



**Best Season Greetings to all ERU members!**

**We wish you a happy, healthy and successful 2015!**

This is the 2014 winter edition of our newsletter in which we report on major events concerning ERU. Enjoy!

**ERU/SECC LUNCH WITH THE LEADERS AT THE SRCD THEMED MEETING 2014**

The ERU at EADP and SECC (Student and Early Career Council) at the SRCD (Society for Research in Child Development) organized seven lunch tables for meetings with leading scholars at the SRCD Themed Meeting, October 23–25th 2014, Prague, Czech Republic <http://www.srkd.org/meetings/2014-special-topic-meetings/3-positive-youth-development> The event involved 35 early career and 14 senior scholars and was very successful in further increasing student and early career participation and creating mentorship opportunities. Summary of participants' extremely positive feedback is reported in the following pages.

**Table 1**



**Senior scholars:**

Frosso Motti Stefanidi (University of Athens, Greece) & Hirokazu Yoshikawa (New York University, USA)

**Junior scholars:**

Goda Kaniusonyte, Claudia M. Bandeira, Tara Zolnikov, Luciana Dutra-Thomé, Simona Musilová, Caspar van Lissa

**Summary of the lunch meeting**

Caspar van Lissa (University of Utrecht, the Netherlands)

We had a productive lunch session with Hirokazu Yoshikawa (HY) and Frosso Motti (FM), and six doctoral and early career tableguests from all over the world. Topics that were discussed future career opportunities, the purpose of completing a post-doctoral position, the translation of research to practice and policy, and the development of intervention programs. Specifically, FM asked Simona Musilova (SM) about her experience of future perspectives and job opportunities after the PhD. This resulted in a discussion of the effects of the great recession on research funding worldwide. Then, Luciana Dutra-Thomé (LD) asked about the purpose of conducting a postdoc. HY pointed out that the opportunities and demands of postdoc positions vary widely, but that the most important factors for her might be to find time to publish research (or dissertation), apply for a permanent position, and have the opportunity to learn new skills. FM emphasized the importance of balancing these tasks and maintaining focus. Caspar van Lissa (CL) asked how one can make the step of translating fundamental research into practice and policy. HY pointed out that the best way is to work closely together with organizations or advocacy groups, in order to find out what kind of questions they are asking and what issues policy makers care about. FM mentioned that EADP is launching an initiative in Portugal this September to translate research findings into practice and policy recommendations, and make them publically available. Furthermore, she pointed out that SRCD published public policy reports. Tara Rava Zolnikov (TZ) added that her recommendation would be to connect directly with humanitarian organizations in third-world countries, which have practical experience with the target groups of interventions. HY

interjected that it is important for such organizations to work with local governments, and should ultimately strive to make their own presence obsolete. The discussion then shifted to the question of how to bring an intervention to scale. HY offered the insight that the way Cigdem Kagitcibasi accomplished this is by founding an NGO that trains youth care practitioners, and that it took her 25 years to bring her intervention to scale. He proposed that, instead of developing an intervention and then trying to bring it to scale, you could study the functioning of your intervention in the context of systems that are already at scale (e.g., the school system), and find out how to improve it in that context. You could even study scale as a factor in your intervention study, comparing the implementation of your intervention by teachers in school to the application by trained mothers or researchers. Finally, HY mentioned that PhD training is often weak in teaching students to implement their work or start a program. Business students, by comparison, seem better equipped or more confident to bring theory to practice. CL mentions that his training gave him the opportunity to write several grant proposals during his PhD, and that this experience might prove valuable in the future.

After the lunch, several people reflected on their experiences. All indicated that they thought the lunch was a great opportunity to meet the senior scholars, and also to connect with fellow early career scientists at the beginning of the conference. Several came alone or with few colleagues, and really enjoyed meeting new people. The most important point of improvement was that the lunch was considered to be too short – some suggested a round table discussion rather than a lunch, as they felt awkward eating and talking in a hurry at the same time. Furthermore, some people could not follow the discussion because of the noise in the restaurant. All attendees also felt that the discussion was interesting but not directly relevant to their own research or future perspectives. Nevertheless, the experience was considered to be very positive and all three attendees interviewed (plus myself) were grateful for the opportunity to meet these inspiring senior scholars and some fellow early career scholars.

