

## **President's report for council 2017-2018**

### **Introduction**

This report is my last as EERA president. It has been a great pleasure for me to be an EERA office holder, first as treasurer and then as president-elect and president. It has given me a lot of enjoyment both personally and professionally. I made new friends (and probably some enemies too) and my involvement in EERA gave me the opportunity to learn understand Europe much better. The report below is the same that was published in the ECER 2018 program book. I would like to add, as a formality that as president, ex officio, I chaired the ECER scientific program committee and participated in many activities such as the network seminar, the review journal board, the EERJ editorial board, the board of the EERA book series, the European Alliance for Social Sciences and Humanities and the Initiative for Science in Europe.

All of what has been accomplished in the last year was really a group achievement. In everything I collaborated closely with Maria P. Figueiredo (secretary general), Herbert Altrichter (treasurer), Jani Ursin (network representative), Joe O'Hara (president elect) and Angelika Wegscheider, Daniela Preis and Doretta Dow (office).

### **ECER 2018**

We would like to thank Free University Bolzano and the Società Italiana di Pedagogia (SIPED) for planning the EERA conference from September 03-07. The theme was "Inclusion and Exclusion, Resources for Educational Research?". ECER 2018 attracted more than 2800 participants from 71 countries and ran 870 sessions, including 58 joint and 15 EERA sessions and also offered a social event. The Emerging Researchers Conference had 365 registered participants, 2/3 of them also participated in ECER.

ECER 2018 continued the program extension from ECER 2017 by including a series of capacity building workshops.

### **ECER and the Environment**

Since 2015 EERA has been working on lowering the environmental impact of the conference. Participants have the possibility to opt out of receiving a printed conference programme for ECER. In 2018 again about 53 % of the delegates decided to take advantage of this resource-saving option and use the conference app or the online program which, as opposed to the printed program, are updated regularly. EERA is also working closely with the local organizers to reduce waste and packaging, for example with regard to the coffee breaks, social events and lunches. With the support of the local organisers of ECER 2018 and their effort to use local products, recycled paper, renewable energy and an initiative to ban plastic bottles it was possible to receive a "Going Green" certificate of the Alto Adige region. For the bamboo coffee mugs, substituting plastic cups, sponsorship was attracted. EERA continued the partnership with "MyClimate", a Swiss non-profit organisation engaged internationally in climate education and awareness to support climate protection projects. Conference participants are invited to calculate and offset the CO2 emissions of their travel by donating towards the climate protection projects of "myclimate": <https://www.myclimate.org>. A pilot on using electronic posters instead of printed ones runs in one of the EERA networks.

### **Upcoming ECERs**

ECER 2019 will take place in Hamburg, Germany from September 2 – 6, 2019. The conference theme is "Education in an Era of Risk – the Role of Educational Research for the Future". The number of keynote speakers has been increased to six because of the growing attendance numbers in ECER, and in order to broaden the perspectives offered during the keynotes. More information on the submission process and the conference venue of ECER 2019 will soon be available on the EERA website. In 2020 ECER will travel to Glasgow in Scotland.

### **Honorary network members**

Since 2013 networks have the possibility to suggest "Honorary Network Members" in order to value the contributions of a convenor in the context of a network's history. Honorary Network Membership is granted by EERA Council based on suggestions put forward by EERA networks. Since ECER 2017 the following esteemed researchers were invited to Honorary Network Membership:

- Wilfried Bos (Network 9. Assessment, Evaluation, Testing and Measurement)
- Ian Grosvenor (Network 17. Histories of Education)
- Frank Simon (Network 17. Histories of Education)
- Samuel Gento (Network 11. Educational Improvement and Quality Assurance)
- Jan van den Akker (Network 3. Curriculum Innovation)
- Johanna Lahja Lasonen (Network 2. Vocational Education and Training)

