

Minutes of the P-SIG 6/9/2024, 32nd EECERA Conference “Developing Sustainable Early Childhood Education Systems: Comparisons, Contexts and the Cognoscenti, University of Brighton, UK
Co-conveners: Marianne Fenech, Mary Moloney, Antje Rothe

Theme of P-SIG: This year we focused on Post-Covid workforce initiatives and implications on degree qualified educators, and in the early childhood professionalism and professionalisation - Where is the profession at Post-Covid?

Attendees: 21 Delegates from 12 countries joined the P-SIG

The table shows a matrix summarizing the topics and perspectives emerged from the discussion:

Matrix of discussed topics and emerging perspectives			
Current challenges	System level change	Professional identity	P-Sig – emerging perspectives
Push of supply & De-professionalization Fast track degrees	Holistic change on different level	Professional habitus transformation	Multiprofessional teams need of role definition, professional identity
Tendencies of neoliberalism and Top down, e. g. Teacher registration (e. g. Australia) - Ambivalence of control and status	Bottom up, grass roots & top down need to work together	History of a female profession	third space for connection for reflection on professionalism from different perspective
Vulnerability of education/ ECEC	Professional bodies for a voice to be heard	Focus of ECEC always education AND care	Promoting educators’ voice through various ways
Dependency on government	Peer-mentoring	Code of ethics/code of professionalism	Promoting constructive narratives
Negativity also by media	Being aware of differences of regions in terms of strategies and measures		

New questions raised from the discussion:

What are the values that we want to underpin professionalism?

What identifies EC as a profession in its own right?

How do we help policy makers to create sustainable – to prioritize and move forward?

Next steps:

Following up topics from the discussion and develop presentations and publications on this basis together with the P-SIG-delegates.

[Find recent P-SIG-publications and -presentations on the next page]

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P-SIG related symposium at 32nd Conference:

Fenech, M., Moloney, M. & Rothe, A. (2024). Professionalism from within: Ground-up approaches to early childhood professionalism as a response to post-covid workforce challenges. Symposium 32nd EECERA Conference, Brighton, UK.

Recent publication of P-SIG:

Rothe, A., Moloney, M., Sims, M., Calder, P., Blyth, D., Boyd, W., Doan, L., Dovigo, F., Girlich, S., Georgiadou, S., Kakana, D., Mellon, C., Opazo, M.-J., O’Síoráin, C.-A., Quinn, M., Rogers, M., Silberfeld, C. & Tadeu, B. (2022). Lessons from the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Qualitative Study of Government Policies Relating to the Early Childhood Sector Across Ten Countries. In J. Pattnaik & M. R. Jalongo (Eds.), *The Impact of COVID-19 on Early Childhood Education and Care International Perspectives, Challenges, and Responses* (pp. 67-88). Springer. doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-96977-6