

Annual Report of the President to EERA Council (2018-2019)

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Introduction

It is a great pleasure to deliver my first annual report as President of EERA. The last 12 months have been a rewarding time for EERA in many respects. We continued to focus on and deliver those activities that are at the core of our mission: a successful conference, an inspiring EERA Summer School and a wide range of network activities. EERA was also able to innovate and extend its annual programme by offering Academic Writing Workshops, facilitating the launch of a Research Methods book, initiating a new book series in partnership with Springer and collectively celebrating with our colleagues in our journal EERJ their acceptance by the SSCI. It is important to note that none of these activities could have been completed without the active support of our partners, members, networks, and of course our Office.

ECER 2019

We would like to thank Universität Hamburg and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Erziehungswissenschaft (DGfE) for planning ECER 2019, 02-06 September. This year's theme is "Education in an Era of Risk – the Role of Educational Research for the Future". ECER and ERC 2019 expect about 3000 participants from almost 80 countries and will host 990 sessions, including 24 joint and 20 EERA sessions. The Emerging Researchers' Conference counts 350 registered participants, 230 of them also are registered in ECER.

Since ECER 2017, the ECER programme has continued to grow by including a series of capacity building workshops, largely but not exclusively organised via the EERA networks.

2019 is the first year that ECER will offer 6 keynote speakers, allowing the conference to address a wider range of topics and to generate a broader basis for the conference discussions.

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 2019 approximately 70 % of the delegates decided to take advantage of this resource-saving option. Instead of the printed programme, they chose to use the conference app or the online program which, unlike the printed programme, will be updated regularly. 70% is the highest

percentage since EERA introduced this option. EERA also worked closely with the local organisers to reduce waste and packaging, for example with regard to the coffee breaks, social events and lunches.

We would like to thank the local organisers of EERA 2019, who supported these initiatives with educational activities prepared and led by students. During one sustainability activity, for example, ECER delegates will be helped to construct insect hotels and seed bombs while being given insights into the dangers of insect depopulation and related environmental challenges. The Local Organisers also successfully attracted additional funding for bamboo coffee mugs, substituting plastic cups and water dispensers, helping to reduce the numbers of 'single use' plastic bottles. EERA is continuing 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>.

Upcoming ECERs

ECER 2020 will take place in Glasgow 24 – 28 August 2020. The conference theme is "Educational Research (Re)connecting Communities". In keeping with our recent initiative we have chosen to keep the number of keynote speakers at six. More information on the submission process and the conference venue of ECER 2020 will soon be available on the EERA website.

ECER 2021 will be held at the University of Geneva (Switzerland) (UNIGE). Just like the city of Geneva itself, the university enjoys a strong international reputation, both for the quality of its research and the excellence of its education.

In 2022 we are excited to bring the conference to Yerevan, Armenia. Not only is Yerevan a beautiful city, but going "east" with the event is a signal and an invitation to researchers from eastern parts of Europe who for many reasons cannot access ECER as easily as central European colleagues. It also acknowledges the significant expansion that EERA has undergone in recent years and provides an opportunity for one of our more recent members to bring its rich educational research tradition to the wider EERA family.

Honorary network members

In 2013 EERA initiated a process whereby networks could propose "Honorary Network Members". This was instituted in order to allow networks to value the contributions of a convenor in the context of their collective history. Honorary Network Membership is granted by EERA Council based on recommendations put forward by EERA networks. Following nominations at ECER 2018, the following esteemed researchers were awarded Honorary Network Membership:

Awarded 2019

Meinert Meyer | 27. Didactics - Learning and Teaching

Helene Ärlestig | 26. Educational Leadership

Bob Jeffrey | 19. Ethnography

Birgit Pepin | 24. Mathematics Education Research

Ton Mooij | 16. ICT in Education and Training

Joyce Goodman | 17. Histories of Education

EERA's happiness at having a chance to formally recognise the contribution of these notable researchers was tempered by the passing of Prof Meinert Meyer. Prof Meyer was a pivotal figure in the development of NW 27 and his passing was a shock not only to the network but to the wider EERA family. We would like to offer our sincerest sympathies to his family, friends and colleagues.

