NOMINATION FOR THE EECERA BOARD OF TRUSTEES:
DR. LORNA ARNOTT

Proposer: Dr. Ioanna Palaiologou

Seconder: Prof. Marilyn Fleer

I wish to be considered for the EECERA Board of Trustees this year. EECERA was one of the first conferences I attended as a PhD student, where I received such a warm welcome from established, world-class academics. It did not matter that I was just starting out on my research journey, no matter what my status, EECERA provided a home for me as an Early Childhood Researcher. Since that first meeting in Strasbourg, nearly a decade ago I have continued to feel like a valued member of the EECERA community. It has given me the opportunity to develop a network of world-leading international scholars, and more than that, it has allowed me to develop researcher partners and collaborators. As I was starting my academic career, EECERA was the forum where my work was known and recognised. Subsequently, at EECERA I was asked to contribute a chapter in an edited book, approached by SAGE to edit my own book and met journal editors and colleagues who were willing to guide me as a critical friend in academic writing to successfully publish my first peer-reviewed article. Furthermore, it was at EECERA that I was given the scope to develop a new Special Interest Group on Digital Childhoods. I am proud of my achievements, but without the opportunities for collaboration and discussion provided at EECERA, I would not be an academic today. As EECERA has offered me so much I would like to put myself forward for the Board of Trustees so I can contribute with energy and enthusiasm to the supportive ethos of the Association and support others the way I was supported. I would value your vote in this election.

BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

I am a Lecturer in Early Childhood Education at the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, Scotland and I am the Assistant Editor of the International Journal of Early Years Education (Taylor and Francis).

Researching Digital Childhoods: I completed my PhD in 2011 under the guidance of Dr Christine Stephen and Prof Lydia Plowman at the University of Stirling where I first studied young children's social play with technologies in Scottish nurseries. Since then my focus on digital childhoods has remained and I recently guest edited, alongside Ioanna Palaiologou and Colette Gray, a Special Issue for the British Journal of Educational Technology on *Digital devices, internet-enabled toys and digital games: The changing nature of young children's learning ecologies, experiences and pedagogies* due for publication on 1st September 2018. In 2017, I also published an edited SAGE Ltd. book with title: *Digital Technology and Learning in the Early Years*. During these two projects, I had the great privilege of working with academics who are paving the way for research about technologies in early childhood life and learning. It is this passion to understand children's digital lives that led to me co-founding the *EECERA Digital Childhoods SIG*. This SIG has gone from strength to strength over the last four years and in 2019, SIG members are working collaborative to apply for Erasmus+ Funding and Horizon 2020 RISE funding exploring children's use of the Internet of Toys (IoToys).

Innovative methods for consultation with children: Alongside my interest in technologies in early childhood, I have an earnest interest in innovative consultation methods with young children and all associated themes that go along with that; issue of children's rights and informed consent/assent; visual methods and play-based methodologies; definitions of voice; ethics and power dynamics. I am there-

fore a member of the Look Who's Talking Project at the University of Strathclyde, which is an international network of scholars and practitioners seeking to debated and publish work relating to Voice in early childhood. This led to my inclusion as Scotland Country Coordinator, in a 5-country research project using arts-based methods to elicit children's ideas, led by Elisabetta Biffi.

Brief Track Record: Across these projects I have published 6 peer-reviewed articles (plus 4 articles currently under review); 6 book chapters (plus 2 under review); an edited book; and a commissioned report. I am due to guest edit an edition of Global Studies of Childhood on *Digital and Multimodal Childhood : Explorations of spaces and places from pedagogy and practice* in 2019. Discussions have also been proposed to submit a proposal to guest edit an edition of EECERJ as part of the Digital Childhoods SIG which I will co-edit with members, if the proposal is accepted. I will also write a chapter in an upcoming EECERA book series, edited by Zenna Kingdon on Role Play and Technology.

MY POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTION

I consider myself to be a strong candidate for the EECERA Board of Trustees. If I am to be elected I would like to support the EECERA community in the following ways.

1. **Supporting scholars at the beginning stages in their career to succeed in the Early Childhood research community.**

   I was the first in my family to go to University. I was not your typical PhD candidate and I would not say I am a natural writer or academic; I have to work hard to hone my skills which at times does not come easily. My imposter syndrome is strong. Yet I have a passion for learning, for research and for scholarly contributions. It is for that reason, that I am eternally grateful for the opportunities afforded me through the EECERA network. As a Trustee member, I would see it as my role to advocate for those academics who need support to succeed. I would like to ensure that EECERA always remains that welcoming Association and conference, which can provide opportunities without compromising on quality.

2. **Growing the EECERA brand internationally.**

   In a digital landscape it is important to create impact. As an active Twitter user, I would see it as my responsibility as a Trustee member to promote the work of the Association across social media platforms. I also envisage possible connections across Associations. For example I see potential for a sister Digital Childhoods SIG at BECERA. I would see it as my role to explore and advocate for this possibly and entrust the responsibility of running the sister SIG to an up and coming academic to provide a platform for their research development. Once the platform was in place, this model could be rolled out across SIGs if other SIG members were interested. These types of connections make it possible to grow the organization and increase the impact of our work as well as the quality and experience of the pool of scholars coming into the field.

3. **Contribute to the development of future conferences**

   As a Trustee member it would be vital to collaborate in pan-European partnerships to support those hosting the EECERA Conference in future and promote the Association on a whole. I would value the opportunity to showcase Scotland's expertise in the field of Early Childhood Education and if the opportunity arose, it would be my honour to host the Congress in my home town.

These are simply a few ways that I may contribute to the Association, there are of course many more ways that I could offer my support. I value this opportunity to engage more fully with the Association which has provided the platform that has propelled my research in an inclusive and supportive manner. I wish to be in a position to support others in a similar way. Please do consider giving me your vote for election to the Board of Trustee and I will do my best to support members of the EECERA community and beyond.

Thank you for your consideration and warmest wishes.

Dr. Lorna Arnott.

Publications

- Arnott, L., Palaiologou, I., & Gray, C. (in press). The changing nature of early childhood learning ecologies, experiences and pedagogies in a digital era. *British Journal of Educational Technology*.
- Arnott, L, Levine, J. & Shanks, G (In Press) Open-world games: An exploration of creative play, IN Palaiologou, I. & Gray, C. (Eds) Digital Practices in Early Childhood: An International Perspective, London: Sage.
- Arnott, L. (in press). An ecological exploration of young children's digital play: framing children's social experiences with technologies in early childhood. In C. Stephen (Ed.), *Digital Play and Technologies in the Early Years* Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group.
- Arnott, L. (2018). Children's negotiation tactics and socio-emotional self-regulation in child-led play experiences: the influence of the preschool pedagogic culture. Early Child Development and Care. DOI: 10.1080/03004430.2018.1443919
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- Arnott, L., Duncan, P. & Grogan, D. (2017) Creative and Dramatic Play with Technologies IN Arnott, L. (Eds) Digital Technologies and Learning in the Early Years, London. Sage
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- Arnott, L (2013) "Are we allowed to blink?" Children's leadership and ownership in mediating interactions around technologies in early years playrooms. International Journal of Early Years Education, 21(1), 97-115. doi: 10.1080/09669760.2013.772049