

**16th EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY  
SEPTEMBER 3 - 7, 2013, LAUSANNE, SWITZERLAND**



The 16<sup>th</sup> EADP Conference on Developmental Psychology was held in Lausanne, Switzerland offering exiting preconference and post conference opportunities.

This newsletter reports the main events of the conference that were especially addressed to the ERU members:

*Preconference Workshop*

*ERU Lecture on Presentation Skills*

*ERU Poster Symposium*

*ERU Best Poster Award*

*ERU General Assemble*

*ERU Social Event*

*ERU Writing Event*

**EADP- JACOBS FOUNDATION PRECONFERENCE WORKSHOP**

Fifteen members of the Early Researchers Union were admitted to present their work in the “Evidence-Based Parenting Programs to Promote Positive Parenting” pre-conference workshop at the XVI European Conference on Developmental Psychology in Lausanne, Switzerland. This event is a joint initiative of the EADP and the ERU and has been generously funded by the Jacobs Foundation. Besides the presenters, organizers and invited experts, 25 researchers were selected to attend.

This pre-conference workshop continues the focus of the EADP on promoting positive parenting throughout evidence-based programs that have proved to be effective. Therefore, this event extends previous EADP initiatives like the Winter School on “Evidence-Based Parent Education Programs and Best Practices to Promote Positive Parenting” in Tenerife (Spain), that culminated with the publication of a monograph issue in the European Journal of Developmental Psychology focused on this topic (2012, vol 9, n<sup>o</sup> 1).



Professors Ana Almeida (University of Minho, Portugal), Barbara Reichle (Ludwigsburg University, Germany), and Maria Jose Rodrigo (La Laguna University, Spain) were in charge of organizing this workshop, aimed to bring established researchers together with doctoral and post-doctoral students in order to develop theoretically based prevention programs, to evaluate their effectiveness according to standards of evidence, and to examine factors that influence the implementation process.

The workshop started with welcoming to the participants by Luc Goosens (President of the EADP), Gelgia Fetz (Jacobs Foundation), Radosveta Dimitrova (Secretary of ERU) and Maria Jose Rodrigo on behalf of the organizers. Three lectures on the topic were presented by outstanding researchers in this area. Kirsten Asmussen (UK) reflected on the quality of parent programs evaluation in her talk “The myth of evidence-informed practice: Lessons learned from the Commissioning Toolkit”. Professor Craig Ramey (Virginia Tech Carilion, USA) lectured on “Parenting benefits from early childhood educational interventions: Results from multiple RCTs”. Professor Sharon Landesman Ramey (Virginia Tech Carilion, USA) closed the lectures section with the presentation entitled “A multi-pronged parenting intervention to prevent neglect: The 4-site “My Baby and Me” program”.

After the lectures, two poster sessions followed. Professor Maria Jose Rodrigo introduced the first session “Intervention programs for at-risk groups”. Young researchers from Albania (Oriola Hamzallari), Belgium (Benedicte Mouton), Germany (Anne Katrin Künster), Italy (Francesca Lionetti), Spain (Sonia Byrne, Lucia Jimenez, Barbara Lorence), and the United Kingdom (Sara Amelie O’Toole Thommessen) presented rigorous evaluations to promote positive parenting in vulnerable or disadvantaged family contexts. Professor Barbara Reichle chaired the second session entitled “Universal programs and research questions”. Both theoretical reflections and empirical data concerning parent education programs and its evaluation were addressed by EADP young scholars from Germany (Dorothea Dette-Hagenmeyer, Felicia Schroeck), Portugal (Sylvie Marinho), The Netherlands (Christa Nieuwboer, Patty Leijten), Switzerland (Christina Passini), and USA/Portugal (Catia Magalhães).

Professor Ana Almeida closed the pre-conference workshop by discussing visions for the future on evidence-based parenting programs and encouraging young researchers to build bridges between academics, practitioners, and politicians in order to promote positive parenting. The posters presented during the workshop were included into the selection procedure for the ERU Best Poster award. The poster on “Long term impact of the variability of changes in the personal and family support program for families at psychosocial risk” by Sonia Byrne and Maria Jose Rodrigo was selected for one of three poster awards (see below). Congratulations!

