



## ERU board 2017-2019



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### Letter from the new ERU Board

Dear ERU/EADP community, it is a great honor and pleasure to serve as the new ERU President for 2017-2019!

In this two-year period, my and ERU Board's main goal is to retain the strengths of our Union, while trying to reach new important goals.

During the previous years, ERU has worked for:

creating and consolidating a strong **link among young scholars** from all over Europe and even beyond;

keeping **updated all members** about upcoming conferences, research positions, and grant opportunities;

providing **reduced registration fees** for the biennial conference of the European Association of Developmental Psychology (ECDP);

promoting several **activities at the ECDP conference** (such as pre-conference workshops, poster lecture and awards, or lunch with the leaders);

co-organizing, together with the EADP, important **summer and winter schools and training events** (such as methodological workshop and writing weeks);

collaborating with young scholars from **other scientific societies**;

facilitating **exchanges with practitioners and policy makers** in Europe.

All these activities have been facilitated and successfully completed thanks to the efforts and the dedication of our Past-Presidents (Rens van de Schoot, Radosveta Dimitrova, Loes Keijsers) and thanks to our ERU board along with ERU national representatives, who have been, currently are, and will be, pivotal resources for creating and sustaining opportunities for emerging Scholars in the European society.

In the next months, we will work so that ERU could continue to perform as effi-

ciently as it has always been, and we envision as well new efforts and new directions for our community.

Specifically, our efforts will be focused on developing, facilitating, and implementing new incoming ideas.

Increasing the visibility of ERU members' research outcomes. The **ERU newsletter will be an important tool** for updating ERU (and EADP) members about the work in progress and new published findings of our community;

Involving to a **greater extent young professionals** working in the applied developmental psychology field, in order to close the gap between theory and practice.

Strengthening the **use of social networks** in order to promote a quicker circulation of information and multiply our exchanges (please join our Twitter account and Facebook page if you have not done it yet!).

Creating **opportunities for doctoral students** to review conference submissions together with a mentor.

Reinforcing the **"writing week" experience** by also sustaining "web-based writing groups" with the aim of promoting writing skills as well as of increasing the chance of publishing new papers resulting from ERU workshop.

Promoting opportunities of networking among young scholars sharing **common research interests**. A starting point might be to share study ideas involving cross-national/cultural component and jointly cooperate on web platforms like OSF (<https://osf.io/>) to use the collaborative data-sharing options.

We are looking forward to working with you all!

**Pasquale Musso**  
**on behalf of ERU Board**  
*University of Palermo,*  
*Italy*

# ERU National Representatives



...we have managed  
to extend the  
number of national  
representatives.  
Currently, eleven  
countries are being  
represented...

## ERU national representatives meeting during the ECDP

Two professional ERU meetings have been organized during the 18<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Developmental Psychology in Utrecht. The aim of these meetings was to briefly summarize the previous work of ERU, introduce the newly nominated national representatives, get to know each other and to discuss future plans. Based on previous experience and current possibilities, we exchanged our ideas regarding future collaboration and promotional actions that could be taken in our countries of residence. We all agreed that in order to communicate effectively, information exchange is needed regarding various activities such as workshops, conferences, employment opportunities, etc.

This year, we have managed to extend the number of national representatives. Currently, eleven countries

are being represented by twelve national representatives (two from Germany). Below is the list of countries with national representatives' names and affiliations (in alphabetical order).

### Belgium

*Sofie Weyn*  
KU University in Leuven

### Estonia

*Anni Tamm*  
University of Tartu

### Finland

*Rasmus Mannerstrom*  
University of Jyväskylä

### France

*Alexia Carrizales*  
Bordeaux University

### Germany

*Alison Benbow*  
Leibniz Univ. of Hanover  
*Jana Vietze*  
University of Potsdam

### Italy

*Benedetta Palladino*  
University of Florence

### Netherlands

*Lysanne te Brinke*  
Utrecht University

### Poland

*Ilona Skoczeń*  
Cardinal S. Wyszyński University

### Romania

*Delia Stefenel*  
Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu

### Spain

*Pablo Cargar*  
University of Seville

### Ukraine

*Lyudmyla Romanyuk*  
Taras Shev. Nat. Univ. of Kyiv

Short profile descriptions with contact details of all national representatives are available on the EADP website <https://www.eadp.info/early-researchers-union/eru-at-your-country/>

### Ilona Skoczeń

*Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński*  
*University in Warsaw*  
*Poland*

## Tips from the ECDP winners of the best poster award

The first poster I ever presented was full of text, details and numbers. I think it might have been my most complete poster so far content wise. Yet I stood there, for about an hour, and mostly talked with the presenters to my left and right. I started wondering what it is I look

for in a poster myself. More specifically, what drove me to interact with certain researchers presenting a poster. For me, it is a clear graphic or short statement on the problem, conclusion or even the methods that gets me. Something just enough to get me interested so that I start asking for the content that would otherwise have been on the poster. Later I found that

