

EECERA SIG Gender

Report 2024/2025

SIG convenors

Tim Rohrmann, rohrmann@wechselspiel-online.de and

Joanne McHale, joanne.mchale@tudublin.ie

with the SIG team: David Brody, Kari Emilsen, Halah Gaber Elkarif, Ricardo Goncalves, E. Birgitte Ljunggren & Yuwei Xu

SIG members

We have currently 24 SIG members, and a mailing list of more than 200 colleagues.

1. Aim of the SIG

The SIG focuses on gender issues with a special focus on the ECE work force, on the important role gender plays in adult-child-relations, and on gender in the context of diversities. This includes strategies for a more diverse and gender-mixed ECE workforce.

2. Activities 2024-25

In March 2024, the SIG organized an Online seminar focused on *Promoting Sustainable Gender Equality, Diversity and Inclusion within Early Childhood Education (ECE)*, with presentations from colleagues from Australia, Italy, and the United Kingdom.

On the 34th EECERA Conference in Brighton, United Kingdom, the SIG organized three symposia on (1) *Diversities of gender, language and culture in ECEC*, (2) *Gender perspectives on professional identities of ECEC practitioners*, and (3) *Children's perspectives on their teachers*.

In March 2025, the SIG invited speakers from several African countries to an Online Think Tank on *Bringing in new voices – global developments regarding gender in the ECEC work force*. Presentations on men in ECEC from several African countries, and on migrants from MENA (Middle East and North African) countries in Germany gave new insights into gender developments in these countries. We welcome several new colleagues from African countries to our network.

The international research collaboration *Young Children's Perspectives on Teacher Gender: Contextualizing Gender Stereotypes and Inclusive Practices in Early Childhood Education and Care* has finished its report, which will be published 2025 with Roudledge.

3. Planned activities

The SIG has planned its 13th research conference on *Fostering gender dialogues in ECEC* in August 2025, connected to the Annual EECERA research conference in Bratislava/Slovakia. SIG members also contribute to the Annual conference with symposia and individual papers.

Two new projects developed from the SIG context. - An international project on *Jill is different, a picture book on intersexuality* for children, brought together researchers from Germany, Greece, Japan, South Africa and the Czech Republic. First results will be presented on the EECERA conference. - Colleagues from Germany, Ireland, Norway, Türkiye and New York have started a collaboration on *Mentoring Men in ECEC*. More information will be shared on the SIG research conference in 2025.

The SIG has started to discuss a new special issue on *Global perspectives on gender in the ECEC work force* for the EECER Journal. A proposal will be developed in 2025.

4. Links and networks established with other institutions and organizations

With its international research collaborations and publications, the SIG has established networks with researchers and universities worldwide.

5. How do SIG's activities fit with the aims and ethos of EECERA

Aims and topics of the SIG gender fit well with aims and ethos of EECERA, and they are at the core of the 2025 EECERA Annual conference theme of "Celebrating diversity and seeking inclusion".