### **Emerging Researchers' Group**

EERA is committed to the next generation of educational researchers and therefore hosts and supports the Emerging Researchers Group (ERG). Activities of this group include the two day conference before ECER, a bursary system and paper awards. EERA also organises season schools for emerging researchers' professional development. The Emerging Researchers' Group is coordinated by the link convenor Saneeya Qureshi. Saneeya Qureshi is also representing EERAs Emerging Researchers' Group in the Doctoral and Early Career Network (DEC) of the World Education Research Association (WERA). Following an initiative of the ERG Link Convenor, the local organisers of ECER 2018 organised lunch time meetings between emerging researchers and local researchers, so as to enable links and exchange with the hosting research community. A senior mentor supports the ERG and the link convenor Council elected Satu Perälä-Littunen, University of Jyväskylä, Finland as Senior Mentor Elect, shadowing the current Senior Mentor George Head and to assume office in 2019.

### **EERA Season School**

EERA Council initiated in 2010 a summer school for emerging researchers. The ninth edition in 2018 focused on educational methodology and was entitled "Qualitative and Mixed Methods Research Designs: From Designing to Publishing". The course was held on 9 - 13 July 2018 at Masaryk University, Brno, in Czechia. 64 PhD students from 23 countries participated in the 2018 school.

### **EERA Networks**

EERA currently hosts 32 networks that are the academic organising bodies of the reviewing and programme planning processes for ECERs. Their link convenors meet annually in Spring in order to discuss network overarching issues. In April 2018 EERA network link convenors met in Berlin and discussed among others the internal development of each network with questions such as: What are the building blocks of a network? What are the main challenges for networks in the future? Furthermore, strategies for communication with the outside world were reviewed.

The recently founded EERA network on Gender and Education saw a very successful start at ECER 2018 by attracting about 50 submissions and offering a conference programme with joint sessions in cooperation with other networks.

### **Further Network Activities**

Most networks have established their own websites and some run mailing lists. In order to find out more, please consult the EERA website at <[www.eera-ecer.de/networks/](http://www.eera-ecer.de/networks/)>. Some EERA Networks have, supported by EERA funding, successfully organised additional events or projects in the past year.

#### NW 17 - History in Education: Summer School

The Histories in Education Network held its ninth summer school for Postgraduate Students in 2018. The summer school took place at the University of Latvia, Riga, 7–10 June 2018. The summer school was funded by Stitching Paedagogica Historica and the History of Education Society, UK. The project was also supported by EERA and the International Standing Conference for the History of Education (ISCHE).

#### NW 04 - Inclusive Education: Pre-conference

Supported by EERA, NW 04, Inclusive Education, hosted an international seminar: 'Enhancing teacher education for inclusion in Europe: current challenges and future directions' in conjunction with ECER 2018. This free seminar promoted communication among researchers in the field, as well as improved collaboration between emerging researchers and leading European academics working on the seminar's topic. As an outcome of this event, further dissemination is planned through publication.

#### NW 02 – VETNET: Introducing ePosters and Hybrid Presentations

Also linked to ECER 2018 and funded by EERA, VETNET initiated an introduction of ePosters and hybrid presentations for ECER. The project aimed at developing an integrative digital toolset with which traditional posters and presentations can be enriched with 'digital handouts' that enable presentation of digital documents, specific web resources and interaction between authors and audience during the ECER and after it.

#### NW 14- Communities, Families, and Schooling in Educational Research: An international publication

The aim of this project was to achieve the collation of a book (Educational research and schooling in rural Europe: An engagement with changing patterns of education, space and place) written by

authors brought together through EERA network 14. It is a pan European book which includes a group of authors from Eastern Europe. The funding from the EERA network project fund has enabled the provision of technical editorial support for scholars from low GDP countries who are new to publishing in English and do not have access to high quality editorial and manuscript production services.

