



## **SIG Gender Balance Report 2022-2024**

### **SIG convenors**

Tim Rohrmann, Germany; Kari Emilsen, Norway, together with *SIG organizing team*: The convenors and David Brody, Israel; Ricardo Goncalves, Sweden; Charlotte Jones, United Kingdom; Birgitte Ljunggren, Norway; Joanne McHale, Ireland; Yuwei Xu, University of Nottingham, UK.

### **Number of SIG members**

20

### **Activities undertaken by the SIG since establishment**

The international network on the issue of men, women, gender balance and diversity in the ECEC work force has continuously supported research and networking in its field since 2012. Please see former SIG reports about activities from 2012-2021.

### **Report on SIG Activities this past year**

*Please include details on: 1. Publications: 2. Symposia at past EECERA conferences 3. Proposed Initiatives 4. Number of members*

The SIG team met regularly online, organized SIG research conferences connected to the Annual EECERA conferences, and SIG online events in between the Annual meetings.

Since 2021, the SIG sends out a more or less regular newsletter which is also published on the SIG website.

#### *1. Publications*

SIG members have been publishing quite actively in National and International journals. For annual lists of publications on SIG issues please see the SIG's website.

#### *2. EECERA Symposia 2022 - 2024*

On the 32<sup>nd</sup> EECERA Conference 2022 in Glasgow, Scotland, the SIG presented three Self Organized Symposia on (1) *Gender, care and power relations in ECEC*, (2) *Gender and play: Perspectives of children, practitioners and researchers*, and (3) *Gender and men's career patterns in ECE*.

On the 33<sup>rd</sup> EECERA Conference in Cascais, Portugal, the SIG presented three Self Organized Symposia on (1) *Men in Early Childhood Education and Care*, (2) *Intercultural perspectives on gender sensitive*



*pedagogy in ECEC, and (3) Children's perspectives of their male and female educators, and supported SIG colleagues in submitting individual presentations and posters.*

For the 34<sup>th</sup> EECERA Conference in Brighton, United Kingdom, the SIG organized three symposia on (1) *Diversities of gender, language and culture in ECEC*, (2) *Gender perspectives on professional identities of ECEC practitioners*, and (3) *Children's perspectives on their teachers*.

### *3. SIG meetings and conferences*

The SIG organized Online conferences in February 2023, featuring recent research from Brazil and Australia, and another one in March 2024 on *Promoting Sustainable Gender Equality, Diversity and Inclusion within Early Childhood Education (ECE)*.

The SIG has also launched an Early Career Researchers Group to connect and support researchers. This group operates as part of the SIG for those who are currently completing their PhD studies or recently completed. The group met three times in 2023.

### *4. Members*

There are no relevant changes in number of members. Beyond EECERA SIG members, the SIG has a huge mailing list including researchers from all over the globe.

### ***How SIG activities fit with aims and ethos of EECERA***

The SIG has developed fascinating cross-national collaborations, with multi-disciplinary research on early childhood and early childhood education. We are a true international group which leads to reflections on native English speakers dominance in research discourses, and the dominance of the "North" over the "South". Moreover, we aim at including perspectives of all stakeholders in the wide field of ECEC in our research, including practitioners, children, and parents.

### ***Networking, future plans and links to other institutions***

An international collaborative research project with a focus on children's perspectives on their teachers was conducted during the past years. Results will be presented on the Annual EECERA conference 2024, and in a forthcoming book.

Recently, the group has begun to discuss a proposal for a joint special issue on issues of gender balance and diversity.