

**We wish all ERU/EADP members a warm and fruitful autumn!**

This is the autumn 2015 edition of the ERU newsletter in which we share many interesting events of our members; most important of these is the 17<sup>th</sup> European Conference of Developmental Psychology and its related EADP/ERU/Jacobs events.

We are all extremely grateful to EADP Board, to the JACOBS Foundation for its support, to the Scientific Committee and to the Local organizing committee of University of Minho, to Ana Almeida and Isabel Soares as Chair of the Organizing and Scientific Committees, and to all young students and post-doc that supported and make possible this great event!

Enjoy!

The ERU Board, Loes Keijsers (President), Pasquale Musso (Elected President), Radosveta Dimitrova (Past President), Francesca Lionetti (Secretary), Justyna Michalek (Internal Relations and Communication Officer), Maja Schachner (External Relations and Valorization Officer)



## **ECDP Pre-Conference Workshop: Reducing the research-practice gap**

In 2015, the EADP efforts towards a science for policies have been clearly stated. In this framework, it has been hold in Braga a pre-conference workshop entitled “Reducing the research-practice gap”.

Participants came from very different backgrounds: researchers were very well represented (the topics ranged from brain development to education, and their provenance from Japan to Sweden), but policy makers and member of associations were present as well.

To begin, the organizers Loes Keijsers (Utrecht University) and Maya Schachner (Potsdam University) asked everybody to state what they wanted to learn and what could have offered to the group. Then, the floor was handed to the first contribution: Barbara Reichle (Ludwigsburg University) and Metin Ozdemir (Orebro University) gave precious suggestions about prevention and the evaluation of intervention. After a very welcoming coffee break, the second contribution was focused on communication: through advices and a group activity, Loes Keijsers (Utrecht University) stressed the importance of defining our own key messages and of adapting them to the person we are communicating with.

After the lunch break, Christian Spiel (University of Vienna) deepened the relationship between science and policies, and explained possible ways of cooperation between research and political forces and programs. Lastly, Martyn Barrett (University of Surrey) brought his experience on European funding, especially concerning the involvement of policy makers in the research process.

Overall, this workshop has really been “food for thoughts”. Participants received useful tips, had the opportunity to learn from the big experts in the field, and to create network with other researchers and professionals who shared similar topics or future aims. The Jacobs Foundation fellows are very thankful for this opportunity.

Marta Casonato,  
University of Turin, Italy

## **ECDP Pre-Conference Workshop: Academic Grant Writing**

On Tuesday morning, September 8, 2015, for 13 young participants the conference started with the Jacobs Pre-Conference Workshop on Academic Grant Writing. This workshop consisted of two parts, the first on scientific writing, taught by Professor Dr. Robert Kail, and the second on grant writing, taught by Professor Dr. Susan Branje. The event was chaired by Professor Dr. Frosso Motti-Stefanidi and Dr. Radosveta Dimitrova, and was generously supported by the Jacobs foundation.

Attending this event was a really nice experience. During the first part, Professor Kail focused on the level of sentences and paragraphs, teaching us how to form and structure our writing. He generously gave us many tips on this topic, which were very enlightening. He also made his lecture very engaging, by using many exercises which each of us responded to on a chat room – the anonymous responses were then shown to the group on discussed.

The structure of the workshop was very helpful. After this focus on the sentence and paragraph level, during the second part of the workshop Professor Branje focused on grant proposal writing. With the use of many successful as well as less-than-optimal examples, she guided us through the parts of a strong grant proposal. Professor Branje's lecture was very useful to help us see the big picture after having attended the first part of the workshop.

All attendees were deeply engaged during the hours of this workshop, and all of them expressed their gratitude and satisfaction for the result. Personally, I felt this workshop changed the way I see how writing should be done more efficiently, and motivated me to exercise new skills. I really feel deep appreciation for both the EADP and the Jacobs foundation for giving me the opportunity to attend this skill-building workshop. It is my hope that such events will continue being organized and held in the future.

Stefanos Mastrotheodoros,  
University of Athens, Greece

### **ECDP – Lunch with Senior Scholars**

The ERU at EADP organized ten lunch tables for meetings with leading scholars at the 17th European Conference on Developmental Psychology, which gave students and early career scholars the opportunity to network with senior scholars in the field.

