

Young Children’s Perspectives SIG Trustees’ Report: June 2025

To: EECERA Board of Trustees

From: Prof Jane Murray and Dr Alison Moore

Re: Special Interest Group – Young Children’s Perspectives (YCP)

Report on membership, activities undertaken and planned activities.

(i) YCP SIG Co- Convenors & Members

YCP SIG Co-Convenors:

- Dr Alison Moore – alison.moore@ucc.ie
- Professor Jane Murray - jane.murray@northampton.ac.uk

YCP SIG Members:

We have 130 current members in the EECERA Young Children’s Perspectives (June 2025)
(red print denotes 17 new SIG members who joined the YCP SIG in 2024-25)

Erna Adalstein	Iceland
Maarit Alasuutari	Finland
Túgba Aladás	Turkey
Kelly Baird	Australia
Benedicte Bernstorff	Denmark
Cathleen Bethke	Germany
Annick Biesmans	Belgium
Angeliki Bitou	Greece
Charmaine Bonello	Malta
Linda Bosman	South Africa
Aurelia Elena Bot	Italy
Fiona Boylan	Australia
Anette Boye Koch	Denmark
Sigrid Brogaard Clausen	England
Clare Britt	Australia
Ayça Büyükçınar	Istanbul Technical University, Turkey
Petra Bueker	Germany
Liz Chesworth	England
Baizhen Ciren	Norway
Alison Clark	England
Rahime Cobaneglu	Turkey
Anna Rose Codd	Ireland
Aline Cole-Albäck	England
Emma Cooke	Australia
Kate Cowan	UK
Triona Cummins	Germany
Yael Dayan	Israel
Beatrice Del Grosso	Italy
Laura Detlefson	Denmark

Melanie Dickerson	Australia
Sue Dockett	Australia
Margarte Donoghlie	Ireland
Elizabeth Dunphy	Ireland
Jóhanna Einarsdóttir	Iceland
Poppie Ephgrave	UK
Alma Fleet	Australia
Rosie Flewitt	England
Maria Assuncao Folque	Portugal
Ilaria Folci	Italy
Michael Gaffney	New Zealand
Sue Gascoyne	England
Luca Ghirotto	Italy
Claudia Gluschankof	Israel
Colette Gray	Northern Ireland
Georgia Gressiou	Greece
Cath Gripton	UK
Bin Guo	UK
Liru S. Hansen	Denmark
Deborah Harcourt	Australia
Shelly-Ann Harper	Eastern Caribbean
Linda Harrison	Australia
Nouf Hassanin	South Africa
Jacqueline Hayden	Australia
Julia Hoeke	Germany
Birgit Huepping	Germany
Christine Howitt	Australia
Carmen Huser	Germany
Anna Iakshina	Moscow State University, Russia
Takako Ishikura	Japan
Daniela Jadue Roa	Chile
Eva Johansson	Sweden
Lesley Jones	Australia
Michaela Kadury-Slezak	Israel
Mari Kaisa	Finland
Maria Kampeza	Greece
Catherine Kaplun	Australia
Eleni Katsadia	Greece
Zenna Kingdon	England
Susanne Klaar	Sweden
Kristina Konstantoni	Scotland
Haitmut Kupfer	Germany
Marja-Leena Laakso	Finland
Penny Lawrence	England
Marta Licardo	Slovenia
Marie Linde	Germany
Yvonne Liu	Taiwan
Lena O Magnusson	Sweden
Fiona Mayne	Australia
Valentina Mazzoni	Italy
Kate McAnelly	New Zealand

