

# Early Education and Child Development

<https://www.aera-eecd-sig.org/>

## Chair's Message

**Melissa Sherfinski**

Dear Early Education and Child Development SIG members,

It is with excitement that I anticipate our duo of American Educational Research Association (AERA) conferences this spring of 2023. We have an excellent program in store for both conferences, please check the online program available on the AERA website ([www.aera.net](http://www.aera.net)) for the sessions and events that are of interest to you. The program is searchable by SIG.

This year, the first AERA conference is an in-person conference in Chicago, Illinois from Thursday April 13<sup>th</sup> thru Sunday April 16<sup>th</sup>. In addition to the many dynamic papers, symposia, roundtables, and poster sessions offered by the SIG, we will have two additional events that I sincerely hope you all can attend. The first is the **SIG Business Meeting** which will take place Thursday April 13<sup>th</sup> from 8:00-9:30 AM (CDT)/9:00-10:30 (EST) in the Sheraton Grand Hotel Chicago Riverwalk, Level 4, Sheraton Ballroom I. (Please check the online program just before the event as occasionally the locations of events do change). I am very pleased to present awards to several highly accomplished scholars in our field at this meeting, and to hear their presentations on their cutting-edge research. We will also have the opportunity to receive updates on the SIG and talk together about important issues affecting our field. AERA plans to broadcast this meeting to individuals both attending the AERA meeting as well as those at home who are unable to attend the place-based meeting in Chicago. More information on how to access the Business Meeting online will be forthcoming.

I am also very pleased to announce that we will have not only the annual Business Meeting, but we will have a second opportunity to come together as a SIG to mingle and network at the place-based conference in Chicago. The **SIG Reception** will occur on Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup> from 7:30-9:00 PM (CDT) at the Fairmont Chicago Millennium Park, Lobby Level, Cuvee Room (again please check the online program just before the event for any location changes). We will serve a light menu of delectable morsels and provide drink tickets for our members. Please, if you are attending the place-based meeting, be sure to attend!

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Turning to the Virtual AERA Meeting to take place Thursday May 4<sup>th</sup>-Friday May 5<sup>th</sup>, we have some great paper and roundtable sessions accepted that I know many of us are eager to engage with. On Thursday May 4<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-8:00 PM (EST) the SIG Board plans to hold a **Virtual Talk-in** via Zoom, in which we will provide opportunities for early education and child development scholars from around the world to share ideas and mentorship. More information on this event will be forthcoming closer to the virtual conference.

Spring is a transition time for the EECD SIG executive board. I would like to recognize our continuing board members, new and outgoing board members. Continuing board members will be Myae Han (entering her second year as Past Chair), Jennifer Baumgartner (Chair-Elect), Alison Hooper (Secretary/Treasurer), Sohyun Meacham (transitioning from Newsletter Editor to Senior Member), Ji-Young Choi (Senior Member), Ana Whitaker (Junior Member), Sophia Han (co-program chair), Julia Atilas (co-program chair), Amber Brown (listserv manager) and X. Christine Wang (website manager). Thank you for your service, commitment, and wonderful ideas.

We have new board members joining us. Congratulations to Katy Chapman (new Junior Member), Grace Keengwe (new Newsletter Editor), Tomoko Wakabayashi (new Program Co-chair), and Cara Kelly (new Graduate Student Representative). Cindy Wiltshire (new Communications Officer) will begin in summer. Welcome to all of you, we look forward to getting to know you!

I would like to express my special thanks to our outgoing board members. X. Christine Wang (Senior Member), I am grateful for your contribution to creating a very successful election pool this year and chairing the early career award last season; I am glad that you will remain on the Board as website manager. Bethany Wilinski (Junior Member), I am grateful for your leadership and contribution to the graduate student travel award selection this year and for organizing the dissertation award search last year. Katherine Delaney (Program Co-chair), I am grateful for your intensive efforts working together for conference sessions of high-quality papers over a three-year span. Sohyun Meacham (Newsletter Editor), I am grateful the SIG could benefit from your creativity and attention to detail for three years as you creating amazing newsletters (and so glad we can benefit from your knowledge and experience as you shift gears now to Senior Member). Valkessha Rose Marshall (Graduate Student Representative), I am grateful for your artistic and social media talents especially around advertising the SIG Research Event that we held in early fall of 2022.

