

## **EADP-EARA-SRA Summer School Report**

23-27 August 2023, Turku, Finland

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This year, the EADP-EARA-SRA summer school took place in the beautiful archipelago of Ruissalo in Turku, Finland, where 23 junior researchers and 7 senior researchers joined for five days of inspiring presentations, group activities and beautiful hikes. The 7 senior researchers included (in alphabetical order) Dagmar Strohmeier, Elizabeth Cauffman, Lisa Kiang, Metin Özdemir, Paul Poteat, Peter Titzman, and Susan Branje. The organizers of this year's summer school were Dagmar Strohmeier, Susan Branje, and Lisa Kiang.



Junior and senior faculty arrived on Wednesday and joined together at a Welcome Dinner at the resort's dining hall for a delicious buffet dinner and introduction activities. Dagmar, Susan, and Lisa informed us of the exciting events that would occur over the next few days and then initiated some activities that helped us all to begin to get to know one another. For example, we all learned that Susan can recite the alphabet in reverse, at an incredibly fast rate!

Thursday began an exciting three full days of senior scholar presentations, junior scholar presentations, and group activities. First, Susan Branje presented on cross-cultural communication, which was incredibly important in orienting us for the many conversations we'd be having with one another over the rest of the summer school. The remaining senior scholar presentations occurred over the following three days and included the following topics: considering time in developmental processes, intersection between childhood and criminality, efforts to promote thriving among LGBTQIA+ youth in schools and other youth settings, sense of belonging to the society among youth with immigrant backgrounds, challenges of intervention research, and how self-evaluations and social identifications vary across relationships to influence adjustment. After each senior scholar presentation, we collaborated on assignments in groups: We brainstormed about study designs and

interventions, presented professional statements for juvenile court, and drafted positionality statements.

During the junior presentations, we had the opportunity to present and discuss our PhD work. This was both a good occasion to practice our presentation skills and get enriching feedback on our work, as well as to learn about other research topics within adolescence, thereby broadening our scope. It was interesting to see how everyone's PhD track looks different and how the focus can differ on, for example, more fundamental research versus more hands-on interventions for young people.



On the last day, there were two interesting round table discussions on career crafting and getting your message across to niche and broader audiences. In these sessions, the senior scholars shared valuable and inspiring tips for a successful academic career, as well as some of the challenges we may all face, such as rejection and insecurity. The senior scholars also emphasized the importance of staying connected with one another after the summer school ended. They stated that these connections are vital as they allow us to have international collaborations and friendships. Thus, a WhatsApp group was created so we could all stay in touch.

In addition to stimulating presentations and group activities, we were also able to fit in plenty of leisure activities that allowed us to immerse ourselves in the culture and beautiful surroundings in Turku. On Thursday evening, before dinner, many of us were able to go on a nearby hike led by Dagmar. On Friday, another hike was led by Dagmar while others chose to explore the downtown areas of Turku. Lastly, on Saturday evening, the resort hosted a ceremonial fire burning ceremony.

Just before the end of the program and saying our goodbyes, Dagmar told us, "Never give up, because you have the capacity to overcome all obstacles."





Being selected for the Summer School was a great honour, and the experience certainly lived up to our high expectations. The program seamlessly blended academic rigor and practical work, offering us valuable insights that will undoubtedly shape our journeys throughout our PhDs and future careers. What truly set this experience apart was the opportunity for networking, collaborative efforts, and the lasting connections that were forged. This speaks volumes about the exceptional organization and comprehensiveness of the school. Our heartfelt appreciation goes out to the organizing committee, especially Dagmar, Susan and Lisa, whose unwavering dedication made this experience a reality.

## Summer School Junior Scholars (Alphabetical Order)



Ana Bravo Castillo

Céline Moncel

Elena Serritella

Esther Bernasco

Fabiola Silletti

Francesca De Lise

Gianluca Mariano Colella

Giuseppe De Luca

Jenna Spitzer

Juliette François-Sévigny

Maria Tibbs

Marlies Van de Castele

Martha Yumiseva

Nessa Ghassemi-Bakhtiari

Salla Veijonaho

Selena Quiroz

Seyma Celik

Sharon Faur

Teo Qiao Kang

Wen Wen

Yentl Koopmans

Youchuan Zhang

Yue (Alice) Guo