Catherine Meehan	England
Valentina Montu	Italy
Alison Moore	Ireland
Luigina Mortari	Italy
Jane Murray	England
Beverley Nightingale	England
Gesine Nebe	Germany
Solveig Nordtomme	Norway
Jana Ogradowski	Univ of Paderborn, Germany
Sara M Olatsdottir	Iceland
Ioanna Palaiologou	England
Hanna Palmer	Israel
Jane Payler	England
Bob Perry	Australia
Porunn Helga Porvaldsdottir	Iceland
Raija Raittila	Finland
Tanya Richardson	England
Sue Robson	England
Amanda Roscoe	Australia
Liz Rouse	England
Pablo Rupin	Chile
Ingrid Pramling Samuelsson	Sweden
Nora Saneka	UniSA
Persille Schwartz	Denmark
Sole Scuderi	UK
Elena Severina	Norway
Eija Sevon	Finland
Linda Shaw	England
Naseema Shaik	South Africa
Miyeshi Shirota	Japan
Igor Shiyan	Moscow State University, Russia
Halldor D. Sigurdardottir	Iceland
Helen Simmons	England
Rianne H. Slingerland	Denmark
Madonna Stinson	Australia
Jodi Streelasky	Canada
Bárbara Tadeu	Portugal
Clodie Tal	Israel
Sarah Te One	New Zealand
Anja Tertoolen	Netherlands
Sigal Tish	Israel
Patrizia Tortella	Italy
Rabia Filik Uyanik	Turkey
Katrin Velten	Germany
Helena Vidisdottir	Iceland
Tim Waller	England
Susanne Westman	Sweden
Zeta Williams-Brown	University of Wolverhampton, UK
Lynne Zhang	China
Erika Zimmer-Brandt	Denmark

(ii) Activities undertaken by the SIG and its members in past year:

- **A MEMBERS' SURVEY WAS CONDUCTED** to identify...
 - a) How members want to meet
 - b) How often members want to meet
 - c) What members want to do in the SIG.

- **A HYBRID YCP SIG MEETING WAS HELD AT EECERA CONFERENCE, BRIGHTON UK, 3.9.2024:**

Welcome:
Attending SIG members introduced themselves and gave updates on their research interests. Apologies were received, the membership contact list was updated and an invitation for AOB was extended.

Survey Feedback:

 - a) *How members want to meet:*
 - 83% want international online meetings with all YCP SIG members
 - 50% want online meetings with YCP SIG members in their global region
 - No respondents want 'In person' meetings with YCP SIG colleagues in the country where they are based
 - b) *How often members want to meet:*
 - 66% of people want to meet twice a year
 - 33% of people want to meet 4 times a year.
 - c) *What members want to do in the SIG:*
 - 83% want to learn about other YCP SIG members' research and publications
 - 17% want to share their research and publications news via a YCP SIG padlet
 - 17% are interested in developing a new YCP SIG workstream
 - 17% are interested in developing a book proposal with YCP colleagues
 - 67% are interested in developing a proposal for a journal special issue with YCP SIG colleagues
 - 50% are interested in developing a research funding proposal with YCP SIG colleagues

Future directions for the SIG:
Based on the survey, members identified workstreams they would like to develop:

 - 5 SIG members want to work together to develop a proposal for a journal special issue.
 - 4 SIG members want to co-convene 1-2 regional YCP SIG meeting with colleagues in their global regions (North Europe, Africa, East Asia)
 - 5 SIG members want to work together to develop a research funding proposal with SIG colleagues
 - 2 SIG members want to work together to develop a book proposal
 - 4 SIG members want to work together to develop a proposal for a new workstream (not a journal SIS. Research funding or book)

Opportunity to write for publication:

 - Jane Murray invited chapter proposals from YCP SIG members for a proposed edited book.

AOB:

 - In line with the survey findings, members agreed to hold two online YCP SIG meetings in addition to our annual conference meetings.
 - Co-convenors will provide a padlet each year for YCP SIG members to share their research and publications news.

- **AN ONLINE YCP SIG MEETING WAS HELD ON 28.11.2024:**

AGENDA:

 - **Welcome:**

Attending SIG members introduced themselves and gave updates on their research interests. An invitation for AOB was extended.

- **YCP SIG members shared their research and publications news:**

Dr Cath Gripton (Uni of Nottingham, UK) reported that in July 2024, she and colleagues completed a pilot study surveying 4- to 5-year-olds about their feelings and experiences of learning maths at school in England, ahead of a longitudinal study starting January 2025.

