



Compare – Contextualize – Connect

12th SIG gender balance research Conference

Brighton, United Kingdom, 3rd September 2023, 9.00-16.30

The SIG gender balance invites to its 12th research conference. 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.

The SIG takes continues to focus on the situation and the impact of men and women, and more gender diversity, in the ECEC work force. In the past decades the network has grown and included researchers from all over the world. We include global and regional perspectives from a wide range of national contexts. At some places, men are accepted as part of the work force, but the topic of men in ECEC has been pushed in the background by discourses on gender diversity. Elsewhere, there are still controversies about having men in the field at all. For the further development of gender-related research in the field, it is necessary to take such contextual and cultural differences into account.

In the context of this year's EECERA theme of "Developing sustainable early childhood education systems", we focus on three topics: (1) strategies and policies for gender equality in ECEC and the challenges of bringing this into practice, (2) the role of researchers' own gender for research strategies and results, and (3) children's perspectives on gender issues in the work force.

Based on the ongoing scientific exchange in the network, we plan to develop a proposal for a special issue, following the EECERJ special issue 2015 and the Early Years special issue 2020. Every session of the conference will be finished with a brainstorming on possible content for the special issue.

The meeting is the Annual meeting of the EECERA Special Interest Group *Gender Balance*, and as such it is open to all interested researchers.

Conference fee: approx. 50 € including tea/coffee & lunch, to be paid on the conference *in cash*, either in GBP or in €. Participation in the welcome & exchange round and in the final round is free of charge.

We are looking forward to meeting you!

This year's SIG Gender Balance team:

David Brody (Israel) · Zhuoran Chen (China/United Kingdom) · Halah Elkarif (Egypt/Germany) · Ricardo Goncalves (Brazil/Sweden) · Charlotte Jones (United Kingdom) · Joanne McHale (Ireland) · Tim Rohrmann (Germany)

Conference registration with the attached registration form

→ Joanne McHale joanne.mchale@tudublin.ie

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9.00 **Reception and welcome** *Kari Emilsen & Tim Rohrmann, conference chairs*

Round talk - recent developments

9.45 **Gender equality in ECEC: From policy to practice**

moderated by Charlotte Jones, United Kingdom & Tim Rohrmann, Germany

Based on participants' knowledge on policies for gender equality in ECEC in their respective countries, we will focus on two aspects: the inclusion of gender sensitive education in ECEC curricula, and strategies for a better gender balance in the ECEC work force. We will then discuss how policy comes into practice and what we can learn from each other in international exchange.

11.00 *Tea & coffee break*

11.15 **Researchers' views on, and experiences with, their own 'gender' as an intersectional factor while investigating gendered issues in ECEC**

moderated by Halah Elkarif, (Egypt/Germany), Zhuoran Chen (China/United Kingdom) and Ricardo Goncalves (Brazil/Sweden)

Exploring gender issues in the ECEC field prompts us to consider how we navigate the complexities of our gender identity as researchers. In small groups and in plenary discussion we will reflect whether in our own projects (e.g. interviewing men and women or boys and girls) we consider this factor or not, and how such a reflection might contribute to a deeper understanding of research results.

12.45 *Lunch break*

14.00 **Including children's perspectives in gender research**

moderated by David Brody (Israel) and N.N.

After a short introduction on the methods used in the project "Children's perspectives of their teachers", we will discuss strategies, methods and aims of research with children. How can we capture the voices of children, and what are the issues we want to look at?

15.00 *Tea & coffee*

15.15 **The next step: proposing a special issue**

Based on the results of the preceding discussions, the SIG plans a proposal for a special issue, including current issues in research on gender balance and diversity, global and regional perspectives, and children's views.

16.00 **Future SIG organization and final round**

16.30 *End of conference*

18.30 **SIG Conference dinner** – *place will be announced later*