Here are some highlights of the AERA EECD SIG Board's work this year. You can find more information in this newsletter and we will share more at the Business Meeting in Chicago.

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- We determined the recipients of two robust Graduate Student Travel Awards that will provide a significant portion of students' needs for place-based conference attendance.
  - We determined the recipient of the 2023 Distinguished Contribution to Research Award.
  - We decided the recipients of not only one but two 2023 Early Career Research Scholar Awards.
  - We finalized TWO winners of the 2023 Outstanding Dissertation Award.
  - We elected a new slate of SIG Board members, please find the names of our new members in this message.
  - We held a research event for our graduate student members and faculty advisors interested in early childhood and child development grant funding.
  - We planned a series of place-based and virtual SIG gatherings at both 2023 AERA conferences.

As always, please feel free to email me at [Melissa.Sherfinski@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:Melissa.Sherfinski@mail.wvu.edu) if you have any questions about our SIG.

Melissa Sherfinski, AERA EECD SIG Chair, West Virginia University

# EECD SIG BUSINESS MEETING

**THURSDAY, APRIL 13TH,  
8:00-9:30 AM (CDT) / 9:00-10:30 AM (EST)**

**Sheraton Grand Hotel Chicago Riverwalk,  
Level 4, Sheraton Ballroom I**

**\*Please check the online program  
for any location changes.**

- Meet our board members
- Updates on the SIG
- Award ceremony and awardees' presentations

The AERA EE/CD SIG was pleased to award two **SIG-sponsored Graduate Student Travel Awards** to help offset the cost of attending AERA in person.

The recipients were

**Cara Kelly**

(University of Delaware)  
and

**Chungsoo Na**

(Utah State University).  
Congratulations!



## EECD SIG VIRTUAL TALK-IN VIA ZOOM

**THURSDAY, MAY 4TH,  
7-8PM (EST)**

More information on  
this event will be  
forthcoming.



## EECD SIG RECEPTION

**SATURDAY, APRIL 15TH, 7:30-9:00 PM (CDT)**

**Fairmont Chicago Millennium Park,  
Lobby Level, Cuvee Room**

\* Please check the online program for any location changes.

A light menu of delectable morsels provided.

Drink tickets are provided for our SIG members.

# DISTINGUISHED CONTRIBUTION TO RESEARCH AWARD



**Myae Han**  
Past Chair



The Early Education/Child Development SIG's Distinguished Contribution to Research Award recognizes an individual who has contributed nationally and internationally to the field of early education/child development as well as to the EE/CD SIG. The award is given annually and selected by a committee of previous chairs of the SIG. This year the EE/CD SIG is pleased to award this honor to **Dr. Diane M. Horm** at the University of Oklahoma-Tulsa.

Dr. Diane Horm is the George Kaiser Family Foundation Endowed Chair of Early Childhood Education and Founding Director of the Early Childhood Education Institute (ECEI) at the University of Oklahoma at Tulsa. Before joining the University of Oklahoma, she held faculty and administrative positions at the University of Rhode Island including Associate Dean of the College of Human Sciences, Professor of Human Development and Family Studies, and Director of the Child Development Centers. Through the ECEI, Dr. Horm has been leading several applied research initiatives in early childhood education including program evaluation research in collaboration with Tulsa's Educare programs and a large, multi-year study with

colleagues from Georgetown and Harvard Universities to investigate children's development from Pre-K through Grade 3.

