



## Gender play - Play gender

### 10<sup>th</sup> SIG gender balance research Conference

**Glasgow, Scotland, 23rd August 2022, 9.00-16.00**

The SIG gender balance invites to its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference. We are looking forward to reconnect and to develop new perspectives for cooperation in our first face-to-face meeting since 2019. Since then, the pandemic has influenced and shaped our experiences as researchers and teachers as well as our daily lives. As if this was not enough, the war in the Ukraine has confronted us with a dreadful failure of attempts to achieve international cooperation and mutual understanding. Not at least, it has brought back traditional understandings of the roles of men and women in society, opposed to goals of gender equality and support of men in the field of educare.

On the research meeting, we will start with an exchange round about the situation regarding men and women in ECEC in practice and research in our respective countries. In a second part, we connect to the main theme of the EECERA Annual conference, which is “Cultures of Play: Actors, Affordances and Arenas”. This can mean

- to “play” with theoretical understandings of gender
- to understand ECEC institutions as a “gendered arena” for play
- to understand gendered play of children, and the role the gender of practitioners has for it
- to ask how men and women contribute to play in ECEC

Finally, we will again conduct a “speed dating” in small groups to talk about possible ideas and projects for future collaboration.

The meeting is the Annual meeting of the EECERA Special Interest Group *Gender Balance*, and as such it is open to all interested researchers.

Conference fee: approx. 30 GBP including tea/coffee & lunch, to be paid on the conference *in cash*, either in GBP or in €. Participation in the Welcome & exchange round and in the final round is free of charge.

### ***We are looking forward to meeting you!***

*This year's SIG Gender Balance team:*

*Kari Emilsen (Norway) · Tim Rohrmann (Germany) · David Brody (Israel) ·*

*Elin Birgitte Ljunggren (Norway) · Victoria Sullivan (Australia) · Yuwei Xu (China/UK)*

**Conference registration** with the attached registration form

→ Elin Birgitte Ljunggren [ubl@dmmh.no](mailto:ubl@dmmh.no)

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9.00 Reception and welcome *Kari Emilsen & Tim Rohrmann, conference chairs*

**Welcome address: Men in ECEC in Scotland** *Stuart Hall, University of the Highlands and Islands, Scotland*

#### Round talk - recent developments

**Gender, educare and the war** *moderated by Tim Rohrmann, Germany*

Our emotional involvement with the war in Ukraine has focused our attention on the role of gender in this debacle. The war has affected Ukrainian male practitioners and students in significant ways. Furthermore, the appearance of fatherless refugee families in Europe will impact on ECEC services. This session will provide space for us to share our thoughts and feelings about these impacts of the war.

10.30 *Tea & coffee break*

#### 11.00 **Gender as a play**

*moderated by Markus Andrae, Germany, and Di Wang, United Kingdom*

Gender can be understood as a play we all participate in. It emerges out of mutual bodily positions in interaction rituals and thereby constructed metaphorical meanings of symbolic objects. We will try to trace this performative entanglement on basis of interview excerpts from the Men's career trajectories. We may find a way to transfer scientific knowledge from theory and empirical research into an affective experience. Performative methods will be introduced and tried out together.

12.30 *Lunch break*

#### 13.30 **Dynamics of play when men work in ECEC**

*moderated by Yuwei Xu, UK, and David Brody, Israel*

"Men do rough and tumble play because that's what they want to do"? We want to challenge this assumption. Considering gender as a fluid concept, we want to discuss gender and team dynamics in the context of play with children. All participants are asked to contribute relevant examples from their teaching and training experience.

15.00 *Tea & coffee break*

#### 15.15 **Research speed dating** *moderated by Kari Emilsen, Norway*

Find your research partner - bring your business card!

We want to initiate cross-country cooperation by e.g. exchange of papers from national research; exploring possibilities for merging data and findings from several countries; writing joint papers; engage in steering groups of projects in other countries...

#### 16.00 **Final round: Issues and strategies for research on gender balance & diversity**

16.30 *End of conference*