The event involved 50 early career and 20 senior scholars and we do hope that it is going to be very successful in further increasing student and early career participation and creating mentorship opportunities.

**9th September 2015**

**Table 1**



**Senior scholars:** Luc Goossens (KU Leuven, Belgium) & Jay Belsky (University of California, USA)

**Early career-scholars:** Joana Costa Leite, Goda Kaniušonytė, Chloe García, Oriola Hamzallari, Luisa Fernanda Estrada Gómez

Summary of the lunch meeting  
*Joanna Costa Leite (University of Porto, Portugal)*

Drs. Luc Goossens and Jay Belsky introduced themselves and then the PhD students/early scholars gave a brief overview of their PhD work, described their interests, which included topics such as implications practices, it was also discussed cultural differences and its implications in the development of children.

Some of students/early scholars were focus on children and other adolescents. All found an excellent idea to mix early scholars and seniors' scholars.

## Table 2

**Senior scholars:** Prof. Dr. Christiane Spiel (University of Vienna, Austria) & Prof. Dr. Christina Salmivalli (University of Turku, Finland)

**Early career-scholars:** Natalie Harrison, Martina I. Heinrich, Mateusz Platos, Monica Buta, & Alexandra Sabou



Summary of the lunch meeting  
*Alexandra Sabou (University Babeş-Bolyai,  
Romania)*

In the beginning of our lunchtime discussion we introduced ourselves and our research interests. Natalie Harrison and Martina Heinrich shared their research interest in sibling bullying. We talked about differences between sibling bullying and bullying in school or at the workplace. Mateusz Platos described his interest in the bullying experience in children with autism spectrum disorders and the fact that they are victims of bullying more often than typical children. Monica Buta talked about her research on deceptive behavior in children, while Alexandra Sabou was interested in the relationship between executive functioning and anxiety. Then the discussion was followed by reflections on different facets of bullying and possible interventions. Prof. Christiane Spiel talked about the importance of research implementation and shared her experience in the Global Implementation Initiative, which promotes interdisciplinary collaboration in an effort to bridge the practice-research gap. Prof. Christina Salmivalli discussed several areas in which this initiative can be of great help in informing the community, like the benefits of breast feeding. In exemplifying this subject, professor Salmivalli shared some insights about implementing the anti-bullying KiVa program in Finland. She talked about the importance of having the support of the ministry of Education in promoting the program in Finnish schools and emphasized the positive impact of the program in the schools that were actually involved in implementing it. In discussing how the results of an intervention are evaluated, Prof. Spiel and Prof. Salmivalli, differentiated between looking at isolated results or at an evidence-based quantitative analysis. Then we talked about the importance of having the ministry's support in other countries when trying to implement a program at a national level. After the lunch, several people reflected on their experience.

*Feedback and suggestions:* Participants enjoyed this discussion and considered it to be useful in exchanging ideas and different views on research practices and anti-bullying programs. They appreciated the input of the senior scholars and they considered it was very inspiring to talk about implementations issues and cultural differences. In future lunchtime sessions they are looking forward

to discuss more and receive further feedback on their own research or future perspectives. We hope that this initiative will continue during future conferences.

### Table 3

**Senior scholars:** Prof. Dr. Chantal Kemmer (University of Utrecht, The Netherlands) & Assoc. Prof. Laura Visu-Petra (University of Babeş-Bolyai, Romania)

**Early career-scholars:** Serena Guneş, Marta Casonato, Melania Moldovan, Joanna Papiéska and Helen Rodger

Summary of the lunch meeting

*Melania Moldovan (University Babeş-Bolyai, Romania)*



The lunch meeting started with a brief self-description, when we found out that we were quite a heterogeneous group regarding our research interests. Serena Guneş