According to her colleague, Nancy Barber, "Diane is a scholar who is thoughtful, persistent, and able to present her ideas and findings in ways that are accessible, ground-breaking, and thought-provoking." Diane has provided incredible leadership both locally and nationally. She is a founding Director of the Early Childhood Education Institute (ECEI). Under Diane's innovative leadership, the ECEI has gone from an idea to a visible, viable research group employing more than 30 people, and engaging in cutting edge early childhood research, grants, and publications. Diane has been a part of a national group exploring the long-term impact of high quality ECE programs on young children who have participated in the Educare system. She also provided service to national associations such as the AERA EE/CD SIG, NAECTE (National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators), NAEYC Higher Education Commission.

Perhaps the most important impact that Diane has had on the field of early education and child development has been through her mentorship of students and newer colleagues as well as her ability to collaborate with others in the field.

AERA EE/CD SIG is honored to acknowledge her many and wonderful contributions with this award.

My hearty Congratulations, Dr. Diane Horm!



## EARLY CAREER AWARD

**Ji-Young Choi**

Senior Member-at-Large

The Selection Committee is excited to announce our 2023 Early Career Awardees, Drs. Cassie J. Brownell and Arya Ansari. Dr. Brownell is an Assistant Professor in the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto. Since obtaining her Ph.D. from Michigan State University in 2018, Dr. Brownell is quickly establishing herself as an important contributor to the educational justice issues in early education and child development, especially within early literacies and social studies. Dr. Brownell uses qualitative methods to study how young children, as powerful storytellers, demonstrate their academic, social, and political understandings. Dr. Brownell has received multiple grants from prestigious national and international organizations like the Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council and the National Academy of Education/Spencer Research Foundation. According to her nominators, Associate Professor Haeny S. Yoon at Columbia University, Dr. Brownell “undoubtedly assures us that the future of early education and childhood development is filled with possibilities for more humanizing and just approaches to teaching and research with young children.”

Dr. Ansari is an Assistant Professor of Human Sciences at The Ohio State University. Dr. Ansari received his Ph.D. from the University of Texas-Austin in 2016. Dr. Ansari has an impressive track record of publications and grants, including grants from the Institute of Education Sciences and the National Institute of Health. His work focuses on understanding children's lives and early educational contexts to inform science, policy, and practice. Areas Dr. Ansari has studied include identifying the long-term impacts of early childhood educational environments, the impact of classroom age composition, the role of absenteeism on preschool impacts, and the unique and combined impacts of parents and early childhood education contexts on children's development. According to his nominators, Amy Johnson McLaughlin Centennial Professor Elizabeth T. Gershoff at the University of Texas at Austin, Dr. Ansari “has evolved into an exceptionally productive and innovative junior scholar who has already made several substantial contributions to our understanding of how children develop within early childhood settings.”

Please join us in congratulating Drs. Brownell and Ansari. Thank you to the selection committee members: Dr. X. Christine Wang at the University at Buffalo, SUNY, and Dr. Elizabeth Hadley File at the University of South Florida, who volunteered their time to ensure a fair, robust, and timely selection of our awardee from a group of promising young scholars.

## OUTSTANDING DISSERTATION AWARD

**Anamarie Whitaker**

Junior Member-at-Large

The Early Education and Child Development SIG Dissertation Award Committee was excited to receive many high-quality applications this year on critical and pressing topics within the early care and education and child development fields. Based on a thorough review of applications, the selection committee is excited to announce two award winners this year.

Dr. Gerilyn Slicker, now an Assistant Professor in the Department of Early Childhood, Multilingual, and Special Education at the University of Nevada Las Vegas was selected for her dissertation “Examining Provider Participation in the Child Care Subsidy System: A Mixed Methods Study.” Dr. Slicker received her PhD from the University of Delaware in the Department of Human Development and Family Sciences.

Dr. Crystasany Turner, now an Assistant Professor in Teacher Education at the Erikson Institute, was selected for her dissertation “Black Women Family Childcare Providers’ Roles as Community Mothers During the Covid-19 Pandemic.” Dr. Turner received her PhD from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in the Department of Teaching and Learning.