#### NW18 – Research in Sport Pedagogy: Specialist Symposium

NW 18 offered a “Specialist Symposium on Values, Voice and Ethics in Educational Research” in October 2017 in Padua. The two-day event was co-organised with AIESEP (International Association for Physical Education in Higher Education) and encouraged both experienced academics and early career researchers to come together and discuss issues relating to values, voice and ethics within educational research.

#### NW 19 – Ethnography and Education: Winter School

From 12 – 14 December 2018 NW 19 invites to a winter school in Barcelona, with the theme “Ethnography unbound: Responding to late modernity's motilities and challenges”. It welcomes applications from postgraduate students and early career researchers in the field of Education with an interest in broadening their perspective on social and educational problems and ethnographic research.

#### NW 24 - Mathematic Education: Spring School

March 2018 saw the second edition of the spring school on “Mixed Methods in Mathematics and Science Education Research (STEM)”, bringing together PhD students from around Europe to a two days course in Barcelona. The theme of this season school was discussing quantitative and qualitative methods in educational research to increase the rigour, reliability and excellence of the research conducted within this field.

#### NW 29 - Arts Education: Season School

The season school “Arts-based research: how do the artistic and the educational entangle?” brings together early career and experienced educational researchers in Guimarães in Portugal. Activities led by mentors and others by early career researchers, combined with reviewing sessions are organized to identify, share and discuss possibilities of the entanglement of artistic and educational practices.

#### NW 31 - Language and Education: Project & Seminar

One of the aims of the NW 32- Language and Education is to determine priorities in research which might help in designing cross-European research activities. Furthermore, capacity building has so far not been a central aim within the network's activities. The project “Determining Research Priorities in Language Education across Europe” aims to address both needs. Convenors and active network participants in six European countries will conduct a Delphi survey as a means to investigate pressing research needs in the areas of language education. This activity will also raise emergent researchers' awareness of the possibilities of this relatively under-explored research method.

More information on the upcoming events in 2019 and beyond can be obtained from the EERA website.

### **Publications**

EERA Council and EERA networks have in the past years worked on developing and strengthening EERA's publication strategy. Several publication projects are being executed in order to either strengthen ties between networks and selected journals (see below under networks and journals) or to fill what is conceived as a gap in the publication landscape. A first result is the contract with Sage on publishing a European research methods textbook in early 2019.

Secondly, a group of potential editors has prepared a proposal for a European educational review journal. This proposal got positive reviews and EERA is now negotiating with the publisher on a contract.

A group of series editors has developed a proposal for the publication of a book series based on the work of EERA members and ECER participants. The proposal for the series and proposals for the first books to come out within the series have been positively reviewed and contract negotiations are to be finished soon.

### **EERJ – European Educational Research Journal**

Since 2015, the EERJ is published by SAGE and the number of issues per year was increased from 4 to 6. As of 2016 free access to EERJ is possible for all members of any of EERA's member associations. EERA member associations can either arrange access for their members via a login at their websites or via creating individual logins for their members at the SAGE website. If you have not been contacted by your national association on how to obtain the free access to EERJ, please be in touch with your member association. EERJ considers the five best papers in the ERG best paper award competition for publication. For more information see: <http://www.eera-ecer.de/eerj-eeras-journal/>

### **Studia Paedagogica**

EERA's Emerging Researchers Group and the editorial board of "Studia Paedagogica" are cooperating in the publication of high-quality papers given at the Emerging Researchers' Conferences. Papers to be published are selected from those handed in and reviewed for the Best Paper Award, thereby also enhancing the profile of the award as more submissions find their way to publications.

### **Networks and journals**

Network 02, VETNET, runs an open access Journal for Research in Vocational Education and Training. For more information see: <http://www.ijrvet.net/>

NW 08, "Research on Health Education" is cooperating with Emerald's "Health Education" Journal.