**Table 2**



**Senior scholars.**

Silvia Koller (Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil)

Suman Verma & (Panjab University, India)

**Junior scholars.**

Krystal Hinerman, Guilherme Wendt, Kaiqing Tang, Ting Peng, Heloise Sirois-Leclerc, Inga Truskauskaitė-Kunevičienė

## Summary of the lunch meeting

Guilherme Wendt (Goldsmiths, University of London)

Six-early career-scholars (EC), coming from Canada (1), United Kingdom (1), United States (1), Lithuania (1), and China (2) attended a special lunch with Dr. Silvia Koller (Brazil) and Dr. Suman Verma (India). After introductions and welcoming messages, each EC mentioned their research topics, interests, supervisor's background, individual pathways/trajectories, and their current stages in pursuing a Doctorate Degree. A variety of research interests emerged – e.g. specific methods for assessing positive youth development across the globe, pro and antisocial behaviours, among others. It was such a surprise to identify, for example, that five out of six EC were attending for the first time a SRCD meeting. The discussion was followed by an active debate on grant writing and “how to publish your paper”. In both cases, students and leaders shared their own views, experiences, and expectations about the topics. Some cross-cultural differences were elucidated, but was clearly stated that is crucial and required for the developmental scientists a reasonable performance in articles in journal as well distinguished awards/financial supports. To reach this goal, EC scholars need to speed-up! The session activities were finalized with a picture of EC with the leaders, and final thoughts linked with future collaboration.

### Table 3

#### Senior scholars:

Jeanne Brooks-Gunn (Columbia University, USA) & Rainer Silbereisen (University of Jena, Germany)

#### Junior scholars:

Carly Tubbs, Neda Bebiroglu, Andria Eisman, Sarah Stoddard, G. John Geldhof, Alice Wuermli

## Summary of the lunch meeting

Nancy Papathanasiou (University of Athens, Greece), Carly Tubbs (New York University, USA), Alice Wuermli (University of California Davis, USA)

The discussion at the table with Dr. Rainer Silbereisen and Dr. Jeanne Brooks-Gunn centered around two broad topics: (1) career development; and (2) the future of research on social change and child development. On the former topic, both Dr. Silbereisen and Dr. Brooks-Gunn advised us to realize that our research interests will change over time. Nothing, however, is wasted time or research given the broad nature of what we're interested in studying. In trying

to link social change to children's development, all the pieces matter, and different interests alert you to vastly different processes in children's development. Over time, these interests will coalesce into an overarching and coherent "umbrella" under which your research portfolio and expertise fall. On the latter topic, Drs. Silbereisen and Brooks-Gunn thought that it would be important for our generation of scholars to better understand the long-term and intergenerational transmission of social change. They emphasized the importance of life-course research looking at the interplay of genetics, biology, and context - and in developing better methods (e.g., longitudinal) that would allow for the generation of such evidence. There was a lot of interest at our table about resilience, unpacking the dynamic and multi-level nature of resilience, especially in a cross-cultural context.

#### **Table 4**

##### **Senior scholars:**

Anne Petersen (University of Michigan, USA) & Katariina Salmela-Aro (University of Helsinki, Finland)

##### **Junior scholars:**

Andria Eisman, Krystal Hinerman, Bijaya K. Malik, Lilia Mucka, Allison Dymnicki, Claudia M. Bandeira



#### **Summary of the lunch meeting**

Andria Eisman (University of Michigan, USA)