Emerging Researchers' Group

EERA is committed to the next generation of educational researchers and therefore hosts and supports the Emerging Researchers Group (ERG). The activities of this group include the two day Emerging Researchers Conference (ERC) that immediately precedes ECER, a bursary system and academic paper and poster awards. EERA also organises season schools to facilitate and support the professional development of this critically important group. The Emerging Researchers' Group is coordinated by the link convenor Saneeya Qureshi. She also represents EERA's 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 2019 organised two lunch time events where emerging researchers could meet with local researchers and colleagues from EERA networks. This was organised to enable the creation of links and to facilitate exchanges with the hosting research community as well as ease the transition from membership of the Emerging Researchers Group to EERA networks. A senior mentor supports the ERG and from ECER 2019 Satu Perälä-Littunen from University of Jyväskylä, Finland will follow the current Senior Mentor George Head.

EERA Summer School

In 2010 the EERA Council initiated a summer school for emerging researchers. The tenth edition in 2019 focused on educational methodology and was entitled 'Quantitative and Mixed Methods Research Designs: From Designing to Publishing'. The course was held in July 2019 at Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic. 63 PhD and Doctoral students from 22 countries participated in the 2019 school.

Academic Writing Workshops

2019 saw the successful start of the EERA Academic Writing Workshops, which address one of the major challenges facing educational researchers from non-English speaking countries - the requirement to publish their research in English. EERA is acutely aware of the pressures that this places on researchers in our member associations and as a result, EERA members proposed that the Association develop and pilot an Academic Writing Workshop. Supported by EERA, member-associations can offer an academic writing workshop titled "The Essential Guide to Publishing Peer Reviewed Articles" which is facilitated by EERA experts. The workshops have already taken place at three European Universities: in Lithuania, Hungary and Italy. During the one day workshop, participants explore a wide range of topics designed to help them develop writing, editing and re-writing skills in English as well as gain knowledge about journal publication processes. The Academic Writing Workshops are aimed at capacity building and thereby clearly support the central mission of EERA.

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 overarching network issues as well as EERA policies and contribute to Council discussions on EERA strategy. In April 2019 EERA network link convenors met in Berlin and discussed how EERA could further support the networks, how EERA could respond to challenges and opportunities of open access publishing and how EERA could develop ways to further scholarly exchange via a range of new platforms including the development of an EERA blog.

I am proud to confirm that the networks and the Council's discussions have resulted in the organisation of several sessions and activities during ECER 2019 and will also lead to the launch of an EERA blog in the very near future.

Further Network Activities from September 2018 to August 2019

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/>. Some EERA Networks have successfully organised additional events or projects in the past year which were supported by EERA. These include:

NW 17 - History in Education: Summer School

The Histories in Education Network held its tenth summer school for Postgraduate Students in 2019. The summer school took place at the Liverpool John Moores University from 13–16 June 2019. The summer school was funded by Stitching Paedagogica Historica and the History of Education Society, UK. The project was also by the International Standing Conference for the History of Education (ISCHE).

NW 19 – Ethnography: Season School “Ethnography unbound: Responding to late modernity's mobilities and challenges”

NW 19 held a winter school in Barcelona in December 2018. “Ethnography unbound: Responding to late modernity's motilities and challenges” welcomed 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 10 – Teacher Education

NW 10 organised a Writing Retreat in parallel to the 2019 Emerging Researchers Conference.

