

Minutes of the Meeting of EERA Network 33: Gender and Education
Free University Bolzano, 6th September 2018, 1pm-2pm.

Main highlights

Present: Branislava Baranovic (Chair/Link convenor) Andrea Abbas (minutes), Marie Carlson, Kate Scantlebury, Betül Sari, Zeynep Gutra Goker, Ayşegül Tasitman, José Oriol Rios Gonzalez, Emily Gray, Mieke van Houtte, Myriam Halimi, Sigolène Couchot-Schiex, Victoria Showunmi, Elina Lahelma, Veronica Tasner, Pontso Moorosi, Eva Reimers.

Apologies: Carol Taylor, Elisabeth Simburger, Helena Goschetel

The agenda for the NW33 meeting:

1. NW 33 submissions and sessions at ECER 2018 – quality and numbers
2. Work plan for academic year 2018-2019
3. Suggestions for appointing/extending/renewing the conveners’ team running NW33
4. Suggestions for EERA Council regarding the network
5. A matter of concern: violence against women’s rights in Education (The Hungarian governments attack on women’s studies)
6. Other issues

Item 1. - The Chair (Link convenor) summarised the key data for ECER 2018 network 33 submissions and sessions. 68 contributions were accepted for NW 33. The network had 12 network sessions, 1 network symposium, 1 network scientific workshop, 7 joint sessions/symposiums (1 joint session with network 18 and 6 joint symposiums with network 27).

The meeting was asked by the Chair to identify the indicators that should be used to judge the quality of the sessions. It was proposed that the indicators on the evaluation sheet were helpful. However, a number of issues were raised about judging sessions on one of the criteria on the form we were given in the rooms for the sessions. Low numbers are not always indicative of a lack of interest (e.g. you may be against keynotes). Important, emerging and critical topics may be developed in the conference starting with a minimal interest.

It was agreed by all present that the quality of the papers, presentations and power-points from network 33 were good: people were well prepared, slides were clear, talks well timed and debates were interesting. However, there was a call for a wider range of formats. There was a desire for poster presentations and roundtables but also about other formats not currently represented at the conference. There was 1 network workshop in this conference (Carol and Kate did one on the Gender and Education journal). It was thought that a more diverse set of formats would give more space for discussion and creativity.

It was pointed out that the call for papers restricts how you can present your research and may prevent diverse formats from getting proposed or accepted. Can the criteria by which submissions are judged be more open to different kinds of formats? The boxes for conference submission restrict applications to mainly paper formats and it would be better to have something that encouraged more variation. The instructions are helpful but could be altered encourage a wider range of formats and contributions.

The Chair will raise the issue regarding the format with the call for papers at link-convenors' meeting and Council.

Item 2: Work plan for academic year 2018-2019.

The meeting agreed we need to attract high quality contributions for ECER 2019 in Hamburg. A special call for the ECER 2019 will be prepared.

For the ECER conference in Hamburg 2018 we have been invited by the Emerging Researchers Conference to organise a network workshop. This will help with our profile. The Network is willing to prepare a workshop for the Emerging Researchers Conference in Hamburg.

The other work plan activities listed in and discussed at the meeting:

- creating media representations and contents; developing links and ensuring the existence of the network is known across European societies and outside; many links to publicise the conference and network were offered;
- developing a publishing strategy (e.g. developing a network book, a Special Issue from the conference papers);
- developing funding bids for more activities;
- strategizing about how to cooperate with other EERA networks and support emerging researchers;
- taking relevant actions to defend threats to gender education and research or livelihood

It was agreed that when the minutes were circulated participants would identify priorities for immediate actions from all the items we have suggested (this should apply across the minutes but particularly for this item). The minute taker suggests each person identifies and ranks priorities – perhaps the 3-5 first things we should do (Action All).

Item 4: Suggestions for extending/renewing the convenors' team running NW33.

We had a discussion about the whiteness of the list of convenors and the process by which we choose and organise the work of convenors. It was widely agreed that we need representations from diverse groups in the group of convenors. It was agreed that Victoria Showunmi (UK) will be included in the convenor's team.

We need a mechanism for ensuring wide representation and for ensuring that there is fairness about members who wish to be convenors having an equal chance to become one. Currently, we are volunteers who happened to be at the first meeting.

The meeting agreed that they want the Lead Convenor/Chair to present a case at the Link-convenors' meeting and to the Council that we need more convenors because we want to make sure that the list is representative of LBTQI+, diverse ethnic groups and disabled people. In addition, because the work of setting up a network is extensive. We need people to take on responsibility for the tasks listed in the minutes above with some urgency and a good deal of energy. Members need to be recognised for their work in being convenors and they are more likely to gain support or have influence in their home countries and institutions.

Item 5. Discussing the situation regarding gender studies in Hungary.

We had a long conversation about the need for us to send a letter to the Hungarian government about the situation in Hungary. Andrea will adapt the letter that was sent by the journal Gender and Education and this will be taken by Branislava to go to the Council. We need to do such actions and to provide a way of keeping abreast with political developments we should tackle.