Lucia Jimenez

## THE ERU LECTURE ON PRESENTATION SKILLS



The ERU Lecture on Presentation Skills was held by Rens van de Schoot and Dorothea Dette-Hagenmeyer. The lecture was specially intended for the 15 winners of the Jacobs Foundation fellowships to improve their presentation skills, but was also open for other PhD-students and young scholars. The event was highly attended and ended with a vivid discussion on tips to present a paper and/lecture.

## THE ERU POSTER SYMPOSIUM AND ERU BEST POSTER AWARD

This year, for the first time, ERU organized a Best Poster Award thanks to the generous support from the Jacobs Foundation during the Biennial Conference of the EADP in Lausanne. Among all applications, 15 posters were selected on criteria such as scientific novelty and relevance, appropriateness of statistical analyses, and visual appearance and nominated for the “ERU Best Poster Award”. The 15 scholars, coming from 14 different countries, were given a fellowship by the Jacobs Foundation. During the Poster Session on Friday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, all nominees gave a five-minute presentation of their work. One day before, all fellows had attended the ERU Lecture on Presentation Skills conducted by Rens van de Schoot and Dorothea Dette-Hagenmeyer, which was meant to give some last minute tips on their presentation skills. With this excellent preparation, all fellows impressed the audience by presenting their research in due time, but still in an understandable and concise, even entertaining manner. Positive feedback from both the fellows and the audience suggested that this unique and innovative event was a pure success, and should be continued in the future. Finally, the three winners of the Best Poster Awards were announced by the ERU president Rens Van de Schoot who also handed over the award certificates. We congratulate once again the three early researchers: Oana Mocan (1<sup>st</sup> place), Sonia Byrne and Maja Schachner (both 2<sup>nd</sup> place) for their great achievement.

Arzu Aydinli & Maja Schachner



## The ERU BEST POSTER AWARD WINNERS



Oana Mocan is a PhD student in Cognitive Psychology at the Babeş-Bolyai University (Romania) with a thesis on the relationships between executive functions and internalizing symptoms during adolescence. She is also a member of the Developmental Psychology Lab, Department of Psychology, Babeş-Bolyai University. She is trained and works as clinical psychologist and cognitive-behavioral therapist. She is a member of ERU since 2011. Her poster awarded the 1<sup>st</sup> place of the ERU Best Poster Award presented a study on individual differences in internalizing symptoms and set-shifting ability during middle childhood.

Sonia Byrne is a PhD researcher at the University of La Laguna (Spain), where she is part of the Developmental Psychology Team and the Cognitive Neuroscience Project (NEUROCOG). Her main interests are evidence-based interventions, positive parenting and child maltreatment, as well as the neuronal bases of child maltreatment. Her poster awarded the 2<sup>nd</sup> place of the ERU Best Poster Award shows an evidence-based program evaluation for families at psychosocial risk in several areas: family, personal development and professional work environment.



Following her studies in the UK, Maja Schachner is now working towards a joint PhD at Friedrich Schiller University Jena (Germany), and Tilburg University (The Netherlands), where she is part of the teams of Educational and Cross-Cultural Psychology. Her main research interests are acculturation, ethnic identity, school adjustment of immigrant youth as well as school climate and interethnic relations in ethnically heterogeneous schools. In her poster awarded the 2<sup>nd</sup> place of the ERU Best Poster Award, she presented longitudinal multilevel analyses predicting immigrant children's acculturation orientations and school adjustment by a positive contact climate at school.



The ERU and all 15 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 Braga in 2015, and that these events will lead to equally positive resonance.

## THE ERU GENERAL ASSEMBLE



The ERU invited all members and EADP young scholars to take part in this meeting on September 4th. The ERU President gave a presentation on what the ERU has done since the last EADP conference in Bergen in 2011, while also inviting the audience to discuss future plans (writing week, newsletter, and new Board members).

