



## SIG gender balance newsletter December 2025

Dear colleagues,

the SIG gender sends seasonal greetings and some recent news. Have a look at upcoming events, plans for the EECERA conference, and new publications and projects.

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### New SIG name and convenor

The SIG gender balance has decided to change its name to **SIG gender** to cover a wider range of topics in the field of gender. However, gender issues in the ECEC work force will remain main focus of the SIG. - In 2025, Joanne McHale from TU Dublin/Ireland will start as a new co-convenor, together with Tim Rohrmann. Kari Emilsen stepped down as a convenor but stays connected in the SIG team and in joint research.

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### SIG gender Online Think Tank in March 2025: *Bringing in new voices – Global perspectives on gender in the ECEC work force*

We are happy to announce our next SIG online conference on **Thursday, 13th March 2025, 12.00-15.00 UTC/GMT**. We will introduce new colleagues to the SIG, share news from recent research projects and discuss global perspectives for gender research in the field of ECEC. A main topic of the meeting will be new voices from African countries. We will also plan the SIG research conference in August in Bratislava. If you want to join, please send a mail to Joanne McHale [joanne.mchale@tudublin.ie](mailto:joanne.mchale@tudublin.ie).

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### EECERA conference 2025: Call for papers for SIG symposia, and SIG research conference

The Annual EECERA conference 2025 will take place in Bratislava, Slovakia, 25th-28th August. The Conference theme is “Celebrating diversity and seeking inclusion”, which is at the core of the SIG gender's aims and scope. The call for papers is open, and the deadline for abstract submission is 3rd March 2025. The EECERA SIG will organize two or three Self Organized Symposia. **If you plan to submit a paper on gender issues, please let us know until 19th January 2025**, so we may include your paper in a SOS. Just send a mail with title & topic to [tim.rohrmann@hawk.de](mailto:tim.rohrmann@hawk.de).

On 25th September 2025, 9.00-16.30, we conduct the **13th SIG research conference: *Fostering gender dialogues in ECEC***.

The research conference has developed as a space for discussing issues of gender equality and diversity in ECEC on a global level. It is giving room for progressing the participants' individual research development by mutual support of well-experienced colleagues as well as early career researchers. We will focus on global diversities in regard to gender and gender equality, discuss connections from policy to practice, and foster the inclusion of the voices of all stakeholders in the field, including the voices of children. - The meeting is the Annual meeting of the EECERA Special Interest Group Gender, and as such it is open to all interested researchers.

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### Early Career Researchers group

Several SIG colleagues have finished or are reaching the final stage of their thesis. The SIG wants to support researchers at the beginning of their academic career and brings them together for exchange in the SIG gender Early Career Researchers group. Please contact Halah Gaber Elkarif [halahgaber@gmail.com](mailto:halahgaber@gmail.com) to be included.

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### New Publications

Several interesting papers on men in ECEC were published during the last months, some at unexpected places. They support existing research, but also bring some new perspectives into the debate by highlighting the importance of intersectional approaches, and critical reflection of widespread notions about the role of men in ECEC.

- Haines, Serena, Nater, Christa & Sczesny, Sabine (2024). Creating a system that cares: A PRISMA review and road map to increase men's representation in early childhood education and care. *Psychology of Men & Masculinities*. <https://doi.org/10.1037/men0000486>
- Montecino, Valentín D., Philominraj, Andrew & Saavedra, Rodrigo A. (2024). Factors of Entry and Retention of Men into the Early Childhood Education Profession: A Systematic Review. *International Journal of Religion*, 5 (10), 3093–3103. <https://doi.org/10.61707/1kvb8998>
- Msiza, Vusi (2024). Male Teachers' Perceptions of Gender Equality in the Foundation Phase. *Journal of Research in Childhood Education*, 1–10. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02568543.2024.2367411>

For those of you who are able to read Swedish, we suggest to have a look at Ricardo's PhD thesis:

- Gonçalves de Sousa, Ricardo (2024). Fysisk beröring som pedagogisk handling i förskolan. Beröringens funktioner och villkor i mötet mellan manliga förskollärare och barn (Örebro Studies in Education, Bd. 67). Örebro: Örebro University.
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## Research collaboration

The project on ***Children's views on their teachers*** has finished its work - we are looking forward to see the publication of the results next year. Meanwhile, some colleagues have started a new initiative and work together on ***Mentoring of men in ECEC***. We want to exchange experiences and strategies to support men during their vocational life in the field of ECEC, and intend to research critical moments and the role of support structures for men.

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**We are looking forward to hearing from you about your ongoing projects**, continuing good worldwide collaboration, and to meeting you again next year - online or face-to-face.

**Merry Christmas and our best wishes for a better 2025!**

Tim Rohrmann & the SIG team