Drs. Petersen and Salmela-Aro introduced themselves and gave a brief overview of their work. The students/early scholars described their interests, which included topics such as how youth feel about school in Brazil, youth resilience, promoting healthy relationships/behaviors during adolescence, promoting PYD through organized activities, health/well-being of young people in Africa. We discussed life course/career choices. Anne Petersen talked about creating opportunities to expand your professional development, finding balance in life, doing what you love and avoiding (psychologically) toxic environments and making choices-- she referred

some substantive questions/comments to topics/issues covered in the conference. Students/early scholars asked about creating own professional identity, applying for grants. Both senior scholars re-iterated doing projects that interest you, collaborating to achieve your goals. Students/early scholars also asked about professional transition and senior scholars talked about the need to decline/say no when appropriate so you can focus your energies on meaningful endeavors. They also discussed the need to efficiently manage your time (which includes sometimes saying no). Anne Petersen discussed her process of having to distance herself from the hands-on nature of doing research, which she really enjoyed. She also discussed her foundation work and some issues related to accountability with foundations in completing evaluations for their programs.

Question from student/early career scholar: what would you do differently?

Anne Petersen: learn better from my experiences

Katariina Salmela-Aro: ending mis-matched jobs/endeavors earlier rather than later

**Table 5**



**Senior scholars:**

Marlis Buchmann (University of Zürich, Switzerland) & Cigdem Kagitcibasi (Koc University, Turkey)

**Junior scholars:**

Tara Zolnikov, Carly Tubbs, Alice Wuermli, Anthony James  
Li Yuan, Nancy Papathanasiou

**Summary of the lunch meeting**

Nancy Papathanasiou (University of Athens, Greece)

At our table we talked mostly about interdisciplinary approaches and collaboration. Prof. Buchman made a point of being a sociologist among psychologists and how different approaches, and Prof. Kagitcibasi looked back at her own cross-cultural path. We also talked about our own projects, and how the trend seems to point towards collaboration and translation of research results into hands on interventions.

## Table 6

### Senior scholars:

Christiane Spiel (University of Vienna, Austria) & Ingrid Schoon (University of London, UK)

### Junior scholars:

Sarah Stoddard, Susana Núñez Rodríguez, Ana Kozina, Radosveta Dimitrova, Luciana Dutra-Thomé, Simona Musilová

### Summary of the lunch meeting

Simona Musilová (Casimirus Magnus University in Bydgoszcz, Poland)

After an introduction of everyone's interests in psychology, Dr. Spiel talked about prevention of aggression at school in an international setting, short-term programs, how to evaluate participants in programs; data collection with quantitative approach or participation; cascades model in the fight with violence (supervision and coaching including preparation of specific project with teachers and students together); evaluation as key result and strong argument because of economic and political support (in the same time, it is needed to recognize, develop and implement appropriate tools for evaluation). We also discussed individual interactions in the topic of political changes which are reflected in research, science, and education; position of teacher's role in society, at school, individual interactions in impressions about the meeting (mostly positive). Dr. Schoon discussed social-economic variables; opportunities of post-doctoral studies, and scientific career; intervention and integration programs in Gipsy community

- Feedback from the "juniors": Amazing idea to meet both young and experienced researchers, to discuss career opinions, cooperation; conference members usually eat with their own company and this is the chance to start to talk with somebody else or somebody unknown – arising "network", focused on similar interests (thanks to the information about professors in advance); big advantage are researchers' tips and inspirations, view on different countries and problems
- Suggestions for future meetings: short time for discussions and lunch together; impossible to hear everything; sitting with people working on the same topic would be more beneficial. Too noisy place and short time for discussion and eating together (maybe better 1, 30 hour)
- Feedback from the "seniors": A very good idea to mix "juniors" and "seniors"

**Table 7**



**Senior scholars:**

Stephen J. Suomi (NICHD, USA) & Jennifer Lansford (Duke University, USA)

**Junior scholars:**

Xiaoqiong Deng, Lyudmyla Romanuyk, Liu Sha, Caspar van Lissa

**Summary of the lunch meeting**

Sha Liu

Our table discussion focused on our research area and Professor Stephen shared his research on monkeys, investigating the impact of environmental factors on genetic expression. Professor Lansford shared her experience in the meeting; she thinks it's a great opportunity to meet people with the same research interest and to cooperate with them. At last, we also shared our trip plans in Prague. It was really nice talking!