## THE ERU SOCIAL EVENT

The 2013 ERU Social Event took place in Lausanne downtown after the ERU General Assemblé. The event was organized by Noémie Faure, Hélène Turpin and Sandie Ackermann and we greatly appreciate their kind assistance. The event provided a great networking occasion and a nice opportunity to have a good time together in a less formal setting. Regrettably, many of the registered participants did not attend, which resulted in a waste of food, drinks, and money for EADP. We think about a way to prevent this in future conferences. For example, we plan to ask for a symbolic amount of €5 to make sure that who registers has a serious intention to attend and avoid unnecessary financial loss. We hope to be able to continue this event during the next 2015 EADP Biennial Meeting in Braga.

## THE ERU WRITING EVENT

The second ERU writing event took place three days prior to the ECDP in Lausanne, Switzerland. The event was generously sponsored by the European Association of Developmental Psychology. Fourteen young researchers from ten different countries gathered together to work on six papers, mainly dealing with measurement invariance tests and cross-cultural comparisons. The goal of the event was to analyze and finalize joint papers, and to submit those to various peer-reviewed journals in the field. The six papers that are aimed to be submitted for publication in October are listed below. Three of them are ready for submission and another three in the stage of advanced drafts.

Dimitrova, Crocetti, E., Buzea, C., Kopic, M., Tair, E., Jordanov, V., Taušová, J., & Uka, F. (2013). *The Utrecht-Management of Identity Commitments Scale (U-MICS): Measurement invariance and cross-national comparisons of youth from Six European countries*. Manuscript in preparation

He, J. et al. (2013). *Enhancement and denial in social desirability: A 20-country study*. manuscript in preparation.

- Mastrotheodoros, S., Chen, B-B., & Motti-Stefanidi, F. (2013) *Measurement invariance of the Experiences in Close Relationships-Revised (ECR-R) across Chinese and Greek samples*. Manuscript in preparation
- Romanyuk, L., Buzea, C., & Dimitrova, R. (2013). *Personality values in Ukrainian and Romanian groups*. Manuscript in preparation
- Romanyuk, L., Spasovski, O., van de Schoot, R., & Dette-Hagenmeyer, D. (2013). *Relation between subjective well-being and personality values in Ukrainian and Macedonian samples: A cross-cultural comparison*. Manuscript in preparation
- van Cittert, N., Dimitrova, R., & Kusic, M. (2013). *Collective identity and well-being of Dutch and Italian Adolescents*. Manuscript in preparation



Participants actively engaged in joint data analysis, provided unique cultural insight, and discussed and commented on draft versions of manuscripts. Beyond the writing activities, lectures on writing skills (D. Dette-Hagenmeyer), APA guidelines (R. Dimitrova), and missing data analysis and measurement invariance techniques (J. He) were held.

Following this example, first steps to organize the next writing event in Romania, and to make it equally successful were taken. The ERU is

profoundly grateful to the EADP and their precious support, and acknowledges the efforts of everyone who was involved in making this another fruitful event.

Yael Ponizovsky & Arzu Aydinli

### Participants Comments

“It was a great experience to be in the writing event. We had a very intercultural team; we worked together, and exchanged ideas about research. We also took the opportunity to discuss and plan further research cooperation. I think everyone was very inspired and gained a lot. It was a great occasion to inspire and support each other. I think ERU is an awesome organization that nurtures us young researchers.”

Jia He, Netherlands

“In September 2013 we gathered for our traditional writing event that was initiated by Rens Van de Schoot and had been held in Utrecht for the first time in February 2012. Twelve scientists arrived at the University of Lausanne for the writing event this year and mutually inspired each others` research. We were also stimulated by the presentations of Radosveta, Dorothea and Jamis who shared their rich experience with us. Thank you for this event, held at a wonderful place and attended by nice people!”

Lyudmyla Romanyuk, Ukraine

“For me, the writing seminar was the first ERU event that I attended, and I felt very blessed by having made this experience in Switzerland. I completed my paper with the help of two colleagues from Italy. Next month I will submit my paper. I would like to thank everyone for the great days and a special thanks to ERU for their effort to make this event a success!”