(Middle East Technical University, Turkey) studies parent-adolescent conflict, while Marta Casonato (University of Turin, Italy) is focused on attachment and adoption. Joanna Papiéska's (University of Leuven, Belgium) research is on social competence development in primary school and Helen Rodger's (University of Fribourg, Switzerland) is on development of emotion recognition. Melania Moldovan (Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania) is exploring the relation between theory of mind, executive functions and anxiety. Our seniors are conducting various studies, in the neurobiological development of the social brain (Prof. Dr. Chantal Kemmer) and development of executive functions (Assoc. Prof. Laura Visu-Petra). Next, we discussed autism spectrum disorders and participants expressed their opinions on how appropriate are the measures of its deficits and also on the difficulty of integrating the non-confirmatory results in the literature. The discussion slowly turned towards the issue of unpublished data, which can be informational but isn't acknowledged by the research community, hence slowing down the discovery process. Furthermore, there was a general concern about the fact that research grants are invested in important research topics, but might leave other topics less explored. Participants then asked the seniors about their career paths and the factors that influenced their choices. Assoc. Prof. Laura Visu-Petra and Prof. Dr. Chantal Kemmer were kind enough to offer us suggestions on how we can still make good use of our hard-work and acquired knowledge, even though we might want to change our work direction or explore new research opportunities. We also understood there are differences regarding the work of a researcher in European countries; in some of them (e.g. Romania) teaching is necessarily included, while in others (e.g. Netherlands) it isn't necessarily required. On all of these topics, we expressed opinions and exchanged our own experiences as students and also researchers. The various research topics and the cultural diversity enriched our perspectives, making the lunch a wonderful and insightful experience.

**Table 4**

**Senior scholars:** Brit Oppedal (Norwegian Institute of Public Health) & Márta Fülöp (Hungarian Academy of Sciences)

**Early career-scholars:** Basel El-Khodary, Carla Malafaia, Diana Farcas, Jana Vietze, Pasquale Musso



Summary of the lunch meeting  
*(Diana Farcas, ISCTE-Lisbon University Institute,  
diana.farcas@iscte.pt)*

As shown in the previous photo, two senior and five junior scholars participated in this lunch table, which started with the presentation of the attendees and their research interests. This small introduction helped us determine that identity and adjustment were two topics of common interest among all of us. Therefore, the rest of the discussion evolved around these topics, focusing on their conceptualization, antecedents and consequences. In addition, we also debated the way they apply to different samples, such as children living in war conditions, emerging adulthood immigrants, first and second generation immigrant children, as well as refugees. The senior scholars shared the dates of future conferences where we could meet and share the results of our research. It is our goal to keep in touch and hopefully new mentorship opportunities will be created as a result of this interesting lunch session which extended our research network connections.

**10th September 2015**

**Table 1**

**Senior scholars:** Paul Harris (Harvard University, USA) & António José Santos (ISPA-Instituto Universitário, Portugal)

**Early career-scholars:** Ilona Skoczeń, Łukasz Tanaś, Heike Wadepohl, Aylin Koçak, Sarah Poland

Summary of the lunch meeting  
*Ilona Skoczeń (Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University  
in Warsaw, Poland) & Łukasz Tanaś (University of  
Social Sciences and Humanities, Poland)*



Five early career scholars from Poland, Germany, Turkey and the United Kingdom joined the lunch session with prof. Paul Harris and prof. António José Santos. Following the welcome message, everyone

introduced themselves and spoke about their research topics and current stages in their career development.

Our discussion covered a wide range of topics. Some cross-cultural differences were discussed regarding access to core books published in psychology. We also mentioned the current status of developmental research in academia and its traditional links, for better or worse, with pedagogy. Some of the early career scholars asked for advice on working efficiently in two settings that are common in developmental psychology: research on basic issues and practical, applied educational programs. Paul Harris suggested that it's sometimes worth emphasizing our trained strengths, rather than trying to accommodate to the environment. António José Santos advocated the benefits of forming interdisciplinary teams.

The second part of our discussion related to the current state of psychology and what other trends might come following cognitive science. One remark regarded studies that rely on a very minor subset of languages and cultures. Paul Harris suggested that one solution to this problem might be to focus research on basic, universal human concepts, like those identified by a professor of linguistics, Anna Wierzbicka.

