



## **SIG Gender Balance Report 2018/2019**

The international network on the issue of men, women and gender balance in the ECEC work force has strengthened its connections and continued its activities in 2018 and 2019.

### **Participants**

*Convenors:* Tim Rohrmann, Germany; Kari Emilsen, Norway

*SIG organizing team:* The convenors and David Brody, Israel; Jo Warin, UK; Yuwei Xu, UK/China.

The SIG group is still growing. It has currently 20 members, 23 associate members (who are not EECERA members) and about 120 more researchers from more than 25 countries on its mailing list, including several from countries outside of Europe.

### **SIG Activities 2018/2019**

8/2018 SIG research conference on *Strategies and realities: approaches to a better gender balance*. Full-day conference connected to the EECERA Annual conference in Budapest, Hungary, with 22 participating researchers from Australia, Israel, South Africa, USA and all over Europe. Participants discussed recent developments and research on gender relations in the ECEC work force. Gender dynamics of mentoring, methodologies in research, and images of male ECEC workers in children's picture books were debated in a mix of small group's work and plenary sessions.

SIG Symposia were held on the EECERA Annual conference with presentations on (1) *Promoting gender diversity und quality in ECEC*, (2) *Male ECEC workers in the views of children, colleagues, and parents*, (3) *Overcoming barriers for male participation in the ECEC work force*. Moreover, SIG colleagues presented in other conference symposia, short talks, and the poster session.

1-5/2019 Planning and organizing of symposia for the EECERA Annual conference in Thessaloniki, 8/2019. Proposals for four self organized symposia were accepted. In vitation to and planning of the next SIG research conference, *From theory to practice: Perspectives for collaboration*. Skype conferences of Organizing team.

The SIG continuously updates its EECERA website and also its website [www.siggender.eu](http://www.siggender.eu), with all presentations from past SIG symposia and conferences available for download.



## Networking and research cooperations

We continued our networking on international level. New colleagues come into the network, including some who already have worked on the issue for a longer time, and others who have started research in related fields. Several colleagues from outside of Europe have joined making it a real global network.

Several members of the SIG continue to work on the issue of gender balance in ECEC in their countries. They exchange ideas and support each other in research projects and also in development of measures and strategies. In some countries, SIG members work together with national and regional administration developing policies and funding projects for a better gender balance in ECEC.

Several SIG members are cooperating in small research projects. In the UK, the project GenderEYE was started in 2018, with SIG members working in the project as well as in an international steering group. Nevertheless, there is still a lack of research in the field of gender balance in ECEC. Research activities, publications and especially applications for international projects are difficult to realize for colleagues working at universities with less support for research activities, and speaking other languages than English.

The *Mens's Career Trajectories* research project is making good progress, and is connecting SIG members from all over the world. Despite the lack of funding, the joint work in the project is an impressive example for international and cross-cultural cooperation. The project proposed for a publication in the T&F EECERA series with David Brody as 1<sup>st</sup> editor. The research group regularly holds online conferences, and will meet again for a research seminar before the Annual EECERA meeting in Thessaloniki in August.

A small group of non-English speaking SIG members and associates met for an English language course of Malta, with a focus on academic writing and presenting, combined with exchange on gender balance research issues. Researchers from non-English speaking countries share the problem that writing in English for international journals often is a difficult and time-consuming task. The workshop was a real highlight, strengthened connections and encouraged our writing.

## Publications

SIG members have been publishing quite actively. Several contributions were published in EECERJ and other journals, or are currently under review. SIG members are part of the editor's teams of an EY special issue which is partly published. Two books on gender balance issues (Warin 2018; Wright & Brownhill 2018) and a cross-cultural PhD study (Xu 2018) were published by SIG members. A list of publications on SIG issues is presented annually on the SIG's website.