

SIG Report 2018-19

Special Interest Group

Mathematics Birth to Eight Years

SIG Convenors

Oliver Thiel

Bob Perry

Number of SIG members

93

Activities undertaken by the SIG since establishment

The SIG was re-started in Crete in 2014. It had two self-organised symposia in 2015 in Barcelona, two self-organised symposia and 5 individual paper presentations in 2016 in Dublin, four self-organised symposia in 2017 in Bologna, and one self-organised symposium and a PED talk in 2018 in Budapest.

In 2017 the SIG worked together on a special issue of the EECERJ that was published in 2018: Thiel, O. and Perry, B. (Eds.) (2018). Innovative approaches in early childhood mathematics. *European Early Childhood Education Research Journal* 26 (4), <https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/recr20/26/4>.

Report on SIG Activities this past year 2018-19

1. Publications

In 2019, the SIG worked on a joint research and book project that will be published this year in the EECERA book series 'Towards an Ethical Praxis in Early Childhood': Thiel, O., Severina, E. & Perry, B. (Eds.). *Mathematics in early childhood: Research, reflexive practice and innovative pedagogy*. London: Routledge. <https://www.routledge.com/Mathematics-in-Early-Childhood-Research-Reflexive-Practice-and-Innovative/Thiel-Severina-Perry/p/book/9780367370503>

2. Symposia at last EECERA conference

At the EECERA conference in Thessaloniki, the SIG had a PED talk, four individual paper presentations and the following three self-organised symposia:

- a. MATHEMATICS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD: REFLEXIVE PRAXIS LEADING TO INNOVATIVE PEDAGOGY
Chair: Camilla Normann Justnes
 - i. Reflexive praxis leading to innovative early childhood mathematics
Oliver Thiel, Elena Severina, Bob Perry
 - ii. Harry's Line Work
Robert Perry, Sue Dockett, Elspeth Harley
 - iii. The power of play: Cowboys, measuring tapes and the construction of meanings by children
Maria Figueiredo, Ana Patricia Martins, Helena Gomes, Myriam Marchese
- b. PEDAGOGICAL UNDERSTANDINGS THAT PROMOTE CHILDREN'S OWN MATHEMATICS
Chair: Oliver Thiel

- i. Moving from an adult orientated perspective to a child-centred model of early mathematics pedagogy
Elizabeth Carruthers
 - ii. The cultural transmission of mathematical signs: Child's play
Maulfry Worthington, Bert van Oers, Marjolein Dobber
 - iii. Multilingual children's participation in mathematical activities
Silje Christiansen
 - c. THE IMPORTANCE OF LANGUAGE AND VALUES IN YOUNG CHILDREN'S MATHEMATICS LEARNING
Chair: Kelly Johnston
 - i. More than 'more': Mathematical language in snack-time conversations with toddlers
Kelly Johnston, Sheila Degotardi
 - ii. How Norwegian preschool teachers make sense of talk moves: A case study
Camilla Normann Justnes
 - iii. Mathematics at home: Parents' views on children's mathematics learning and development
Dorota Lembrér

3. Proposed Initiatives

The SIG Mathematics Birth to Eight Years proposed that the SIG meeting should not be at the same time as the meeting of the SIG Digital Childhoods and STEM education. The SIG started working on a mission statement for early childhood mathematics.

4. Number of members

The number of members increased from 71 in 2018 to 91 in 2019 and 93 now. In 2019, more people than ever before attended the SIG meeting.

How SIG activities fit with aims and ethos of EECERA

In line with EECERA's main principles, the SIG Mathematics Birth to Eight Years provides an academic and rigorous forum at a European and international level to develop and disseminate high-quality research on early childhood mathematics education. It aims to coordinate and disseminate international research on the international discourse in this emerging field. It continues to create a space for shared thinking and for creating synergies between participants from a wide range of professional and scientific contexts to encourage a clearer articulation and understanding of early childhood mathematics education.

Networking, future plans and links to other institutions

The SIG has Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1515014682076863/>, a LinkedIn group <https://www.linkedin.com/grp/home?gid=6928873>, a project page on ResearchGate <https://www.researchgate.net/project/EECERA-SIG-Mathematics-Birth-to-Eight-Years>, and a Google disc <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B8xyCbNTmQeWanNyOUtEX19mZHM?usp=sharing>.

There was planned a self-organised symposium at the EECERA conference in Zagreb but the conference was postponed. We will have an online SIG meeting on Monday, 7 September 2020, 1400-1500 hrs CEST via Zoom.