A special thank you to the selection committee that reviewed the numerous applications. Thank you, Alison Hooper, Erin Hamel, Rebecca Rohloff, Jennifer Baumgartner, and Kristin Whyte, for your service.

# PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT

**Kate Delaney, Sophia Han, Julia Atilas**  
Program Co-Chairs

## Total Submissions (N=191)

We received a total of 186 Paper and 5 Session submissions, an increase in total submissions for the 2023 meeting, showing a substantial rise from 2021 and 2022 meetings. Unlike the 2022 meeting, the 2023 meeting is divided into an In Person meeting (April 13-16) and a Virtual meeting (May 4-5). However, all submissions were uploaded, evaluated and scheduled via a single system. This makes this year's data a bit more challenging to evaluate as the acceptance rates for each meeting were quite different. We have done our best to report all data here.

Conference Year	Paper Submissions	Session Submissions	Total
2023	186 (150 in person, 36 virtual)	5 (4 in person, 1 virtual)	191
2022	155	8	163
2021	131	13	144
2020	207	25	232
2019	173	17	190
2018	202	14	216
2017	152	8	160
2016	183	11	194
2015	140	23	163
2014	152	16	168
2013	156	12	168
2012	150	At least 2	≥152

## Disqualified Submissions (n=8)

The Program Committee screened all of the submissions prior to assigning reviewers. The criteria ensured that the focus of the submissions were early childhood focused, were blinded, complete, and met the 2,000 word limit (or roughly 5 single-spaced pages or 7 double-spaced pages). We disqualified 3 paper submissions that exceeded the word limit; 2 paper submissions did not include an uploaded paper file; 2 paper submissions were missing too much information to be sent out for review; and 1 session submission did not meet the requirements of a structured session. Of the disqualified papers, 3 were submitted for the Virtual Program, 5 for the In-Person Program. We emailed these presenters to explain why their respective proposals were being disqualified.

## Reviewed Submissions (n=183)

We assigned 3 topic-relevant reviewers to each of the remaining Paper submissions and Session submissions. All the reviewers were alerted about their assignments via bulk email on August 18, 2022.

(2023 Proposal Submissions Summary Continued.)

## Conference Program Process

Based on the number of submissions received by each Division and SIG in relation to the total number of submissions received, each unit is allocated a certain number of paper/symposia sessions proportionally. Additionally, each unit receives an additional allocation for paper presentations which can be used for roundtable or poster sessions. The table below shows our SIG’s 2023 allocation of paper/symposia sessions and individual paper presentations in roundtable or poster format over time. For the 2023 cycle, for the In Person Meeting, the SIG was allocated 1 fewer paper/symposia sessions and 5 additional individual papers for roundtable/poster compared to the 2022 cycle. The Virtual Program allotted 6 paper/symposium sessions to the SIG.

Conference Year	Paper/Symposia Allocation	Papers in Roundtable or Poster Allocation
2023	14 in Person 6 Virtual	54 in Person
2022	15	49
2021	17	64
2020	18	93

Responding to feedback from past meetings, it was decided that Paper Sessions for the 2023 meeting would be returned to a 4 paper with Chair and Discussant model (as opposed to 5 papers and a Chair). The hopes of this change are to support more discussion and connection between scholars at various stages of their research careers in Paper Session settings. To increase the number of papers, we reduced the symposia allocation to 2 sessions, and added two more sessions for papers. The 54 individual papers for roundtable/poster format were grouped in 8 roundtables and one poster session.

