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| August 2026 | EERA Networks | |
| Topic | **Network 21 – Education and psychoanalysis**<br>**ECER 2026 Tampere**<br>**NW 21 Meeting Minutes** | |
| Created by | Arnaud Dubois, NW 21 Co-Link-Convenors | |

**Chair:** Arnaud Dubois
**Minutes:** Marian Kratz
**Time:** 12:15–13:15

## 1. Review and Feedback on the Meeting

The meeting began with a reflection on the structure and format of the workshops and panels.
**Elisa** particularly appreciated the high density of workshops. She noted that the concrete collaborative work on texts had enabled her to gain a better understanding of the different ways in which members work and of how they understand psychoanalysis. In her view, experience-based and material-based work was particularly instructive and informative compared with purely lecture-based panel formats.
**Wilfried** agreed with this assessment and emphasized the value of the Tuesday morning workshops, which lasted two and a half hours. In this context, he also recalled the successful contributions by **Arnaud and Patrick**.
**Jean-Marie Weber** suggested that future meetings should make greater use of concrete material. As an example, he mentioned the possibility of jointly interpreting a film, which he felt would have been more productive than listening to a lecture about a film.
**Outcome**
There was broad agreement that **interactive and material-based formats** offer particular value for the network's collaborative work. Arnaud summarized that the network could make greater use of the full range of available formats:

- Paper Symposium
- Long Paper
- Research Workshop
- Joint discussion of already published texts
- Work with concrete empirical or other forms of material

Particular emphasis was placed on **working concretely with material** as a way of becoming more familiar with different psychoanalytic perspectives and modes of working.

## 2. Collaboration with NW Ethnography

Another major focus was the joint symposium with colleagues from Network ethnography.
**Donata** spoke positively about the joint symposium. She particularly emphasized the opportunity to strengthen connections and to develop ideas further through interdisciplinary exchange.
**Margit Datler** suggested that, in the future, the network should organize not only joint symposia but also **workshops and collaborative working formats with ethnographers**. In her view, different terms and concepts cannot be adequately understood simply by listening to presentations. Rather, they need to be explored and understood through concrete cases and applications.
**Arnaud** reflected that the joint symposium on the previous day had been very dense in terms of content. For future collaborations, a more **interactive format** would therefore be desirable.
**Wilfried** recalled that it had been particularly interesting to observe how the collaboration had opened ethnography to an engagement with the “inner world.”

**Elisa** highlighted the question of **ethics in ethnographic and qualitative research** that had emerged during the joint symposium. She would like to explore this topic in greater depth in a dedicated workshop. One central question would be how researchers can give something back to the people from whom they have received something for the purposes of their research.
**Donata** pointed out that a distinction needs to be made between ethnographers and autoethnographers. Not all ethnographers are equally close to psychoanalysis as the participants in the previous symposium had been.
**Sandrine** noted that it would have been helpful to have had more exchange with the ethnography colleagues **before the symposium**. However, there had not been sufficient time for this beforehand. In addition, too many questions had been presented to the participants simultaneously. For future joint events, she suggested focusing on **one central question**.
**Outcome / Outlook**
For future collaborations with NW ethnography, **interactive and collaborative working formats** should be explored in particular. A decision regarding further cooperation should be made by **May**, as the next planning phase will begin thereafter.
It was also suggested that collaboration with other networks should be explored. The **Gender Network** was mentioned as a potential partner. Joint workshops on topics such as **gender or racism** could provide further opportunities for interdisciplinary exchange.

## 3. Internal Diversity of the Network and Disciplinary Exchange

**Arnaud** emphasized that stronger connections with other disciplines are also important from a **disciplinary-political perspective**. Such collaborations could increase the visibility of the network and strengthen the presence of psychoanalysis in interdisciplinary academic discourse.
**Jean-Marie Weber** pointed out that there is already considerable theoretical and conceptual diversity within the network itself. Different terms and understandings first need to be negotiated and connected within the network. The different traditions of **Lacan, Bion, Freud, and Winnicott** were mentioned as examples.
This led to the consideration that the network needs to remain **open both internally and externally**. Arnaud recalled that this openness had already been agreed upon as a common principle when the network was founded. To date, for example, no contribution has been rejected because of its affiliation with a particular psychoanalytic school.
**Outcome**
Theoretical diversity within the network is fundamentally understood as a resource. At the same time, there is a need for formats that promote **mutual exchange and a better understanding of different psychoanalytic perspectives**.

## 4. Bloomsbury Publication

**Arnaud** provided an update on the planned Bloomsbury publication.
At present, **32 contributions** are planned. Feedback on the contributions is expected in **September or October 2026**. Submission to Bloomsbury is planned for **January 2027**. The publication is also intended to be presented at the **ECER** in the following year.
Bloomsbury has also expressed interest in **further publications emerging from the network**. Interested members can contact Arnaud about this. Arnaud also announced that a representative from Bloomsbury will be introduced to the network.
He further invited members to submit contributions to **Cliopsy**. Marian additionally referred to the existing **yearbook**.
**Wilfried** suggested inviting Arnaud and Patrick to write about the **origins and history of the network** for the yearbook.
Arnaud explained that he had already begun to consider the history of the network as part of the editorial for the planned handbook.
In relation to Cliopsy, it was noted that several members of the network have already published there, including **Reinhart Fatke**. A review of o bouk edited by Kathrin, Barbara, and Bernadette has been published in *Cliopsy* Journal.

