



## SIG gender balance newsletter April 2025

Dear colleagues interested in gender in ECEC,  
we experience a world tending to polarized discourses in many fields, including (but not only) gender issues. Researchers meet highly polarized conflicts around gender diversity and gender-inclusive legislation and language, and also the growing gender gap in some recent political votes. At the same time, we experience a lack of interest in gender issues in the work force, despite the current shortage of teachers in many countries. Against this backdrop, the EECERA SIG gender continues to discuss these topics and highlights the need for dialogue. We invite to our next research conference, connected to the EECERA Annual conference in Bratislava this year, and we share some news on recent research on gender in ECEC.

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The next **SIG Gender Balance Research conference: *Fostering gender dialogues in ECEC*** will take place on 25th August 2025, 9.00-16.30 in Bratislava, Slovakia. The format includes introductions, country and research activities updates followed by a number of themed discussions. You find invitation and program attached. Please register with the attached registration form (doc or pdf) by mail to [joanne.mchale@tudublin.ie](mailto:joanne.mchale@tudublin.ie).

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On the **Annual EECERA conference** in August in Bratislava, Slovakia, SIG members present a symposium on **Exploring intersexuality: a child-centered approach**, with cross-cultural research from five countries. There will also be a presentation on **The Impact of Gender Balance Among Staff on Preschool Practices**.

If you come to Bratislava and present a paper on gender issues, please let us know. We try to bring people together and organize that symposia and presentations are not parallel, and will inform about all papers through our mailing list.

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The international research project **Young Children's Perspectives on Teacher** has published its final report as a book with Routledge: [https://www.routledge.com/Young-Childrens-Perspectives-on-Teacher-Gender-Contextualizing-Gender-Stereotypes-and-Inclusive-Practices-in-Early-Childhood-Education-and-Care/Brody-Xu-Emilsen-Coles/p/book/9781032499260?srsId=AfmBOorEhaK\\_GkNjuCPY44Xcb-iTz4i9tbYfmkv8V0s-60\\_sZJd56Gkv](https://www.routledge.com/Young-Childrens-Perspectives-on-Teacher-Gender-Contextualizing-Gender-Stereotypes-and-Inclusive-Practices-in-Early-Childhood-Education-and-Care/Brody-Xu-Emilsen-Coles/p/book/9781032499260?srsId=AfmBOorEhaK_GkNjuCPY44Xcb-iTz4i9tbYfmkv8V0s-60_sZJd56Gkv). Congratulations to David Brody and all authors!

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We have updated our **SIG documentation page**. Presentations on gender issues from last year's EECERA conference are now available on the website <https://gender-kindheitspaedagogik.hawk.de/en/sig-gender> . Our main website is hosted by EECERA and will be updated soon: <https://www.eecera.org/sig/gender-balance/> .

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We welcome several **new colleagues from African countries** to our network. The **SIG Gender Think Tank** was held on Thursday 13th March on *Bringing in new voices – Global perspectives on gender in the ECEC work force*, with presentations focusing on men in ECEC in African countries and as migrants in Europe. The presentations will be published on the SIG documentation website soon.

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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.

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We are looking forward to meeting you in Bratislava!

Best regards

*Tim Rohrmann & Joanne McHale*