



SIG gender balance news December 2025

Dear colleagues,

We send seasonal greetings and some recent news from the EECERA special interest group Gender. Have a look at upcoming events, plans for the EECERA conference, and new publications and projects.

SIG gender Online Conference in March 2026: *Increasing men's participation in ECEC*

Our next SIG online conference will take place on **Thursday, 5th March 2026, 12.00-15.00 UTC/GMT**. The event focuses on research and projects on male workers in ECEC. *Dr. Serena Haines (Switzerland)* presents results from a PRISMA review and steps to increase men's representation in ECEC. *Prince Lareya (Ghana)* will introduce us to experiences of male ECE teachers in West Africa. Finally, the *MoMEC project* reports results of an international survey from Germany, Ireland, Norway, Türkiye and New York. Furthermore, we will discuss further collaboration and the SIG conference in August in Funchal/Madeira. To register for the event, please see link [SIG Gender Online Seminar March 2026](#).

EECERA conference 2026: Call for papers for SIG symposia, and SIG research conference

The Annual EECERA conference 2026 will take place in Funchal, Madeira/Portugal, 25th-28th August. The Conference theme is "The development of Agency, Participation and Democracy in a Digital Age" which connects well to the SIG Gender's aims and scope. The call for papers is open, and the deadline for abstract submission is 25th February 2026. 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 by the 12th January 2026**, so we may include your paper in a SOS. Just send a mail with title & topic to tim.rohrmann@hawk.de.

On 25th August 2026, 13.00-16.30, we conduct the **14th SIG research conference: *Gender perspectives on agency and participation 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 regarding 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.

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 to be included.

Documentation of past conferences

We document 2025 EECERA and SIG conferences on our [SIG documentation website](#). We have now uploaded the notes from the SIG research conference and the presentations from SIG symposia on the EECERA conference 2025 in Bratislava. Also available are the presentations from the SIG online think tank in March 2025 with a focus on African countries.

New Publications

Our recent publication lists feature research on men in ECEC in China, Ghana, Italy, Saudi Arabia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain and other countries. Have a look: <https://www.eecera.org/sig/gender-balance/> (scroll down to **publications**). We especially recommend the following publications:

- Brody, David; Xu, Yuwei; Emilsen, Kari & Coles, Laetitia (2025). Young Children's Perspectives on Teacher Gender. Contextualizing Gender Stereotypes and Inclusive Practices in Early Childhood Education and Care. London: Routledge.
 - Elkarif, Halah (2025). Social and cultural factors affecting the involvement of male educators in early childhood education: a cross-cultural study. Dissertation. University of Hildesheim, Hildesheim. <https://doi.org/10.25528/291>
 - Pirard, Florence & Razy, Elodie (Hrsg.) (2024). La petite enfance au défi du genre en contexte interculturel : Rapport de recherche. Bruxelles: Office de la Naissance et de l'Enfance/ONE Academy. <https://orbi.uliege.be/handle/2268/329856>
-

Research collaboration

The project ***Mentoring of men in ECEC*** is currently conducting an international overview survey to identify challenges relevant at specific stages of vocational careers. Visit the project's [website](#) to find out more.



The project *Translating gender – A picture book on intersex for children* has presented its first results and is now working on a publication. Here is [the story of how the project came about](#). More about the project to be found [here](#).

Projects on the development of a more diverse work force in Norway, Spain and the United Kingdom have contacted SIG members to include gender perspectives.

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

Merry Christmas or whatever you will celebrate – and our best wishes for 2026!

Tim Rohrmann, Joanne McHale & the SIG team