## Table 2

**Senior scholars:** Prof. PhD Maria José Rodrigo (University of La Laguna, Spain)

**Early career-scholars:** Ana Carla L. R. Accioly, Jessica Armitage, David Hammer, and Dawn England



Summary of the lunch meeting

*Ana Carla L. R. Accioly (University of State of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)*

There were four early career scholars coming from Australia (2), Brazil and United States. Unfortunately, Prof. PhD Ciğdem Kağitçibaşı (Koç University, İstanbul) had to do an emergency procedure and could not

come to the Conference, including participating in this lunch time at this table. The student Carla Silva could not attend this lunch session as well. After introductions and welcoming messages, Prof. Maria José Rodrigo asked each junior scholars to talk about their research topics, interests and their current stages in pursuing a Doctorate Degree. Ana Carla Accioly (University of State of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) told that she is studying maternal responsiveness in primiparous in Rio de Janeiro. Jessica Armitage (Melbourne University, Australia) said that her interest is mind development in adolescents, the developmental precursors of mindfulness, specifically, dispositional mindfulness in late adolescence to emerging adulthood. David Hammer (University of Wollongong, Australia) talked about his study about self-regulation in early childhood and its structure factor and predictive validity. Dawn England

(Arizona State University, USA) said that she is studying about gender development in middle school. Gender typicality, felt pressure for gender conformity (pressure from parents, peers, or teachers), gender norm resistance and also how gender creates an impact about their choice in studies. Most of the students, except Ana Carla from Brazil, were at the end of the Doctorate Degree. As Ana Carla is at the beginning of data assessment, Prof. Maria José Rodrigo and the other students suggested two different pathways for her research: either select few predictors and study them more deeply, or select more predictors and do a quantitative research. Prof. Maria José also presented a little introduction of her intervention work in Spain and the importance of having connections with the Government in order to receive support and help to implement a project. All participants liked this opportunity to meet and talk with the senior scholars and exchange knowledge and experience with other early career students.

### Table 3

**Senior scholars:** Evelien Crone (University of Leiden, The Netherlands) & Ariel Knafo (Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel)

**Early career-scholars:** Ursula Moffitt, Oana Rebeaga, Carolina Cortez, Stefanos Mastrotheodoros, Caspar van Lissa

Summary of the lunch meeting

*Caspar van Lissa (University of Utrecht, The Netherlands)*

Our lunch session with Evelien Crone (EC) and Ariel Knafo (AK) led to a productive and interesting discussion. AK took the initiative to contact all guests a few weeks beforehand, which gave us an opportunity to become acquainted prior to the meeting. Therefore, we could jump right into a discussion of our diverse research interests and perspectives. Oana Rebeaga (OR) started the discussion with an open question regarding the key factors that contribute to children's prosocial behavior. AK pointed out that prosocial behavior is an umbrella term for a family of related behaviors, which are differentially predicted by values, empathic emotions, and situational context. Caspar van Lissa (CL) added that empathic emotions further motivate different responses, depending on the person one empathizes with, and the specific emotion that person expresses. Different emotions call for different responses, e.g., sadness calls for comforting, happiness calls for shared celebration, anger calls for indignation or pacification. EC shared the interesting question whether it is possible to act prosocially without awareness. This question emerged from a discrepancy in her research: Children spontaneously engage in prosocial behavior, which is accompanied by reward-related activation in the striatum. However, these same children underreport their own prosocial behavior. CL suggested that children might underreport their prosocial behavior, because drawing attention to your altruistic actions might lead others to perceive such behavior as instrumental, rather than altruistic. OR pointed out that cognitive empathy, the ability to understand others, can in fact be used instrumentally to hurt others through relational aggression. Considering the relation between prosocial and aggressive behavior, AK suggested that humans likely evolved to act both prosocially and aggressively, and that both these behaviors are usually group-oriented. People primarily act prosocially to ingroup members, and aggressively to



outgroup members. Ursula Moffitt's (UM) work tries to overcome these group boundaries, as she studies whether promoting diversity in the classroom can buffer links between discrimination in the school context, and minority adolescents' psychological outcomes. EC added that age is also a factor: adolescents differentiate more between the targets of prosocial behavior than younger children. At this point, OR and Stefanos Mastrotheodoros (SM) had to leave the table, because they were nominated for best poster awards. They later expressed disappointment at this scheduling conflict, as they would have enjoyed continuing the discussion further. After desert, the discussion transitioned to emotion regulation. CL found that adolescent-parent conflict predicts greater emotion dysregulation for high-empathy adolescents than for low-empathy adolescents. Carolina Cortez (CC), who practices clinical psychology in Lisbon, asked whether this was also the case for emotion regulation strategies. CL pointed out that, indeed, emotion regulation strategies also suffered as a result of more frequent conflict. CC mentioned that some of her clients (children) report quite effective strategies for dealing with negative emotions due to conflict with parents. She considers it important to listen to these children's effective emotion regulation strategies, and teaching them to children who lack effective strategies. Furthermore, in her clinical practice, she noticed that many parents do not know how to communicate with their children. CL mentioned having similar impressions during observational research on conflict discussions, as if parents respond to an outdated image of the child. This is in line with prior research, which found that outside observers' reports of adolescent-parent conflict discussions are typically more in line with adolescents' reports than parents' reports. Children develop so rapidly that it might be difficult for parents to keep up. Bringing the discussion to a close, AK points out that this corresponds to the key message from Paul Harris' keynote address: many developments occur even earlier than we expect them to.