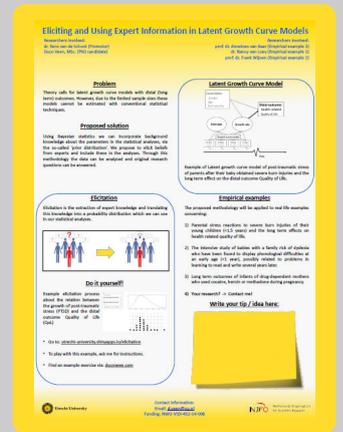
### ERU Poster Awards



I remembered both the message and the researcher better if I had interacted with them. So this became, and still is, my goal and biggest tip for designing a poster. Try to figure out what would get you to interact with the person presenting a poster. Now make your poster look like that. For me, a poster presentation is about interaction with other researchers. Or at the very least this makes it a lot more fun to do!

The poster I presented was titled: Eliciting and Using Expert Information in Latent Growth Curve Models. A digital copy of which can be found [here](#).

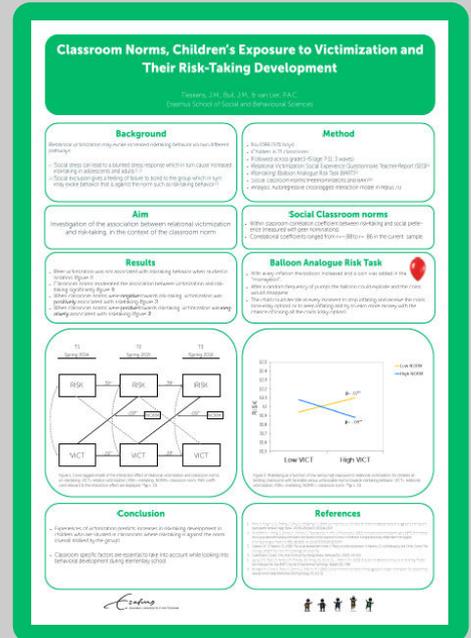
**Duco Veen**  
*Utrecht University*  
*Department of Methodology & Statistics*



The ERU poster award was part of the European Conference on Developmental Psychology 2017 held in Utrecht. This conference was very inspiring with a lot of interesting talks and posters. I am proud to have been part of this conference and to have been awarded The ERU poster award. While making the poster, I paid a lot of attention to the clarity and position of the graphs. I gave them a prominent place and made sure that they stand out because I think it is the easiest way to present your results quick and fast. The graphs and figures are also one of the first you look at and draws your attention when you walk by a lot of interest-

ing posters. My most important goal was to make people curious about my work and invite them to talk with me about my research. Another thing that I always try to avoid is putting too much text on the poster, as to focus on the most valuable information. The title of my poster is "Classroom Norms, Children's Exposure to Victimization and Their Risk-Taking Development". For a copy of the poster, questions or comments please e-mail me at [tieskens@essb.eur.nl](mailto:tieskens@essb.eur.nl). Hope to see you all at the next ECDP!

**Jacintha M. Tieskens**  
*Erasmus University Rotterdam*



When I started to prepare my poster the first question that came into my mind is: "How can I make people understand what the poster is about, even without reading the text?" My poster was about kindergartens so I looked for some icons that reflect kindergartens games and materials, and I incorporated them into the text. Throughout the poster I used colours from these icons causing different parts of the poster to correspond with each other. When we walk around in poster sessions we feel sometimes overwhelmed by so many ideas and interesting studies. Sometimes we just need it very

short and concise. Therefore, by the end of my poster I wrote the "Take home message" that puts in a sentence the main idea of the study. In addition it is always useful to use graphs whenever it is possible! To sum, I encourage you to think out of the box, try to catch your audience's eyes with colours and clear message and of course never forget a big smile!

**Kinneret Levavi**  
*Ben-Gurion University*  
*of the Negev, Israel*  
*Department of Psychology*



When you are moving your first steps into the “publish or perish” world, you develop a sort of starving for good news, and ERU provides you with the possibility to get some!

