

## SIG Report

### Special Interest Group

Holistic Well-being

### SIG Convenors

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### Number of SIG members

25

### Activities undertaken by the SIG since establishment

The holistic well-being SIG since its establishment aims to critically reflect on the concept of children's well-being in a holistic, inclusive manner. This is timely due to the increased awareness and interest of practitioners, researchers and policy makers at a cross-national and global level in understanding children's and families' physical, mental, social, emotional, cognitive, spiritual and cultural wellbeing.

What makes a 'good life' for children, families, professionals and communities in different contexts and situations? Through collaborations, dialogue and shared experiences the SIG serves as a hub for creating, sustaining and disseminating research initiatives and understandings. This is facilitated through the EECERA and other Conferences, social media and publications.

### Report on SIG Activities this past year

Annual SIG meeting ( August 2019)

In this meeting members of the SIG discussed about ongoing projects and ideas. There was feedback shared from the SIG June 2018 Conference and discussions about hosting the 2nd Holistic Wellbeing Conference in Bielefeld, Germany, in 2020. Members also positively embraced the idea of putting forward a Special Issue at the EECERJ Journal on Holistic Wellbeing concerning children, families, communities and professionals.

29th EECERA 2019 Conference - Thessaloniki

We presented 3 self-organised symposia organised in EECERA 2019:

- ✓ Symposium set E 24: PARENTAL PERSPECTIVES (SoS HOLISTIC WELL-BEING SIG)
- ✓ Symposium set C 8: FAMILY WELLBEING AND SOCIAL JUSTICE (SoS HOLISTIC WELLBEING SIG)
- ✓ Symposium set F 18: DEMOCRACY AND CHILDREN'S VIEWS (SoS HOLISTIC WELL-BEING SIG)

The first symposium explored parental perspectives in three differing arenas: The first explores the views of Muslim home educators; the second analyses an intervention programme to support young children's physical activity and nutrition; the third examines parental views on their child's transition from a play-based education and care environment to statutory schooling at the age of five years in the UK. The second symposium explored the needs of families and children through lens of social justice as a paramount element in culturally-responsive early childhood education. Wellbeing of families and children makes society and early childhood educators accountable for their success. The last symposium drew attention to explicit and implicit expressions of wellbeing and democratic living, children's participation and views and early childhood curricula.

Research activity

- The SIG started organising the 2nd SIG Conference, 'Early childhood and well-being: toward the "good" life', to be held at the Technical University of Dortmund in Germany, 29-30 June

2020: <http://www.fk12.tu-dortmund.de/cms/EarlyChildhood/en/home/> .

However, due to the pandemic the Conference was postponed. The SIG wishes to explore the organisation and hosting of the Conference in the future.

- Members of the SIG have been engaged in the Children's Worlds, International Survey of Children's Well-Being (ISCWeB): <http://www.isciweb.org/>. This is a worldwide research survey on children's subjective well-being aiming to collect solid and representative data on children's lives and daily activities, their time use and in particular on their own perceptions and evaluations of their well-being.

- Similarly, members of the SIG are involved in Children's Understandings of Well-being - global and local Contexts, <http://www.cuwb.org/>, that investigates how children conceptualise and experience well-being through qualitative approaches. The study aims to interrogate children's perspectives on the meanings and experiences of well-being via a comparative national analysis.

- The SIG members have been active with publications and outputs.

o Publication by two of the SIG members of a book on child immigration, Issues and challenges of immigration in early childhood in USA (Robles-Melendez & Driscoll, 2020)

### **How SIG activities fit with aims and ethos of EECERA**

The Holistic Well-being SIG aims to foster cross-national collaborations and research in a range of aspects related to Holistic Well-being. It provides the space to explore, develop and sustain concepts, methodologies, paradigms in the field of early childhood by addressing the complexity of what makes a 'good quality of life' for children, families and communities.

### **Networking, future plans and links to other institutions**

Future activities:

Publications, meetings, networking, cross-national collaborations, symposia

- Proposal for a Special Issue at EECERJ and/or Book proposal on Holistic Wellbeing
- Self-organised symposia for EECERA 2021.
- Exploration of cross-national collaborations and research project development.

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