**ERU AND SECNET AT EARA**

This month we offer you a brief presentation of the chair of the SecNet Committee at EARA, The European Association for Research on Adolescence, Elisabetta Crocetti.



Dear ERU members,

my name is Elisabetta Crocetti. I am currently a researcher at the Utrecht University, the Netherlands. My primary scholarly interest concerns the processes of identity formation in adolescence and emerging adulthood. In particular, I am interested in examining how identity is formed and revised over time and which individual (e.g., personality, social-cognitive strategies, anxiety), relational (e.g., family and peer relationships),



social (e.g., civic participation), and cultural factors influence this dynamic. I am also strongly interested in methodological and statistical issues related to social research, such as cross-cultural validation of measurement instruments, longitudinal modelling, systematic reviews and meta-analysis.

In my experience I have seen how beneficial is being part of scientific societies. They offer a unique opportunity for networking and for being continuously informed about the current state-of-art of psychology research. I am member of various scientific associations and I am particularly involved with two of them: the European Association for Research in Adolescence (EARA) and the Society for the Study of Emerging Adulthood (SSEA).

The EARA is my first love! When I first attended an international conference I went to the EARA. I did not expect to find such an amazing and welcoming network! I am currently the Representative of the SECNet, the EARA early career researchers' network. The SECNet comprises doctoral students, post-doctoral researchers, and young assistant professors who are members of the EARA and, thus, share their interests for the study of adolescence. In a close collaboration with other members of the SECNet committee, we are supporting a great group of National representatives from various EU and extra-EU countries. You can find all the information on the SECNet on our website: <http://earasecnet.weebly.com/>

The main mission of SECNet is to provide support, useful links, and information to young scholars who are concerned with the study of adolescence; promote scientific collaboration among researchers, increase learning opportunities for young scholars; and to collaborate with young scholars from other societies. Thus, we see as a main strength our contacts with ERU representatives and members. Together we can collaborate to provide young scholars, especially those working in contexts in which learning opportunities might be limited, with a place in which they can both learn and exchange their expertise with their peers and also with senior members of the respective societies.

The other society in which I love to be involved is the SSEA. This is a young and very vital society and it was a pleasure to see it start and grow. I am currently co-chairing with Moin Syed the next conference, which would be held in Miami (USA) between October 14th and October 16th, 2015. We are working on the program that will include several interactive sessions and new formats of presentations in addition to traditional symposia and posters. A great attention is devoted to proposing activities and sessions specific for young scholars. You can find more on the website [www.ssea.org](http://www.ssea.org). The call for proposal is open. I hope to see you in Miami!

Best regards,  
Elisabetta Crocetti

### ERU MEMBERS AT "LUCIAN BLAGA" – THE UNIVERSITY OF SIBIU, ROMANIA

The University "Lucian Blaga" of Sibiu organized the 13<sup>th</sup> edition of the Conference of Sociology and Social Work (17–18 October 2014). Scholars and researchers from 27 countries shared ideas about latest updates in the field of socio-human sciences. ERU/EADP members were presenting their recent research findings, as for instance Radosveta Dimitrova, Stefanos Mastrotheodoros, Natalie Gorlova, Natasja Van Cittert, Lyudmyla Romanyuk, Oriola Hamzallari, Delia Stefanel. Moreover, Marianna Kosic (ERU representative for Italy) gave an interesting talk about ERU activities within one of her presentations entitled „Networking internationally, cooperating and sharing competences between young researchers for career development: the example of the Early Researchers Union of the European Association of Developmental Psychology”.

For more information about the conference please see

<https://sites.google.com/site/depsswconferences2014/sectiuni-2/identity-and-cultural-diversity-updates-in-theory-research-and-practice-across-europe> and the attached poster at [http://www.ulbsibiu.ro/ro/evenimente/events.php?news\\_id=2053](http://www.ulbsibiu.ro/ro/evenimente/events.php?news_id=2053)

The Organizing Committee wants to thank all participants for their contribution.