### 11th September 2015

**Table 1**



**Senior scholars:** Adriana Sampaio (University of Minho, Portugal) & Hana D'Souza (University of Birkbeck, UK)

**Early career-scholars:** Liliana Capitão, Nira Wahle, Maria Munozserrano, Asma Akther and Evangelia Kouklari

Summary of the lunch meeting

*Evangelia Kouklari (University of Greenwich, UK)*

This lunch session united 5 early career-scholars (EC) coming from different institutes from all over the world such as Portugal (1), Israel (1), Australia (1) and United Kingdom (2) to Dr. Adriana Sampaio (University of Minho, Portugal) and Dr. Hana D'Souza (University of Birkbeck, UK) for a very interesting lunch chat. After introducing themselves, each EC addressed a short description of their research

projects and general interests as well as personal aspirations and prospective career paths. Drs. Sampaio and D'Souza followed with brief overviews of their own work. As expected, there was a diversity of research pathways among the discussants, however it was attempted to identify potential interrelationships and overlaps between the research projects. Assessing children and adolescents in cross cultural environments, data collection with either quantitative or qualitative approach, investigating neurodevelopmental disorders as well as pro and antisocial behaviours were some of the emerged discussion topics. Nevertheless, the biggest chunk of our table's conversation went to the impact of career choices on personal life and how to create opportunities to make the most out of one's professional development. Dr. Sampaio shared her views and experiences throughout the different stages of her career and encouraged the early scholars to follow their dreams. Finally Dr. D'Souza stressed the importance of doing research that inspires you and collaborating to achieve your goals. All discussants were very pleased at the end of lunchtime and exchanged email addresses for future contact. The ECs mentioned it was an amazing idea to meet such prominent researchers and discuss career opinions. However it was suggested that the time was very limited and that it would be more beneficial to schedule each lunch session with researchers working on the same/relevant topics from now on. In general it was a very positive and interesting occasion that should be established across the conferences.

**Table 2**



**Senior scholars:** Judi Mesman (Leiden University, The Netherlands) & Stephen Russell (University of Arizona, USA)

**Early career-scholars:** Salvatore Ioverno, Daniela Freitas, Elham Assary, Eva Bruyneel, Aybegum Memisoglu

Summary of the lunch meeting

*Elham Assary (Queen Mary, University of London, UK)*

The lunch session started by a brief introduction from each attendee. The research subjects were varied across the table, from parenting to behavioural genetics to discrimination and LGBT. Dr Mesman and Dr Russell both emphasised the importance of being open to learning from and interacting with research and researchers from areas that may seem unrelated to our own research areas. They drew on their own experiences of starting international and interdisciplinary collaborations, sometimes starting with an informal conversation at a conference or even at inter-departmental events.

The conversation also covered career planning, with Dr Russell and Dr Mesman both noting that there are two main approaches, one in which the academic is focused on long term planning to conduct research concerning an overarching theme (more in depth), or another where the career planning is

more flexible and research is conducted in more varied areas (more in breadth) and is sometimes situationally driven.

We also talked about the importance of how research ideas are pitched and the difficulties in securing funding and the necessity of being flexible with regards to location, when pursuing post-doctoral opportunities.

Overall, it was a very pleasant lunch session and early career researchers were glad for the opportunity to meet with and learn from more senior academics attending the conference.

