Outdoor Play and Learning Special Interest Group

European Early Childhood Education Research Association (EECERA)

Report 2016-2017

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SIG website: <a href="https://sites.google.com/site/outdoorplaylearning/">https://sites.google.com/site/outdoorplaylearning/</a>

Report on SIG Activities 2016-17.

1. Publications (Selected examples)


2. **Symposia and meetings at EECERA 2017**

At the EECERA conference in Bologna, Italy 6 self-organised symposia from the Outdoor play and Learning SIG, including 18 presentations are going to take place. The SIG meeting for 2017 is going to take place on Tuesday 29th of August between 14-16 at Via Belmeloro, Bologna.

3. **International Handbook of Outdoor Play and Learning**

Most of the SIG’s activity during 2016/17 has been to finalising the work on the SAGE Handbook of Outdoor Play and Learning that will be published in 2017 and launched at the EECERA conference in Bologna. The Handbook is edited by SIG members Ellen Beate Sandseter, Eva Ärlemalm-Hagsér, Libby Lee, Kristi Lekies, Shirley Wyver and Tim Waller and will include over 40 chapters, including a number written by SIG members. The Handbook will contain chapters from authors representing countries from across the world, including Europe, North and South America, Africa, Australasia and Asia-Pacific countries. The book is clearly structured in six separate sections each supported by their own editorial team, as follows:

- Six discrete, but complementary sections
  - i. Theoretical frameworks and conceptual approaches for understanding outdoor play and learning
  - ii. Critical reflections on policy and regulation in outdoor play and learning
  - iii. Children’s engagement with nature, sustainability and children’s geographies
  - iv. Diverse contexts and inclusion in children’s outdoor play environments
  - v. Methodologies for researching outdoor play and learning
  - vi. Links between research and practice

4. **Special issue in the International Journal of Play**

The SIG is offered to organise a special issue of Outdoor play & learning in the International Journal of Play to be published during 2019. The SIG will start to prepare for the work on this issue during the SIG meeting in Bologna 2017.

4. **Professorship/Associated professor**

SIG member and convener, Ellen Beate Hansen Sandseter, received in April 2016 a professorship in Educational Science with focus on Early Childhood Education Research. SIG member and convener, Eva Årlemalm-Hagsér, received in September 2016 a associated professorship in Philosophy of Education with focus on Early Childhood Education Research.

5. **Membership of the SIG**

This year the Outdoor Play and Learning Special Interest Group’s total number of paying members is 21 and 97 associated members (2016-11-09).

6. **Convener’s**

Professor Tim Waller and Dr. Shirley Wyver have decided to resign from the SIG this year. Their work have been outstanding, and we all are going to miss the inspiring and engaged collaborating that we had over all the years.

27 April 2017