

SIG Report

Special Interest Group

Gender Balance

SIG Convenors

Tim Rohrmann, Germany; Kari Emilsen, Norway, together with SIG organizing team: The convenors and David Brody, Israel; Birgitte Ljunggren, Norway; Jo Warin, UK; Yuwei Xu, UK/China.

Number of SIG members

20

Activities undertaken by the SIG since establishment

The international network on the issue of men, women and gender balance in the ECEC work force has continued its activities during 2019 and 2020. Please see former SIG reports about activities from 2012-2019.

Report on SIG Activities this past year

1. Publications

SIG members have been publishing quite actively. SIG members are part of the editor's teams of an EY special issue, published in print in February 2020. For an annual list of publications on SIG issues please see the SIG's website.

2. Conferences

SIG research conference on From theory to practice: Perspectives for collaboration. Full-day conference connected to the EECERA Annual conference in Thessaloniki, Hungary, with 20 participating researchers from Iceland, Ireland, England, Norway, Sweden, Belgium, Germany, Italy, China, Israel, South Africa, the United States, and Jamaica, came to Thessaloniki, with an Australian colleague joining us online. Participants discussed recent developments in European and international policy making regarding men and gender balance in ECEC; connections of gender, bodies, and corporeality; and possibilities for the transfer from research to practice. Finally, we conducted a "research speed dating" as an interesting and inspiring approach to connect to other researchers.

On the EECERA Annual conference, four SIG Symposia were held on (1) Career trajectories of men in ECEC, (2) Strategies for a better gender balance in ECEC, (3) Motivations of men entering into and dropping out of ECE work and training, and (4) Challenging gender stereotypes in ECEC. Some SIG colleagues presented in other conference symposia.

For 2020, we are planning and organizing of four self organized symposia for the EECERA Annual conference in Zagreb.

Finally, the invitation to and planning of the next SIG research conference is under way.

3. Proposed initiatives

See below, "Networking , future plans and links..."

4. Members

The SIG group is still growing. It has currently 20 members, 24 associate members (who are not EECERA members) and about 150 more researchers from more than 25 countries on its mailing list - around 30 were added in 2019. We recognize a growing interest in the issue worldwide, with several new entries from countries outside of Europe.

How SIG activities fit with aims and ethos of EECERA

They do ;-).

Networking, future plans and links to other institutions

5. Networking and research projects

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 are 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, as well as in the development of measures and strategies. In some countries, SIG members work together with national and regional administrations developing policies and funding projects for a better gender balance in ECEC.

Several SIG members are cooperating in small research and practice projects. In the UK, the project GenderEYE continues its work, with SIG members working in the project as well as in an international steering group. Three SIG members from Germany, Sweden, and the UK conduct a project on Cross-cultural reflexivity and gender-sensitive teacher training in ECEC, funded by BAICE.

The Men's Career Trajectories project finished its research, and the final report will be published in the T&F EECERA series in autumn 2020, with David Brody as 1st editor. The research group met for a research conference connected to the Annual EECERA meeting in Thessaloniki in august 2019, and regularly held online conferences. The joint work in the project is an impressive example for international and cross-cultural cooperation. Many SIG members were part of this project, and they intend to work together on new projects.

Unfortunately, a proposal for a NESET II project on Recent developments in policies for gender balance in the ECEC work force - a comparison of national strategies received positive response in the first round, but was finally not accepted. In general, 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.

6. Regular updates

The SIG continuously updates its EECERA website and its website www.siggender.eu, with all presentations from past SIG symposia and conferences available for download.

- I have read the privacy policy and agree