**Table 3**

**Senior scholars:** Alexandra Freund (University of Zurich, Switzerland) & Paula Paixão (University of Coimbra, Portugal)

**Early career-scholars:** Roberta Frontini, Carolina Castro, Mirjam Weis, María Concepción Moreno Maldonado & Maaïke Engels

Summary of the lunch meeting  
*Maaïke Engels (Catholic University of Leuven,  
Belgium)*



Five junior scholars – coming from Spain, Colombia, Germany, Portugal and Belgium – had the opportunity to attend a lunchtime session with Prof. Alexandra Freund and Prof. Paula Paixão. The lunchtime session started with an introductory round in which each scholar addressed their research topics, interests and the current stage in their PhD-project. As expected, the research topics and interest were diverse. The different PhD-projects address the role of family cohesion in pediatric obesity (Roberta Frontini), social inequalities and adolescents' health (psychosomatic symptoms and life satisfaction) (María Concepción Moreno Maldonado), the relation between family characteristics (mothers' education, values and control) and children's prosocial behavior (Mirjam Weis), the association between virtual social networks and subjective well-being of older people (Carolina Castro), and the role of classroom social dynamics (peers and teachers) in shaping adolescents' academic engagement (Maaïke Engels). This diversity allowed interesting discussions on specific PhD-projects. During the lunchtime session, we also discussed more general topics, such as differences in PhD-projects between countries and universities in terms of funding and teaching obligations, and the development of research interests. In addition, we talked about the balance between work and personal life. Contributing to this discussion, Prof. Alexandra Freund and Prof. Paula Paixão mentioned that the combination between work and personal life was not of major concern, as researchers often benefit from the flexibility of working hours. In contrast, the senior scholars said that balancing research and other tasks (such as teaching and administration) was more difficult to do, as most administrative tasks consume a lot of time that could be spend on research. In concluding this summary of the lunchtime

session, I think I could speak for every junior scholar at our table, that this lunchtime session provided us with the unique opportunity to connect with senior scholars, who were open, kind, willing to share their experiences, and were inspiring for our future research.

### **ECDP – Best Poster Award**

During the 17<sup>th</sup> Conference on Developmental Psychology that was held in Braga, Portugal, ERU organized for the second time the Best Poster Award thanks to the substantial support from the Jacobs Foundation. Among all applications, 22 posters were selected on criteria of novelty, relevance, appropriateness of statistical analyses, visual appearance and nominated for the “ERU Best Poster Award”. The 22 scholars were given a fellowship by the Jacobs Foundation. Young researchers from Albania (Oriola Hamzallari, State University of Tirana), Colombia (Julieth Carolina Castro Morales, National University of Colombia), Germany (Jana Vietze, University of Potsdam), Greece (Stefanos Mastrotheodoros, University of Athens), Italy (Maria Concetta Miranda, University of Naples; Marta Casonato, University of Torino; Pasquale Musso, Univeristy of Palermo), Lithuania (Goda Kaniušonytė, Mykolas Romeris University), Macedonia (Ana Fritzhand, University Ss. Cyril and Methodius), Netherlands (Natasja Van Cittert, Tilburg University), Poland (Ilona Skoczeń, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw; Justyna Michalek, University of Warmia and Mazury), Portugal (Nava Naeimi, University of Minho), Romania (Alexandra M. Sabou, Monica Buta, Oana Rebeaga, Oana Mocan, Babeş-Bolyai University), South Africa (Byron G. Adams, University of Johannesburg), Spain (Lucía Jiménez, University of Seville), Turkey (Kerem Alp Usal, Middle East Technical University, Ankara), USA (Amanda Smith, University of Connecticut; Dawn E. England, Arizona State University) gave a five-minute presentation of their work during the session on Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup>. The audience was captivated by the concise, understandable and fascinating presentations. All fellows contributed to various topics of developmental psychology such as acculturation and identity formation, brain development, cognitive development, emotional development, gender development, moral development, parenthood, psychometrics, social development.



The three winners of the Best Poster Awards were announced by the past ERU president Radosveta Dimitrova (Stockholm University, Sweden), the current president Loes Keijsers (Utrecht University, Netherlands), and Professor Barbara Reichle (Ludwigsburg University, Germany). After the announcement, Professor Barbara Reichle encouraged all the scholars by declaring that they had carried out an outstanding and professional work, and everyone should

feel proud of their work.

We congratulate once again the three early researches: Maria Concetta Miranda (1<sup>st</sup> place), Monica Buta (2<sup>nd</sup> place), Amanda Smith (3<sup>rd</sup> place) for their important accomplishment!

