



SIG gender balance newsletter March 2024

Dear colleagues,

here are some recent news from the SIG gender balance. Please notice our call for contributions to the next SIG gender balance conference this September in Brighton!

The **EECERA Gender Balance SIG Think Tank** was held on Thursday 7th March 2024 online on the broad topic of *Sustainable Gender Equality, Diversity and Inclusion within Early Childhood Education* (ECE) with presentations from Rachel Chapman (Melbourne Polytechnic, Australia), Charlotte Jones (University of Warwick, United Kingdom) and Greta Persico (University of Milan, Italy). Please find the notes of the meeting attached. The presentations will be published on the SIG website later this year.

For the **Annual EECERA conference** in September, SIG members has proposed for three Self-organised symposia (SOS) with three papers each which are now in the review process: (1) *Gender perspectives on professional identities of ECEC practitioners*, (2) *Diversities of gender, language and culture in ECEC*, and (3) *Children's perspectives on their teachers*.

If you come to Brighton and present a paper on gender issues which is not part of these three symposia, please let us know. We would try to organize that the symposia are not parallel, and will inform about all papers through our mailing list.

The next **SIG Gender Balance Research conference** will take place on 3rd September 2024 in Brighton. The format usually includes introductions, country and research activities updates followed by a number of themed discussions. **We ask for suggestions and contributions to this conference within the next two weeks.** The organising committee (David Brody, Ricardo Goncalves, Charlotte Jones, Zhuoran Chen, Joanne McHale) will meet 12th of April at 11am GMT. If you want to join the team, you are welcome - please contact Joanne or Tim.

The **Early Career Researcher Group** met three times in 2023. This group operates as part of the SIG for those who are currently completing their PhD studies or recently completed. A next meeting is proposed in late May/early June. Invitations will go to those who are on the ECR mailing list. If anyone not on the list wishes to join, please contact Joanne joanne.mchale@tudublin.ie.

Rachel Chapman, who was guest on the SIG gender balance SIG think tank, has published an interesting book and paper on gender diversity in ECEC, using the term **gender expansion** for the building of pro-diversity spaces and contexts in early childhood education:

- Chapman, R. (2023). Gender Expansion in Early Childhood Education. Building and Supporting Pro-Diversity Spaces. Cham: Springer International Publishing. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-46798-1>
 - Chapman, R. (2022). Moving beyond 'gender-neutral': creating gender expansive environments in early childhood education. *Gender and Education*, 34(1), 1–16. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09540253.2021.1902485>
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Please join the group - and meet us in Brighton in September!

Best regards

Tim Rohrmann & the SIG team