## ERU and the thrill of winning a travel fellowship

As a PhD candidate, I often felt lost making my first tentative moves in the academia world and among senior researchers. When I joined the ERU, I first realized that there were plenty of young researchers like me struggling to get funding and looking for opportunities to learn and exchange thoughts and ideas. It was actually very encouraging to see such a group of early career scholars organizing so many international initiatives and working hard to promote science beyond national borders. When I learned about the 18<sup>th</sup> Conference on Developmental Psychology, it became immediately clear that this event represented the perfect outlet for my research given my dissertation project on immigrant youth in Italy. I received

a newsletter from EADP and ERU informing about the possibility for early career scholars to apply for a travel fellowship to attend the conference. Once again, ERU confirmed its practical and concrete support towards scholars at the early stage of their careers. Once my paper symposium proposal was accepted, I proceeded with the application. I was already an EADP member, and all I needed to do was to prepare a pdf document including a brief CV, a brief description of my research interests, a motivation letter, title and abstract of my accepted contribution and proof of registration to the conference. I sent this document to the email address indicated on the website and waited for a feedback. A scientific committee composed by Prof. Dagmar Strohmeier, Prof. Barbara Reichle and Dr. Pasquale Musso was in charge of the evaluation process of all fifty applications. I was so excited when I received an email from the committee informing me that I was one among the twenty best young scholars who had been awarded the travel fellowship! Beyond the funding I obtained to cover my travel expenses, which was es-

sential given the conclusion of my doctoral degree in early spring 2017, I was happy because it is very rewarding to know that your work has been acknowledged also by an international scientific committee. When you are moving your first steps into the “publish or perish” world, you develop a sort of starving for good news, and ERU provides you with the possibility to get some! At the conference, all awardees were presented during the ERU meeting, which was a great opportunity to catch up on what the ERU had been doing and on what its plans for the future looked like. I met the new ERU members and national representatives, and young scholars were free to speak their minds, propose new ideas and even complain about specific issues, in a friendly and warm environment. This is why the ECDP conference was such a great experience to me, thanks to ERU supportive and open environment. And this is why I look forward to the next ERU initiatives and opportunities!

**Diana Miconi**  
*University of Padova*  
*Italy*



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## **ECDP Conference Dinner at the Winkel van Sinkel**

On Friday night, September 1, 2017, the conference dinner took place in the beautiful setting of the Winkel van Sinkel in the heart of Utrecht. The dinner was scheduled at the end of the last conference day. Thus, no one had to fear for a lack of sleep due to early presentations or conference sessions the next day. The Winkel van Sinkel is a famous Dutch historical site: In 1839, the trader Anton Sinkel combined several individual guesthouses and shops along the Oudegracht to form the first and prestigious department store in the Netherlands. Thus, with its neo-classicist architecture, classy interior design, and exquisite food choices, the location allowed everyone to enjoy the night to the fullest.

As every year, the dinner offered the perfect opportunity to get in touch with young and senior scholars within a relaxed atmosphere. After the delicious desserts had been served (cake, Tiramisu, you name it!), everyone gathered to thank the organizers and to drink a toast to yet another successful ECDP conference. Equipped with drink vouchers and animated by the first courageous scholars on the dance floor, the night ended with two hours of dancing to groovy 80s and 90s live music.

Overall, the dinner was a perfect opportunity to relax and unwind after the inspiring days at the conference, to enjoy a selection of fine foods and drinks, and of course, to see established scholars dance their hearts out. So, what are you waiting for? Come and join us at the conference dinner 2019 in Athens!

**Jana Vietze,**  
*University of Potsdam, Germany*

## **ERU social event**

We were delighted that the 18<sup>th</sup> ECDP was held in Utrecht, a typical Dutch town with a rich cultural, historical and scientific heritage. Its ancient university have played (and still does so) a prominent role in the Dutch scientific landscape, and walking around bikes, the Dom tower and the channels in the city centre, you can still sense the atmosphere of commerce, tolerance, and rationalism that has fostered a rich exchange and development of ideas and scientific theories.

It was, therefore, a perfect place to gather from all over Europe to present and discuss research on developmental psychology. On Wednesday the 30<sup>th</sup>, after one and a half intense days of brain development, latent growth modelling, bayesian analyses, executive functions, positive youth development etcetera, we had the opportuni-

**ERU social event** to relax and have some drinks at the

ERU social event in a pub near the conference, the Ubica. Thanks to our onsite ERU members Stefanos Mastrotheodoros and Loes Keijsers, we had some nice drinks and delicious Dutch snacks arranged for us. But what's most important, we had the opportunity to know each other better, to talk, to exchange impressions and thoughts, or even to try to practise a language (other than English).

The diversity of cultural backgrounds - there were young scholars from the Netherlands, Belgium, Albania, Italy, Poland, Spain, Japan, France, or Greece, among others - and research interests were very enriching and refreshing. For example, the young scholars from catholic countries as Italy, Spain, or Poland, commented how strange was at the beginning for us that the plenary sessions of this 18<sup>th</sup> ECDP were in a Christian church that was still being used for Christian rites.

In short, we enjoyed some quality and laid-out time in a nice Utrecht pub, and at the same time we were able to network, exchange information and chat with each other while having a drink. We will surely participate again in the next ECDP in Athens!

**Pablo Carrera**  
*Universidad de Sevilla, Spain*  
**Sofie Weyn,**  
*KU Leuven, Belgium*