It was also clarified that ***Cliopsy*** comprises both a journal and a book series.

**Outcome**

- Feedback on the Bloomsbury publication: **September/October 2026**
- Planned submission: **January 2027**
- Presentation at the ECER in the following year
- Further publication opportunities with Bloomsbury and Cliopsy should be explored and used.
- The history of the network should, in due course, be documented in a publication.

## 5. "Network 21" – Future Organizational Structure and Rules

Arnaud recalled that the network has now been in existence for several years and presented the **network's website**. The network was founded in **2022**.

It became clear that no formal **rules or "Operation Rules"** have yet been established for the network.

The following questions were discussed in particular:

- How are Convenors appointed?
- How are Co-Convenors appointed?
- How can membership or a particular role be terminated?
- How should members who no longer participate regularly be dealt with?
- How long should a term of office last?
- What succession arrangements should be made for the current Convenors?

Arnaud stated that he did not wish to remain in the role of Convenor indefinitely. He proposed a **four-year term of office** and indicated that he would like to step down in **2029**.

Over the next three years, the network should therefore discuss appropriate rules and, in particular, the **succession of Patrick and Arnaud**. It was noted that the ECER does not provide any binding regulations that the network could directly rely upon.

**ECER Dates**

- **2027:** Debrecen, Hungary
  **31 August – 3 September 2027**
  Theme: *Learning Communities and Shared Futures in Education*
- **2028:** Spain
- **2029:** Paris

Arnaud invited all members to submit **ideas for a Special Call in Hungary (ECER 2027)**.

**Outcome**

Developing a more formal organizational structure was identified as an important future task for the network. Over the coming years, particular attention should be given to **terms of office, the election or appointment of Convenors and Co-Convenors, and succession arrangements**.

## 6. Joint Session

The meeting concluded with a discussion of possible partners and topics for a future **Joint Session**.

**Wilfried** recalled previous contacts, particularly colleagues from **Belgrade**, who had already participated in the network and had given very strong presentations. He questioned why these colleagues had become less involved and suggested deliberately re-establishing contact with former participants and maintaining existing connections.

Arnaud referred to the existing mailing list but acknowledged that it had not been used regularly.

**Outcome / Outlook**

For future Joint Sessions, the network should:

- reactivate previous international contacts,
- strengthen existing collaborations,
- approach potential new partners more strategically, and
- identify suitable topics and potential partner networks at an early stage.

## 7. Key Outcomes

The following key outcomes were identified:

1. Material- and experience-based working formats should be used more extensively within the network in the future.
2. Interdisciplinary collaboration, particularly with ethnography, should be intensified and designed in a more interactive way.
3. The network should continue to promote exchange between different 'psychoanalytic schools' and theoretical perspectives.
4. The planned Bloomsbury publication is in the further preparation stage, with submission scheduled for January 2027.
5. Further publication opportunities, particularly with *Cliopsy* and in the yearbook, should be explored and used.
6. Over the coming years, the network intends to develop formal organizational rules and clarify the future structure of the Convenorship.
7. International networking and the maintenance of previous contacts should be strengthened.

## 8. Some additional reflections

- EERA Network 21 successfully meets its goals by fostering a collaborative, intellectually stimulating, and supportive research community. The various research workshops, together with the Tuesday Morning Workshop, have made a particularly valuable contribution to the group's momentum and to the quality of our academic exchanges.
- For the first time, we have organised a joint symposium with Network 19. This was a highly valuable learning experience that will be useful in the coming years, and we see it as the first step towards further exchanges and collaborations between our networks.
- Since the network's creation, we have sought to preserve an open and welcoming spirit towards different approaches, in keeping with the ethos of ECER. This year, we were pleased to receive proposals that reflected a wide range of theoretical approaches and reference frameworks. Maintaining this delicate balance is essential: it enables a form of dialogue that is both rare and distinctive within the European field of educational research informed by psychoanalysis.
- What was particularly appreciated during this conference was the excellent organisation, the efficient and supportive assistance provided by the EERA Office, and the high quality of the academic exchanges. Participants also valued the variety of encounters and discussions, as well as the warm and welcoming atmosphere both at the conference and throughout the city.
- Network 21 was only marginally affected by the overall increase in the number of submissions, which helped preserve the quality and collegial character of our sessions and exchanges. The local organisation was excellent throughout. We also greatly valued the presence of students, whose participation and informal discussions during the breaks enriched the atmosphere and created meaningful opportunities for exchange across career stages.

**End of meeting: 13:15**