

SIG Gender Balance
EECERA Special Interest Group

Gender Balance in ECEC Special Interest Group Newsletter

Dear colleagues interested in gender and diversity in the ECEC workforce,

This newsletter is to inform you about our activities in the EECERA Special Interest Group "Gender Balance," and about new projects and accomplishments from our SIG cohort. Thank you for being part of this highly enthusiastic and supportive network of researchers.

If you have any research activities, updates, or special events you would like added to the next newsletter please email info@siggender.eu

31st EECERA Conference August 2022 in Glasgow

We are so excited to be attending the first face to face EECERA conference since 2019! We are looking forward to this event and hope you will join us for this exciting program of work. <https://2022.eeceraconference.org/>

The SIG will present three self-organized symposia at the conference, each abstract is available in the above link:

Men in ECEC: career narratives and team dynamics (Chair: Tim Rohrmann)

Gender and Play: Perspectives of children, practitioners, and researchers (Chair: Birgitte Ljunggren)

Gender, Care, and Power Relations in ECEC (Chair: Victoria Sullivan)

We would also like to invite you to our 10th SIG Gender Balance Annual Meeting on the 23rd of August. This is another great opportunity to meet and collaborate with fellow international researchers. Please see the official invitation with registration details attached to this newsletter.



The SIG focuses on the links of research, practice, and policy, and intends to provide an academic forum for the promotion, development, and dissemination of research, and facilitates cooperation and collaboration between researchers in the field.



Recently Published:

Bhana, Deevia, Moosa, Shaaista, Xu, Yuwei & Emilsen, Kari (2022). Men in early childhood education and care: on navigating a gendered terrain. *European Early Childhood Education Research Journal*, 1–14. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1350293X.2022.2074070>

Brody, David & Andrä, Markus (2022). "It wasn't A Romantic Marriage": A Metaphor Analysis of Male Early Childhood Educators' Career Narratives. *The Journal of Men's Studies*, 106082652210961. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10608265221096157>

Rohrmann, Tim & Andrä, Markus (2022). Berufswege von Männern in Kindertageseinrichtungen: Bedingungsfaktoren für Ausstieg oder Verbleib im Arbeitsfeld. *Perspektiven der empirischen Kinder- und Jugendforschung*, 8 (1), 5–22. https://fel-verlag.de/files/u757/Perspektiven_1_2022_Jg_8_1.pdf (in German)

Xu, Yuwei, Schweisfurth, Michele & Read, Barbara (2022). Men's participation in early childhood education and care (ECEC): comparative perspectives from Edinburgh, Scotland and Tianjin, China. *Comparative Education*, 1–19. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03050068.2022.2062950>

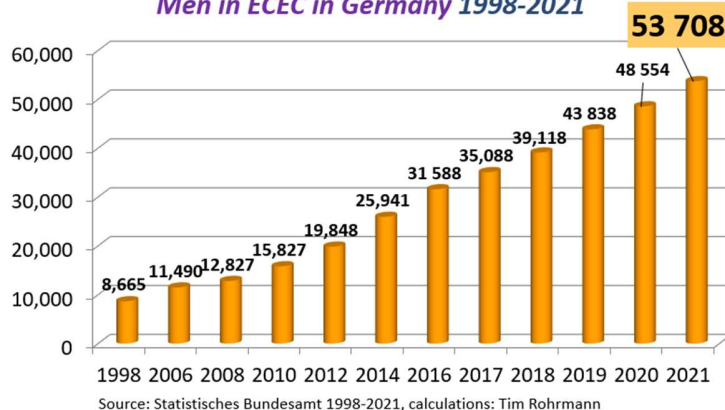
SIG PhD Update

Congratulations to Joanne McHale for passing her thesis review and viva! We look forward to sharing your graduation photos!

Local Initiatives

In Germany, the number of male workers in ECEC has increased to an all-time high of more than 53,000 men in 2021, making up 7.5% of the ECEC workforce (see adjacent graph). However, the German government does not support strategies for gender balance and diversity on a national level anymore. Only two cities are constantly funding regional initiatives for recruitment and support of male workers. A national meeting of coordinators of working groups for men in ECEC took place in May 2022 and will continue to collaborate.

Men in ECEC in Germany 1998-2021



Children's Perspectives of Their Teachers

Following our first successful SIG book initiative, we have organized a second major research project, this time on the topic of children's perspectives on their ECEC teachers and caregivers who identify as men and women. This endeavor involves 22 researchers from nine countries around the world. The researchers are working together in country teams to learn how the children view their caregivers and teachers, using a gender lens. We began our work last year when we collaboratively developed our data collection tools. This year we hope to complete the data collection, and to begin analysis of the data. Our goal is to produce a book that will include a case study from each of the countries participating in the study.

Early Care and the Role of Men

ECaRoM is a two-year European funded project that aims at promoting the concept of caring masculinities so that children, and especially boys, are taught about the importance of care for themselves, others, and the environment. The Project also teaches how care professions are addressed in ECEC services and primary schools, and how this impacts their further educational/professional choices. <https://ecarom.eu/> Project partners in Austria, Bulgaria, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, and Slovenia have recently published national reports, which are summarized in a transnational report: Bernacci, Erika, Di Grigoli, Antonio R. & Hrženjak, Majda, Humer, Živa (Hrsg.) (2022). *Caring masculinities in early childhood education and care services and primary schools in Europe. ECaRoM – Early Care and the Role of Men. Transnational report*. Berlin: Dissens - Institut für Bildung und Forschung e.V. <https://ecarom.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Transnational-report-EcaRom-final.pdf>

More information about the SIG, presentations, publications, and projects can be found at <https://www.eecera.org/sigs/gender-balance/#activities> & <http://www.siggender.eu>