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

Publications

The past few months have been particularly rewarding with respect to EERA publication. The European Educational Research Journal (EERJ), the long- standing flagship journal of EERA was accepted in SSCI in July 2019. We see this as clear sign of the high-quality work of the editorial team and are indebted to the lead editors Eric Mangez and Maarten Simons for their efforts and contributions to the development of the journal

EERJ

EERJ has been published by SAGE since 2015 and publishes 6 issues per annum. As of 2016, free access to EERJ is available for all members of EERA's member associations. EERA member associations can either arrange access for their members via a login on their websites or via the creation of individual logins for their members at the SAGE website. If you have not been contacted by your national association about how to obtain the free access to EERJ, please get in touch with your member association. Every year, EERJ considers the five best papers in the Emerging Researcher Best Paper Award competition for publication. For more information see: <http://www.eera-ecer.de/eeerj-eeras-journal/>

Books

In addition, during ECER 2019 EERA launched the book “Doing Educational Research”, a publication which explores educational research from a wide range of perspectives. It emerged as a result of requests from participants at EERA's summer schools and as such should have particular relevance for emerging and early career researchers – although it is targeted at the broad community of educational researchers. The book brings a unique European voice to the discussion around research and research methods and draws on the collective experience and knowledge of EERA networks which were responsible for the writing and editing of the publication.

In other important publishing news, EERA also recently agreed to a partnership with Springer Nature to produce the series “Transdisciplinary perspectives in educational research” . This partnership will see the publication of a minimum of 3 books per year and it aims at offering

networks the possibility to publish research that draws on their collective disciplinary and professional expertise.

Publication Partnerships

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 publication.

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 invited journal editors to offer a "Journal Meet & Greet" during ECER 2019 to strengthen ties between networks and journals and 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 is an active member of 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 focusing on social sciences and humanities. EASSH, of which EERA is one of the founding members, engaged in an active lobbying campaign to enhance the position of SSH in the new European funding programme, Horizon Europe and EERA participated in this process at the level of national associations and as a collective group. ISE was also involved in an extensive campaign lobby for the overall Horizon Europe budget to be increased to 100 billion euro.

WERA (World Educational Research Association)

EERA remains an active and founding member of the World Educational Research Association. The EERA president took part in the WERA General Assembly hosted at the AERA conference in Toronto and at the WERA Focal meeting hosted by the Japanese Educational Research Association in Tokyo. This year marked the 10th anniversary of the foundation of WERA and EERA offered symposia at both the Toronto and Tokyo conferences focusing on the role of EERA in developing a European research identity. WERA will reciprocate at this year's ECER conference where it will host symposium "From Project Funding to Sustainability in Educational Reforms – Which Innovation Capabilities Do We Need?".

For more information on WERA, see <http://www.weraonline.org>.

EERA Communication

EERA is committed to disseminating information relating to its activities and educational research in general through as many formats as possible. For this reason 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. The re-launch of the EERA website has given EERA the opportunity to integrate more media into its communications and EERA is currently in the process of producing a wide range of relevant content including videos of interviews with network link convenors for EERA website.

EERA Officers

At our Bolzano meeting in 2018, Petra Grell, TU Darmstadt, joined the Executive Board in her role as Networks' Representative on Council Elect She will take over the role of Networks' Representative from Jani Ursin following ECER 2019.

At our March Council meeting Maria Figueiredo was elected to the position of Secretary General for a second term.

EERA Membership

Over the past few years, EERA has applied a more proactive strategy in approaching a number of researcher groups/universities in countries without national association representation. This has been done 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 2019, EERA Council accepted Luxembourg Educational Research Association (LuxERA) as a full EERA member. Bulgaria was accepted for Candidate membership at the September council meeting. EERA is currently in discussion with a number of partners in different countries and hopes to welcome new members in the coming years.

EERA Council

EERA is governed by its Council and over the past year there has been an active engagement by all members of this body with a view to continuing to develop the Association. This year has seen extensive work undertaken to develop a strategy document which will guide EERA over the next four years. This process saw council members and networks volunteer to work in a wide range of working groups in order to help shape the future direction of EERA. The strategy is an ambitious one and includes proposals to provide more support for EERA networks, further support for researchers from low-GDP/non-central European countries, developing new forms of scholarly publications and exchange, investigating into open access strategies. EERA depends hugely on the voluntary work of council members and while their work often remains invisible the Association could not exist without their vital and energetic contributions. In order to recognise this, EERA has begun a process of officially thanking the home institutions of EERA council members for their support and active engagement.

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