Dr Tanya Richardson (University of Northampton, UK) reported that she has had three new publications focused on speech and language development that all include: children's perspectives in some way:

- Richardson, T. (2024) Communication and language. In: Palaiologou, J. (ed) *The Early Years Foundation Stage theory and practice*. 5th ed. London: Sage Publications.
- Richardson, T. (2023) What constitutes a high-quality environment for speech and language development? *International Journal of Early Years Education*. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/09669760.2023.2284185>
- Richardson, T., Waite, S., Askerlund, P., Almers, E. & Hvit-Lindstrand, S. (2023) How does nature support early language learning? A systematic literature review. *Early Years*. DOI: [10.1080/09575146.2023.2220978](https://doi.org/10.1080/09575146.2023.2220978)

Professor Rosie Flewitt completed the UKRI ESRC funded 'Toddlers, Tech and Talk' research project in 2024 with YCP SIG member **Dr Lorna Arnott** and others. Read the report here: <https://www.mmu.ac.uk/about-us/faculties/health-and-education/research/projects/tech-and-talk>

Lorna Arnott (University of Strathclyde) reported that in the UKRI ESRC funded 'Toddlers, Tech and Talk' research project she and colleagues developed play inspired methods 'The Magic Bag' to offer babies and toddlers an active role in developing data for their research project and glimpse their perspectives/preferences with technologies. You can find out more here:

- Arnott, L. & Mevawalla, Z. (2024) Participatory methods for understanding 0-3s' technology use in family homes. *Early Years Educator*. 24(9).<https://doi.org/10.12968/eyed.2024.24.9.12>

- **YCP SIG Topic Groups**

The groups of YCP SIG members who want to work together to develop Journal Special Issues, Research Funding, Books, Regional YCP SIG Networks & New Workstreams were announced.

- **Date and focus of next meeting:**

The date of the next meeting was identified and attending members agreed that Dr Lorna Arnott would be invited to give a presentation about the 'Toddlers, Tech and Talk' project.

- **AOB:**

No other business.

- **NEWSLETTER:**

The YCP SIG co-convenors sent a newsletter to members in August 2024, providing updates on YCP SIG members' survey, YCP hybrid meeting on 3.9.2024 in Brighton UK, and online, and the YCP SIG 2024 news padlet, inviting contributions.

(iii) SIG activity planned for the future

- To continue each year with two YCP SIG online meetings in addition to the YCP SIG annual conference meeting Development of the YCP SIG online space within the EECERA website.

- At the time of writing, the next YCP SIG meeting is an online meeting planned for 11.6.2025, to include a presentation from Dr Lorna Arnott from the UKRI ESRC funded 'Toddlers, Tech and Talk' project.
- To finalise chapters and submit the proposal for the next YCP SIG book.
- YCP SIG members who volunteered for workstreams focused on developing Journal Special Issues, Research Funding, Books, Regional YCP SIG Networks & New Workstreams will work on these in their groups.

(iv) Links and networks established with other institutions and organisations

- YCP SIG members have links with OMEP, ISSA and TACTYC and Taylor and Francis.

(iv) How the YCP SIG's activities fit with the aims and ethos of EECERA:

YCP SIG activities focus on...

- Generating critical reflection on children's perspectives and children's rights
- Supporting and encouraging cross-national perspectives on seeking children's perspectives
- Supporting SIG members' research in a collaborative and cooperative manner
- Sharing innovative and reflexive research on children's perspectives and children's rights.

In this way, the YCP SIG...

- Promotes and disseminates multi-disciplinary research on early childhood and its applications to policy and practice
- Seeks to sustain and develop the rich tradition of European early childhood thought in a context of appreciation for other equally rich early childhood traditions and concepts across the World
- Encourages the exploration of new paradigms, methodologies, concepts and applications in the ever-changing context of early childhood studies.
