suggestion was made for a digital approach. We could develop a website with case studies. Or alternative online spaces.

3.3.13. The point was made that YCP SIG members could develop different publications and other ways to celebrate the UNCRC 30th anniversary.

ACTION: YCP SIG members to develop different publications and other ways to celebrate the UNCRC 30th anniversary and report progress to the SIG.

4.0 New YCP publications

4.1 Jane noted that a **special issue of EECERJ** was published featuring papers from the YCP SIG members (Volume 25, Number 2). Edited by Jane Murray and Colette Gray, the SI title was '*Perspectives from Young Children on the Margins*'. Papers in this SI from SIG members included:

- '*Flourishing on the margins: a study of babies and belonging in an Australian Aboriginal community childcare centre*' by Linda Harrison, [Jennifer Sumsion](#), [Ben Bradley](#), [Karen Letsch](#) and [Andi Salamon](#)
- '*Do young children perceive change in the daily lives of their families during participation in a therapeutic family support programme?*' by Kelly Baird and Rebekah Grace
- '*Patterns and attributes in vulnerable children's messy play*' by Sue Gascoyne
- '*Here we like playing princesses – newcomer migrant children's transitions within day care: exploring role play as an indication of suitability and home and belonging*' by Kris Kalkman and Alison Clark
- '*On the margins of racism, immigration and war: perspectives on risk and protection of young children of Ethiopian origin in Israel*' by Nira Wahle, [Yael Ponizovsky-Bergelson](#), [Yael Dayan](#), [Orly Erlichman](#) and [Dorit Roer-Strier](#)
- '*Crossing cultural barriers: children's views on the recuperative holiday experience*' by Colette Gray
- '*Welcome in! How the academy can warrant recognition of young children as researchers*' by Jane Murray.

4.2 Jane shared that a **second Special Issue** was due for publication imminently, featuring papers from the YCP SIG members: '*Hearing Young Children's Voices through Innovative Research Approaches*' in the *International Journal of Early Years Education* (Volume 25, Number 3), edited by Colette Gray and Jane Murray. Papers in this SI from SIG members would include:

- '*Photo elicitation: reflecting on multiple sites of meaning*', by Sue Dockett, [Johanna Einarsdottir](#) and [Bob Perry](#)
- '*An innovative methodology for capturing young children's curiosity, imagination and voices using a free app: Our Story*' by [Natalie Canning](#), [Jane Payler](#), [Karen Horsley](#) & [Chris Gomez](#)
- '*The use of vignettes in participatory research with young children*' by Ioanna Palaiologou.

5. Co-Convenor role

5.1 Jane noted that Colette Gray has retired from her position as co-convenor of the YCP SIG. The SIG noted the valuable work that Colette has undertaken as co-convenor.

5.2 Jane invited SIG members to contact her if they were interested in becoming co-convenor with Jane, according to the EECERA constitution.

ACTION: Jane Murray to invite expressions of interest for YCP SIG co-convenor role.

6. YCP SIG interim meetings

There was discussion concerning the new requirement on SIGs to hold interim meetings between EECERA conferences.

6.1 Jane noted that the YCP SIG had held an interim meeting for which the format had been group e-mail over the course of one week.

6.2 A questionnaire was suggested that would allow YCP SIG members to identify what medium they would prefer for the interim meetings. The SIG noted that online spaces are likely to be most useful for interim meetings.

6.3 There was a query regarding whether we could use the EECERA website for SIG interim meetings.

6.4 Johanna Einarsdottir who is the trustee leading on SIG meetings highlighted that most EECERA SIGs had opted to use e-mail though some have used Skype.

7. Members' news

7.1 It was noted that Anja Tertoolen has completed her PhD. Anja shared publications from her doctorate focused on children's voices about their school experiences.

7.2 The SIG also noted that Johanna Einarsdottir, Bob Perry and Sue Dockett have proposed an EECERA edited book.

7.3 The SIG heard that Sigrid Brogaard Clausen and Sue Robson have been short listed for funding to research different methods and conceptualisations of wellbeing.

7.4 Persille Schwartz told the SIG that she has been developing an app that she will share, focused on how children's perspectives can be supported.

7.5 Alison Clark noted a third edition of *Listening to Young Children*, featuring four case studies and published by Jessica Kingsley.

7.6 Elena Severina shared a mathematics project she has been working on featuring young children's voices.

7.7 Lena O'Magnusson shared a digital photography project that she has been conducting with 3-year-olds which has featured particular ethical considerations.

7.8 The SIG noted that Daniela Jadue is working on a project featuring young children and play that addresses the distinction between work and play.

8. AOB

The meeting time slot was at an end so there was no time for AOB. It was agreed that members could send AOB to Jane Murray.

9. Next two meetings

9.1 The YCP SIG interim meeting will be held in Spring 2018. Jane Murray will contact members to arrange.

9.2 The next YCP SIG main meeting will be held at EECERA conference in August 2018 in Budapest, Hungary.

The meeting was closed.