NW 11, "Educational Improvement and Quality Assurance" cooperates with Emerald's "Quality Assurance in Education"

NW 18 "Research in Sport Pedagogy is cooperating with "Cultura Ciencia Deporte", UCAM

Some of the EERA networks invite journal editors to do a "Journal Meet & Greet" during ECER 2018, which will contribute to strengthening ties between networks and journals and should help ECER participants to submit their papers to relevant journals.

### **External Relations**

#### **EASSH (European Alliance on Social Sciences and Humanities) and ISE (Initiative for Science in Europe)**

EERA participates in EASSH, the European Alliance on Social Sciences and Humanities and ISE (Initiative for Science in Europe). Both organisations work on influencing European funding policies, ISE from the perspective of all sciences and EASSH specifically with an emphasis on social sciences and humanities. EASSH, of which EERA is one of the founding members, has been quite active in evaluating the position of SSH in Horizon 2020 and in setting the stage for the next generation of European research funding: Horizon Europe.

Within and linked to these activities EERA responded to the High Level Group recommendations in Lab-Fab-App and the EASSH position paper "FP9 must invest in Research for a Democratic Union". Furthermore EERA endorsed and supported several position papers e.g. the Manifesto on a "Multiannual Financial Framework for Research & Innovation", "A People's Union research challenge in the 9th Framework Programme", the LLLPs position paper on the "Future of Learning" and the Open Letter "EU copyright reform threatens Open Access and Open Science".

#### **WERA (World Educational Research Association)**

For the last few years EERA, as a founding member, has participated in the World Educational Research Association, among others via the New York General Assembly in Spring 2018, where both the president and the president elect participated. WERA regularly hosts a symposium during ECER; the 2018 edition focuses on "Inclusion and Exclusion at the Heart of Global Perspectives on Teacher Resilience". For more information on WERA, see <http://www.weraonline.org>.

### **EERA Communication**

EERA can be found on Twitter (#ECER\_EERA) and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/EERA-European-Educational-Research-Association-124579990968775/>). The Emerging Researchers Group can be followed on LinkedIn. This year the website has been relaunched in order to keep it up to date with developments in EERA and web possibilities.

The EERA website has completely been redesigned both in terms of content and look and feel. After the first video on EERA that was completed in 2017 work has started on other video's about Council, Networks, ECER and the ERG.

### **EERA Officers**

The EERA executive committee has from ECER 2017 onwards been joined by Joe O'Hara in his role as President Elect. Joe O'Hara, Dublin City University, Ireland, will start his term as president of EERA

after ECER in September 2018. From ECER 2018 onwards Petra Grell, TU Darmstadt, Germany is shadowing Jani Ursin in her role as Network Representative Elect on Council.

### **EERA Membership**

Since a couple of years EERA has applied a more proactive strategy in approaching a number of researcher groups/universities in countries with no national association in order to find out if they are interested in building an association and joining EERA. This has led to a list of successful new co-operations. In March 2018, EERA Council has accepted four new associations as full EERA members. The Romanian Educational Research Association (ARCE), the Malta Educational Research Association (MERA), the Education Research Centre Armenia (ERAC) and the Russian Education Research Association (RERA) successfully made their case for full EERA membership after several years as EERA candidate members. Interest has been shown in 2018 by Georgia and Latvia and the September council meeting will see an application for candidate membership from Bulgaria.

This year the EERA president travelled to Yerevan for the annual conference of the Education Research Centre Armenia and to discuss Armenian full membership of EERA.

### **EERA Council**

In the past year EERA executives and council devoted their time among many other things to enhancing information for ECER organisers and restructuring EERA's general regulations (including for example network-council communication and evaluation of network funding). Council especially discussed how to evaluate ECER and the academic outcome and how to further support academics from low GDP (Gross Domestic Product) countries. Discussions are still going on, but a plan for an academic writing workshop, which will be offered linked to national conferences, has been developed. Council decided to offer on the new website an overview of all past officers in order to acknowledge their contribution to EERA. In March a first brainstorm on the future EERA strategy was held.

Theo Wubbels

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