Delia Stefanel (ERU representative for Romania)

### EADP/ERU IN POLAND – SOME NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE'S EXPERIENCE



My adventure with EADP/ERU has started last year in September, when I visited Budapest for an ISSBD regional workshop and met Radosveta Dimitrova who told me about ERU/EADP. I appreciated all ERU activities, so becoming the National Representative was a great honour for me, as well as a huge challenge. As a National Representative, my aim is to serve as a bridge between the ERU regions and Poland, which is an underrepresented country within EADP/ERU. Being part of such international organization was new experience for me, and still is. My first effort to disseminate ERU activities was very fruitful, and brought the opportunity to publish an article about ERU in the Polish local media. Within the past year, there were several great circumstances to show ERU's activities in Poland. In February, my department organized a meeting prepared for the Polish



Developmental Psychology Society, in which approximately 14 Polish professors visited my university. Since they are supervisors of early scholars, I prepared folders with printed versions of ERU newsletters and information on how to join ERU/EADP. During this meeting it occurred that some of the professors had already known about ERU, because EADP/ERU was very visible during the conference in Lausanne! This meeting also brought other possibilities for EADP/ERU in Poland – in September, the Board of Polish Developmental Psychology Society contacted me with the offer of giving us a page in their e-newsletter where we could promote our activities and encourage new researchers to join. In the first issue of this e-newsletter, information from

EADP/ERU flyer was published. To sum up, I think EADP/ERU is becoming more and more visible in Poland, and what is very important, not only through my activities! During the last conference in Poland, I met colleagues who attended the EARA conference in Turkey, and they had opportunities to talk to Radosveta and hear about EADP/ERU. They knew that I am the National Representative and asked me how it is to be a part of ERU. I can say that I am very glad of being part of EADP/ERU, and I am also looking forward to participate in future activities.

Justyna Michalek

## DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY IN ALBANIA



Psychology is a field of study that has been established for the first time at the University of Tirana in 1996. Currently the field is present also in many state and private universities in other Albanian cities. The major psychology board is located at the University of Tirana.

Psychology is among the courses taught at the Faculty of Social Sciences. The Department of Pedagogy and Psychology was founded in 1957 and was part of the Faculty of History and Philology and in 1992. It became part of the new faculty that was founded, the Faculty of Social

Sciences. The main aims of the department during the following years were to transform the higher education curricula by implementing scientific approaches in teaching and learning, to promote the foundation of new courses in psychology and education for the next generation of experts, and the psychological sciences so as to guarantee the appropriate theoretical and practical background for psychologists and other experts in the field. Other important goals were to collaborate with Western Universities so as to implement contemporary curricula in the fields of social sciences and to promote further qualification and doctoral programs. Presently, about 22 professors and lecturers are working at the department of Pedagogy and Psychology at Tirana University. Approximately 4900 undergraduate and 1720 postgraduate students take their classes at the Faculty. In Albania, at present, there is no developmental psychology department. Also research is conducted mostly individually or through NGOs that fund the projects. Research of PhD students is mostly carried out through collaborations of the Faculty with institutions where students conduct their research projects. In Albania there is a need to establish research collaborations with other universities, research organizations in the field of developmental psychology and other important fields of psychology.

Oriola Hamzallari (Univeristy of Tirana, Albania)

#### **ACADEMIC WRITING WORKSHOP IN PALERMO, SICILY**



The ERU Representative for Italy Pasquale Musso organized a two days (9-10 December 2014) interactive workshop on “Going global in research network and organizations. How to be productive in terms of publications. Techniques and practices of academic writing”. There was a great enthusiasm among all PhD students and young researchers of the Department of Psychological, Educational and Training Sciences of the University of Palermo, who attended the event. The participants found the workshop a very positive and productive experience because of the rich and well-structured program (presentation of main European scientific organizations - EADP, ERU, EARA, SECNet, APA paper preparation guide, publishing in ISI international journals), and training in academic writing. Invited speakers were Radosveta Dimitrova and Elisabetta Crocetti who focused on challenges and rewards of academic research, while also providing practical advices on complexities in the publishing process. We hope to continue providing similar future venues for young scholars and involve EADP and ERU members across Europe.