The ERU and all 22 fellows express their deep gratitude to the Jacobs Foundation, which made it possible that all these young scholars from all over Europe and beyond could gather and present their research at the EADP conference. After this great success, we hope that we will be able to organise similar events again during the next EADP conference, which will take place in Utrecht in 2017.

Oriola Hamzallari,  
Tirana State University, Albania

### **ECDP – Tips from participants presenting their poster**

During the Best Poster Award event, all fellows had a very short presentation (the presentation must not exceed 3-4 minutes and could have at maximum 5 slides) of their poster and at the end of this event, the winners of the first three places have been announced. During this pre-conference event, young scholars had the opportunity to summarize their research. In order to make a good poster, it is very important for it to look neat and visually appealing. To do this, we have tried to decrease the amount of text and increase the amount of figures and diagrams. We are more likely to look at a poster if there are more graphs and less text, as we think this is a better way to convey research findings and also facilitate conversations with the poster presenter. We also believe the poster should be very organized with headings designating the Introduction, Methods, Results, and Discussion, and a clear study aim in bold on the poster. These tips are sure to bring a lot of traffic to your poster and bring more opportunities to discuss your research.

The structure of the event was very helpful for all of us. The strict time limit forces to ask yourself, “What is my central message?”, and to decide the supportive information with clear and concise statement. To think how scientific findings can be made accessible for the audience and to exercise new skills is a great exercise for young researchers.

Moreover, attending this event was a really nice and helpful experience; in fact, it was possible for all candidates to have a moment to describe their work and to create networking with other young researchers of the same field of study. As a whole, we think this was a wonderful conference in a beautiful city. We are extremely grateful to the Jacobs Foundation for making it possible to travel to Portugal. Aside from the wonderful educational experience, it was great to be exposed to a different culture and interact with individuals from around the world. It has been definitely an experience we will never forget.

Monica Buta, Miranda Maria Concetta, Amanda Smith  
University of Naples, Italy and The University of Connecticut, USA

## **EADP George Butterworth Young Scientist Award**

For the 5<sup>th</sup> time, the EADP selected a junior member (post PhD) for the George Butterworth Young Scientist Award. I was very happy and proud for having been selected in 2015 on the basis of my thesis “Contextual Conditions for Acculturation and School-Related Outcomes of Early Adolescent Immigrants in Germany”, which I completed as part of a joint doctorate at Friedrich Schiller University Jena, Germany, and Tilburg University, Netherlands. The award was handed over to me during the Opening Ceremony and I was invited to give a Keynote lecture on my PhD and current and future research projects. The award was a great opportunity to attract attention for my work and I was amazed by how many people approached me throughout the conference, not only to congratulate me but also to learn more about my research and exchange about ideas. I am extremely grateful for this opportunity. I would like to especially thank Ana Almeida (University of Minho, Portugal) and the EADP Butterworth Award committee, but also my PhD advisors Peter Noack and Stephan Lessenich (both Friedrich Schiller University Jena, Germany), and Fons J. R. van de Vijver (Tilburg University, Netherlands), who were always supportive of all my plans and ideas and without whom this great achievement would never have been possible. I would also like to encourage other junior scholars to apply for the award in the coming years. It really is a wonderful opportunity to get recognised as an expert in a particular field and to get known in the EADP community.

Maja Katharina Schachner (University of Potsdam, Germany)

## **ECDP – Social events**

As one of the original cities established by the Romans in Portugal, Braga provided a perfect setting for this year’s ECDP conference. “The Rome of Portugal” they call it. Rightfully so, as you are surrounded and continuously taken aback by some magnificent historic architecture. While the scientific program was intellectually stimulating, the social program was designed to include the best of the friendly city of Braga and the surrounding region.

The educational and informative pre-conference workshops arranged by the ERU started well, and were followed by the official opening ceremony. Thereafter we made our way to the Rectorate of the University of Minho at *Largo do Paço* for the welcoming reception, where we enjoyed some of the best *Vino Verde* (Green Wine) and local delicatessen from the region. The evening was topped with the stunning acoustic performance of the *Tuna Universitária do Minho*, a student group of musicians from the university, who provided vibrant renditions of both local and international music. Truly a magnificent welcome and a good sign of things to come.



