

## ELENI LOIZOU MANIFESTO

Dear Dr Pascal (President of the EECERA Board of Trustees),

I am writing to let you know that I am interested in applying for the position for the EECERA Board of Trustees. My name is Eleni Loizou and I am an Associate Professor at the University of Cyprus (UCY) in the Department of Education. I am the director of the Early Childhood Research Lab at the UCY. I have been teaching at the Department of Education for 15 years and have been responsible for the revision and creation of different undergraduate and graduate courses. I have participated in different research projects with connections in Europe and the USA and have always been promoting early years' quality, for children and teachers. Specifically, my research focuses on young children's humor, play, early childhood curriculum, infant-toddler development and practice, and early childhood teacher education.

I am a member of the European Early Childhood Education Research Association (EECERA) since I returned to Cyprus from my studies in the USA (2004) and consider EECERA as my academic family. I am also a country co-ordinator, a reviewer for the EECERA journal and have at different times published my work in the journal. Also I have been a member of the Board of Trustees. In the past three years that I have been a member I effectively participated in all of our planned meetings and worked hard to support the goals of the organisation. I have reviewed articles for the journal, prepared editorials for different issues and led on the development of a special issue on participatory pedagogies which was widely acknowledged as an important piece of work. I have also participated in the scientific committee of the annual conference reviewing a number of proposals and in different SIG groups supporting the development of different reports (e.g. Position paper of Rethinking play SIG). In the last meeting of the Board of Trustees I have been unanimously voted as the Co-coordinator of Special Issues and I look forward in taking up this role.

I am also a member of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the American Educational Research Association (AERA), and the International Society for Humor Studies (ISHS) and a reviewer in different early childhood and education journals. I am devoted to the field of Early Childhood Education and I am really interested in contributing further to the association's goals. I acknowledge the importance of scientific research in the field and the dissemination of this work in supporting early years' teachers. As a teacher educator I aim to have my research enrich teacher education. An example of this is my current plan to prepare an edited book proposal with Dr. Trawick-Smith on Teacher Education for a Play Pedagogy: Teaching early years teachers to play for the EECERA Praxeological Series. I strongly believe that we need to support children, families and early years' educators with our research work while considering the political and societal changes of our communities.

My experience at the Department of Education at the University of Cyprus for the past 15 years has provided me with multiple opportunities and challenges to develop the skills to promote Early Childhood Education within a "reserved" community. Especially, with my constant support to the Ministry of Education and Culture in promoting the revised early childhood curriculum which supports play pedagogy. I believe that I have the experience and skills to support and contribute to the EECERA organisation in terms of research, practice and policy.

For the support of my candidacy I nominate as a 'Proposer' Dr. Joao Formosinho, Professor at Catholic University of Portugal and as a 'Seconder' Dr. Nancy Barbour, Professor, at James Madison University, USA.

Eleni Loizou, Ed.D.

Associate Professor- University of Cyprus