Pasquale Musso & Nicolò Maria Iannello (Univeristy of Palermo, Italy)

#### **INVITATION AT TWO EVENTS AT UNIVERSITY “LUCIAN BLAGA” OF SIBIU, ROMANIA**

The Romanian Association of Industrial and Organizational Psychology “Horia D. Pitariu”, and Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, Romania are pleased to welcome you to the XVth edition of the Conference entitled “Individual, group and organizational assessment in cross-cultural settings”. This year, the keynote speaker is Fons van deVijver, from Tilburg University. The event will be held on 9-7 May 2015 at Ibis Hotel, Sibiu. More details at <http://www.apio.ro/conferinta/>

The Department of International Relations, Political Science and Security Studies is organizing its annual conference between 29-31 May 2015, The organizing committee is warmly inviting ERU/EADP members to present their last research findings either in person or via teleconference at one of the sections related to development cross-cultural relations and globalization, debated from interdisciplinary approaches and methods. For any further information about the program and submissions, please email Delia Stefanel at [deliaste@yahoo.com](mailto:deliaste@yahoo.com)

## 2015 EADP Conference, Braga, Portugal

EADP 17th Biennial Conference, September 8–12, Braga, Portugal <http://ecdprbraga2015.com/>.

**MANY ERU EVENTS ESPECIALLY FOR YOU**

More at <http://ecdprbraga2015.com/scientificprogram.php>

➤ **2015 SRCD Biennial Meeting Philadelphia, USA**

The Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, SRCD will be held from March 18<sup>th</sup> until March 20<sup>th</sup> 2015 in Philadelphia (USA). For more information see <http://www.srcd.org/meetings/biennial-meeting/2015-call-submissions>

➤ **2015 IAIR Conference, Bergen, Norway**

The International Academy for Intercultural Research, IAIR 9th Biennial Congress, 28th of June – 02nd of July, Bergen, Norway <http://www.uib.no/en/iair2015>

➤ **2015 SSHD Conference, Texas, USA**

The Society for the Study of Human Development, SSHD 9th Biennial Meeting, Fall 2015, Austin, Texas <http://support.sshdonline.org/9th-biennial-meeting-theme-announced/>

➤ **2015 SSEA Conference, Miami, USA**

The Society for the Study of Emerging Adulthood, SSEA Biennial Meeting October 14–16 Miami, USA <http://www.ssea.org/>

➤ **2015 IARR Conference, Amsterdam, the Netherlands**

The International Association for Relationship Research, IARR, Mini Conference, July 9–11, Amsterdam, the Netherlands <http://www.iarr2015amsterdam.nl/>

➤ **2015 Annual International CCCS Conference, "Identity and Culture"**

September 3–5, 2015, Skopje, Republic of Macedonia [http://cultcenter.net/?wpgform\\_qv=2011](http://cultcenter.net/?wpgform_qv=2011)

➤ **2015 International TACHYwe Conference. International Knowledge Exchange on Child and Youth Welfare, Israel, April 29th, 2015 Ben-Gurion University of the Negev**  
<http://tachywe.info/about-tachywe/>

➤ **Call for papers/panels IMISCOE conference, Geneva, 25–27 June 2015. Deadline: January 15th.**  
<http://www.imiscoeconferences.org/what-imiscoe-does/events/175-12th-imiscoe-conference-rights-democracy-and-migration-geneva-25-27-june-2015>

➤ **FAS 2015 INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CONGRESS "YOUTH", Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Maltepe University, İstanbul, TURKEY, March 26–27, 2015,** <http://fas.maltepe.edu.tr/call-for-papers>

➤ **Call for proposals ERNAPE and University of Tromsø, Norway invite all submissions ERNAPE-ARCTIC European Research Network About Parents in Education Conference 2015,**  
<http://site.uit.no/ernapearctic/submission/>