

## SIG Report

### Special Interest Group

Mathematics Birth to Eight Years

### SIG Convenors

Oliver Thiel and 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

1. 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. 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. 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. 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 will be one self-organised symposium at the EECERA conference in Zagreb and hopefully more at next years EECERA conference.

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