The early evening city tour arranged by conference organizers included some select sights in Braga, such as the *Palácio do Raio*, built in spectacular Baroque style, the *Sé Catedral de Braga*, which is a magnificent (mainly) gothic cathedral placed in the city center. The best of Braga was however saved for the conference dinner which took place at *Bom Jesus de Monte* (Good Jesus on the Mount). This Baroque styled Church serves as a sanctuary and is known by its zigzag stairway dedicated to the five senses, depicted by each of the fountains on the way to the top. At the top there is a luscious park that provides beautiful views of Braga and is particularly spectacular at night.

The social program would not have been complete however without the musical stylings provided by an ethnographic Portuguese group who provided traditional song and dance in the university's outdoor amphitheater. Especially arranged by the ERU, it provided an authentic Portuguese experience. Much of the performance was done by the group, but on more than one occasion, we were invited to join in the dance, and were taught some of the intricacies of traditional dancing (not for the weak at heart). With good weather and friendly people all around, the conference stimulated both the scientist and tourist in all. Well Done!!

Byron Adams,  
Tilburg University, The Netherlands and University of Johannesburg, South Africa.

### **ERU presentation at the annual conference of Italian Association of Psychology**

After few days from the great ECDP conference, as national ERU representatives, we have been invited to present the ERU activities and share our experience in a joint talk with colleagues from other international early career association, during the 2015 annual conference of the Italian Association of Psychology (AIP) - Developmental and Educational Psychology Section. The need of identifying opportunities of networking and internationalization experiences is continuously growing within the Italian context, especially for people at the beginning of their career. During the talk there has been a great enthusiasm among doctoral students, post-docs, and researchers attending the session!. We explained who ERU members are; we presented the ERU board, and the opportunities that ERU offers, such as summer/winter schools and writing week. Also, we introduced to Italian colleagues those ERU activities connected with the European Association of Developmental Psychology (EADP), such as pre-

conference courses during the biennial conference of the EADP, poster awards and social events. Finally, we highlighted the importance of sharing information through newsletter and mailing list and, of course, we explained how to join the ERU network! During the session, the president of the Italian Association of Psychology (AIP) also actively took part at the discussion, emphasizing the importance of networking for research and researchers, especially in the early stage of their career. At the end of this exciting discussion, only briefly introduced with this script, many participants decided to let us know their e-mail address, as a first step for being kept updated about young researchers initiative. We closed the event discussing the opportunity of presenting a proposal to AIP about an Italian national group of early career researchers that promote a strong connection with other international early career associations, such as ERU. We really hope that our effort will further promote networking between Italian colleagues and ERU, inspiring new experiences, positive debates, and openness toward internationalization.

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## EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **European Symposium on Adolescent Research, and Research Method Workshop**, University of Roehampton and the European Association for Research on Adolescence (EARA).  
<http://www.roehampton.ac.uk/Research-Centres/Centre-for-Applied-Research-and-Assessment-in-Child-and-Adolescent-Wellbeing/Research-Centre-Events/> 30th November 2015 (Monday): Symposium; 1st December 2015 (Tuesday): Workshop
- **III International Winter School on Evidence-Based Intervention to prevent developmental risk outcomes in youth and adolescence** organized by the Italian Association of Psychology. Venue: University of Pavia; Dates: 18-20 February 2016. <http://lag.unipv.it/index.php/it/formazione/in-sede/training/winter-training-school.html>
- **Post-doctoral position at University of Porto**. The call is open from October 20<sup>th</sup> to November 2<sup>nd</sup>; <http://www.eracareers.pt/opportunities/index.aspx?task=global&jobId=65848>
- **15<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference of the European Association for Research on Adolescence (EARA)**: 16 – 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2016 at La Barrosa, Novo Sancti Petri, Chiclana de la Frontera, Andalusia, Spain. <http://www.eara2016.com>
- **International Conference Cognitive and Neural Mechanisms of Human Memory, 17-20 May, 2016, Romania**, <http://www.cnmhm2016.cogpsy.ro/index.php/submission-registration>
- **Motivation and Social Perception** Conference to be held **19-21th July 2016** in Gdansk, Poland, [www.motivationconference.eu](http://www.motivationconference.eu)