

Multilingual Childhoods SIG Report 2019/2021

SIG Convenors August 2019 – May 2021

Dr. Gunhild Tomter Alstad (Gunhild.alstad@inn.no)

Professor Mila Schwartz (milasch@post.bgu.ac.il)

SIG Convenors May 2021 -

Professor Mila Schwartz (milasch@post.bgu.ac.il)

Dr. Beatriz Cortina Pérez (bcortina@ugr.es)

Current SIG members:

We still don't know the exact number of people registered in our mailing list that belongs to EECERA, as many colleagues are covered by institutional membership of the association.

Our JISCMail discussion list:

- Our JISCMail discussion list continues to grow with 100+ researchers interested in multilingual contexts. We post regularly about different activities e.g. conferences, publications, discoveries and requests for information. It is a really useful list and feedback remains very positive.
- Not all the JISCMail list subscribers are EECERA members, but we are hoping that it alerts colleagues to EECERA and the existence of the Multilingual Childhoods SIG.

Links and networks established with other institutions and organisations:

We continue to be actively involved with the 'International Association of Applied Linguistics - Early Language Learning Research Network' (AILA ELL ReN) and represent their 'Very Early language Learning' strand. <http://www.ell-ren.org/> In fact we are organizing a joint conference in 2022.

SIG activity in 2019-2021

- **June 2019** - a new committee was brought together including the two convenors and Dr. Beatriz Cortina-Pérez (University of Granada, Spain), Dr. Ana Andúgar (University of Alicante, Spain), and Dr. Fatma Said (Zayed University, The Emirates) to update the website and increase the visibility of the network. A twitter account has been created, as well as a Zenodo one to visualize the SIG research in social networks.
- **July-Sep. 2019** - the website was updated and more information was added about the SIG activity and membership. In particular, the members publication was updated creating a useful resource of the network research:
<https://multilingualchildhoods.wordpress.com/about/publications/>
- **During 2020 and 2021**, due to the COVID pandemic, the committee decided to organize different online webinars, instead of the traditional biannual SIG meeting, with outstanding support from colleagues, PhD students and practitioners:
 - 1st Webinar "Language Education Policy and its application at the micro classroom level" (Chair: Mila Schwartz) – September 9, 2020, 2-4 pm at Zoom
 - 2nd webinar PhD webinar Early Language Learning (Chair: Ana Andúgar)- December 15, 2020 – 15:30 (CET)
 - 3rd webinar Collecting data with and about young children: ethical and methodological issues (Chair: Fatma Said) – 4th March 2021 3.00-4.50pm CET
 - 4th webinar "Tailoring CLIL for Pre-primary Education. A focus on 3-6 year-olds" (Chair: Beatriz Cortina-Pérez) – 22nd June 2021 4.00-5.30 pm (CET)
- **November 2020:** representation of the SIG in the "Teacher education for language learning and multilingualism" Conference held online by CETAP and Nova University Lisbon.

- **January 2021:** SIG members have actively participated in the publication of the International Handbook of Early Language Education, edited by Prof. Mila Schwartz (convenor of this SIG) in Springer Publishing House. More info: <https://link.springer.com/referencework/10.1007%2F978-3-030-47073-9?page=1#toc>
- **April 2021:** a coordination meeting has been held with the chair of the 2022 SIG conference to continue with the organization of the event.
- **May 2021:** Gunhild T. Alstad stepped down from her role as co-convenor and has been replaced by Dr Beatriz Cortina-Pérez, Associated Professor at the University of Granada, Spain. Also the committee has been reorganized and Dr Andúgar will be coordinating SIG events and Dr Said will do the same with SIG joint publications.
- **June 2021:** SIG members coordinated the publication of a special issue in the EECER Journal : *Multilingual Childhoods* edited by Sandie Mourao and Gunhild Alstad. This is a special issue resulting from research within the SIG can be found at <https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/recr20/29/3?nav=toCList>
- **July 2021:** The CFP for a new special issue has been launched entitled “Researching about and with multilingual children as agents in early language learning” to be published in the International Journal of Bilingual Education and Bilingualism More information can be found here: <https://multilingualchildhoods.wordpress.com/about/research-network-activities/special-issue-cfp/>
- **August 2021:** SIG members have actively participated in the ELL-ReN symposium at AILA conference in Groningen (The Netherlands).
- **Sep. 2021:** Members are participating in the EECERA festival 2021 and a business meeting has been organized via zoom on Sep. 15th.

NB: Apart from this meetings the SIG committee has periodically met online to propose, coordinate, and evaluate SIG activities.

Planned SIG activity for 2021-2022:

- Continued use of JISCMail discussion list and updating of SIG website.
- Continued updating through social networks.
- Continue with committee virtual meetings.
- We are considering the creating of a youtube channel to upload conferences and webinars from the SIG.
- Publication of the special Issue at Journal of Bilingual Education and Bilingualism.
- Ensuring that Multilingual Childhoods SIG is present at the next EECERA conference with a themed symposia.
- Represent the Multilingual Childhoods SIG at the next AILA ELL ReN symposia.
- Participate in the SIG conference “ELLME 2022: INTERNATIONAL HYBRID CONFERENCE “FUTURE CHALLENGES IN EARLY LANGUAGE LEARNING AND MULTILINGUAL EDUCATION” , which will be held in Granada from 22 to 24 June 2022.
- Launch new webinars

How SIG’s activities fit with aims and ethos of EECERA

We continue:

- To bridge the areas of multilingualism and early years education;
- To promote and disseminate research in early years multilingualism and its implementation in policy and practice;
- To create opportunities for informed and constructive discussion and debate;
- To foster possibilities for cross-national collaboration and interaction.

Website: <https://multilingualchildhoods.wordpress.com/>

JISCMail discussion list: <https://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/cgi-bin/webadmin?A0=EARLY-YEARS-LANGUAGE-LEARNING>