Natasja van Cittert, Netherlands

“Personally, I was very happy that this event took place. I felt that it is worth being a member of the ERU (a fact that should not be taken for granted). Furthermore, I really liked that new researchers were there. It was a pleasure to get to know them all. One thing I would like to be different is the duration of this writing event. I think that two days are rather few in order to acclimatize and then get to work. Not all of the researchers knew each other. So in my opinion, maybe some more days would be ideal. ”



Stefanos Mastrotheodoros, Greece

“The writing seminar in Lausanne was another successful event of the ERU. Young researchers from all over Europe and beyond shared their scientific knowledge and unique cultural perspectives. The mutual learning process and the joined writing effort will hopefully result in future publications. From my experience, ERU events greatly contribute to building and broadening young scholars` research capacities. I wish that these events will proceed and will get even more established in the forthcoming years. I would like to thank EADP for their support and ERU for their great motivation and effort in organizing this event. “

Yael Ponizovsky, Israel

“The ERU writing event proved how different cultures could benefit from each other. It was a real pleasure to cooperate with those wonderful persons, as well to have an opportunity to share ideas and to initiate and develop new ones. I`m glad that ERU will produce several quality studies. And, I believe the event would be even more fruitful if the duration was longer. Thanks to all for making it possible.”

Ognen Spasovski, Republic of Macedonia

#### **THE ERU MEMBERS AT THE 2013 ISSBD REGIONAL WORKSHOP**

Thanks to the generous support from Jacobs Foundation and with the great team headed by Prof. Marta Fulop, the International Society for the Study of Human Development (ISSBD) organized a regional workshop on Social Development and Interpersonal Dynamics in Childhood and Adolescence in Budapest between September 12 -14, 2013.

Participants were more than 80 young researchers (13 ERU members) from Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Ukraine and distinguished keynote speakers (Heidi Keller, Marcel van Aken, Patricia H. Hawley, József Topál, Barry H. Schneider, Melinda Carpenter). Participants attended various presentations on research methods and publishing in the field of behavioral development, as well as plenary talks given by distinguished scholars in the field. In addition, all young scholars presented their own research and got feedback on these from peer and senior scholars.

## The ERU New Board Officers 2013-2015

Following the electronic ballot elections, the new composition of the ERU Board is:

- President: Radosveta Dimitrova
- President-Elect: Loes Keijsers
- Past-President: Rens van de Schoot
- Secretary: Arzu Aydinli
- Treasurer: Jamis He
- Public Relations Officer: Maja Schachner

Besides the executive board, the ERU has a list of **national representatives** who will serve as board members of the general council. The following ERU members have indicated to become national representative (= general council member).

- Albania – Oriola Hamzallari
- Bulgaria – Venzislav Jordanov
- Croatia - Katja Borovac & Lorena Zec
- Finland - Christian Hakulinen
- Germany - Maja Schachner
- Greece – Stefanos Mastrotheodoros
- Israel – Yael Ponizovsky
- Italy - Marianna Kotic
- Kosovo – Fitim Uka
- Macedonia – Ognen Spasovski
- Netherlands- Natasja van Cittert
- Poland - Justyna Michałek
- Portugal - Diana Farcas
- Romania – Delia Stefanel & Oana Mocan
- Russia – Natalie Gorlova
- Serbia - Dragan Žuljević
- Spain - Lucia Jimenez
- Switzerland – Raffaella Torrisi & Christina Moses Passini
- Turkey – Arzu Aydinli
- UK – Lucy Markson & Christina Moses Passini
- Ukraine - Lyudmyla Romanyuk & Mariia Takamakova

## ERU – Quo Vadis?

The new ERU Board will meet in Utrecht (mid October) for the first time. Goal of this meeting will be to outline the ERU activities for the next two years and to present, exchange and discuss ideas for future ERU events. Moreover, the initiation of strategic steps to strengthen and broaden collaborative networks within the ERU and beyond, and to grow the ERU's visibility will be defined. The ERU Board would like to invite all ERU members to actively participate in this process, and encourages all members to share their concerns, ideas, and suggestions for determining the future directions of ERU (by contacting one of the board members). Any type of suggestion or contribution is more than welcome, and will be highly appreciated by the ERU Board.

More information on roles and responsibilities of the Board and the Council of the ERU as well as an outline of activities planned for the term 2013-2015 will follow in the next newsletter.