



SIG gender balance newsletter December 2023

Dear colleagues,

we send some news from the SIG gender balance. Please join us on our next online conference, send in your ideas and plans for contributions on our conferences and the EECERA Annual conference in Brighton, find some news about male involvement in ECEC, and enjoy new research in our publication lists.

This has been a hard and difficult year for many of us. While we see war and hate arising in many places of the world, EECERA and especially our SIG remains a place where we meet with respect and joint interest, despite all differences, for a better world for children and all who work with them. Let us keep this spirit alive. We wish you a peaceful relaxing Christmas and winter time, and a good start to 2024 - hope to see you again then!

Best regards

Tim Rohrmann & the SIG team

SIG Gender Balance Think Tank 2024 - Online Seminar

Thursday 7th March 2024, 12.00-15.00 GMT, Online

The Gender Balance SIG (EECERA) is organising our 2024 "Think Tank", an online conference focusing on Promoting Sustainable Gender Equality, Diversity and Inclusion within Early Childhood Education (ECE). We invite presentations from researchers who are doing current research related to this focus, and/or who can contribute to theoretical/conceptual discussions. The goal is that the presentations will then be developed into a new special issue. This new special issue builds on two previous issues in 2015 and 2020, and will explore how the topic of gender in ECE can be advanced in a sustainable future.

Proposals for presentations/enquiries should be sent to Joanne.mchale@tudublin.ie by 20th February 2024

SIG Gender Balance on EECERA 2024 - Call for papers and collaboration

SIG Gender Balance Annual Research Conference

The 12th SIG Research Conference will be held on Tuesday, 3rd September 2024, in Brighton/United Kingdom.

The programme will be developed in spring. If you want to contribute and collaborate, please contact Tim Rohrmann rohrmann@wechselspiel-online.de.

Self Organized Symposia on EECERA 2024 Annual Conference

The 32nd EECERA conference will take place on 4th-6th September 2024 at the University of Brighton, United Kingdom. The theme of the conference is *Developing Sustainable Early Childhood Education Systems: Comparisons, Contexts and the Cognoscenti*. As before, the SIG Gender Balance will set up some Self Organized Symposia (SOS).

If you intend to contribute to the conference, please send your contact details and the theme of your contribution (title + 2 sentences) to Tim Rohrmann until 12th January 2024.

We will try to arrange contributions to symposia and find chairs for them. Until now, there will be one or two symposia on children's views and one symposium on gender, language and culture. *Please do not submit a proposal on your own, if you would like to be part of a SOS!*

More men working in ECEC and childcare

Norway has 10% men in ECEC now. The topic is discussed in the media again, after publication of a new book by Kari Emilsen & co-authors. In Norway, men in ECEC has been a success story, but in the past years the government has not developed any new initiatives. The authors conclude: "If we don't do anything, nothing will happen. But it is possible to do a lot!" Read the full article in Norwegian: <https://www.utdanningsnytt.no/mangfold-menn-i-barnehagen/fortsatt-foreldre-som-er-skeptiske-til-mannlige-ansatte-i-barnehagen/383563>

More than 60.000 men work in ECEC in *Germany*, leading to an all-time-high of 8,1% male ECEC workers in Germany, as statistics from 2023 show. In the age group up to 30 yrs, 13% of all workers are male. As Tim Rohrmann states, "without measures for supporting men in the entry stage, and strategies for keeping them in the profession, many of these men might leave the field after a while".

In the *USA*, the percentage of male Childcare workers has increased to 5,7%. Bryan G. Nelson, Director of MenTeach observed, "If the pandemic and shutdown had not happened we would have had growth of male teachers unheard for 50 years since the 1970s. I believe that men will return and surpass the percentage we had in the past." Read the article:

<https://www.menteach.org/articles/male-secondary-teachers-and-child-care-workers-are-rising-again/>

SIG gender balance publication lists

The SIG publication lists for 2022 and 2023 were updated. You find them on our SIG website <https://www.eecera.org/sig/gender-balance/> - please scroll down to "Publications".

Recent publications include a Childlinks special issue and international perspectives - new books in English, French and Norwegian!

- Childlinks (Eds.) (2023). *Men in Early Childhood Education and Care [Special issue]*. Childlinks (2). <https://shop.barnardos.ie/products/ebook-childlinks-men-in-early-childhood-education-and-care-issue-2-2023>
- Bhana, Deevia, Xu, Yuwei & Adriany, Vina (Eds.) (2023). [*Gendered and sexual norms in global south early childhood education*](#). London: Routledge.
- Devineau, Sophie (éd.) (2023). *Une mixité professionnelle contrainte par le genre. Des hommes dans les métiers de la prime enfance*. Rouen: Presses universitaires de Rouen et du Havre.
- Emilsen, Kari, Kjeldsaas, Lene & Friis, Pia (2023). *Menn i barnehagen – hvorfor og hvordan*. Bergen: Fagbokforlaget.