To determine whether to accept or reject a reviewed submission, we considered its overall average score and normalized scores (with the latter created by AERA to take into account inter-rater differences in scoring), as well as the reviewers’ comments and their accept/reject recommendations. In the case of widely varying reviewer scores or comments, we carefully read the submission ourselves and, in some cases, “overruled” the outlier reviewer. Our goal throughout the process was to develop a strong program that would reflect important topics in the field and be of interest to SIG members. The process of assigning accepted submission as a paper, roundtable, or poster, we considered review scores and the extent to which each could be grouped by topic/theme

## Our final program contains:

### IN PERSON PROGRAM

- 102 paper/poster proposals, for a 68% acceptance rate. This is up from a 64% acceptance rate in the prior year. These papers were programmed as follows:
  - 12 paper sessions (n=48)
  - 8 roundtables (n= 40)
  - 1 poster session (n= 14)
- 2 symposia, for an acceptance rate of 50%

### VIRTUAL PROGRAM

- 26 paper proposals, for a 72% acceptance rate. These papers were programmed as follows:
  - 5 paper sessions (n=25)
- 1 symposium

We would like to thank everyone who submitted a proposal to the SIG, and those of you who served as our volunteer reviewers.

# 2023 BUDGET AND MEMBERSHIP REPORT



**Alison Hooper**  
Secretary / Treasurer

## MEMBERSHIP

Membership Categories	April 2018 (New York)	April 2019 (Toronto)	2020 (No Conference)	2021 (Virtual)	2022 (San Diego)	2023 (Chicago)
Current	413	378	413	373	342	388
New	89	86	93	92	68	66
Lapsed/still in AERA <sup>+</sup>	58	74	109	93	86	87

+The “Lapsed/Still in AERA” row reflects people who have an active AERA membership but are no longer part of our SIG.

## BUDGET

Category	Description	2022	2021	2020	2019
<b>Starting balance (January)</b>		\$17,623.89	\$14,013.79	\$10,016.52	\$7,713.92
<b>Income</b>	Membership dues	\$7,350.00	\$6,030.00	\$5,760.00	\$7,290.00
	Sponsorships	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
	Reimbursements	\$0.00	\$1,630.00		
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<i>\$7,350.00</i>	<i>\$7,660.00</i>	<i>\$5,760.00</i>	<i>\$7,690.00</i>
<b>Expenses</b>	Awards	(\$1,000.00)	(\$1,500.00)	(\$1,000.00)	(\$2,000.00)
	Plaques/Certificates (+shipping)	(\$121.09)	(\$119.90)	(\$171.24)	(\$135.00)
	Graduate Student and Early Career Registration Grants	(\$2,820.00)	(\$1,630.00)		
	Conference reception				(\$2,441.00)
	Board meeting	(\$650.35)			(\$511.40)
	Meeting expenses				
	Webinar honorarium	(\$800.00)	(\$500.00)		
	AERA Management Fee	(\$300.00)	(\$300.00)	(\$300.00)	(\$300.00)
	Web hosting/management			(\$291.49)	
	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<i>(\$5,691.44)</i>	<i>(\$4,049.90)</i>	<i>(\$1,762.73)</i>
<b>Balance</b>		<b>\$19,282.45</b>	<b>\$17,623.89</b>	<b>\$14,013.79</b>	<b>\$10,016.52</b>



# EE/CD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS 2022-2023

## ELECTED MEMBERS



**Melissa Sherfinski**  
**Chair**  
**(2022-2024)**  
Associate Professor,  
West Virginia University



**Jennifer Baumgartner**  
**Chair Elect**  
**(2022-2024)**  
Associate Professor,  
Louisiana State University



**Myae Han**  
**Past Chair**  
**(2022-2024)**  
Professor,  
University of Delaware



**Alison Hooper**  
**Secretary / Treasurer**  
**(2022-2024)**  
Assistant Professor,  
University of Alabama



**X. Christine Wang**  
**Senior Member-at-Large**  
**(2021-2023)**  
**Website Manager**  
Professor, SUNY Buffalo



**Ji-Young Choi**  
**Senior Member-at-Large**  
**(2022-2024)**  
Associate Professor,  
The Ohio State University



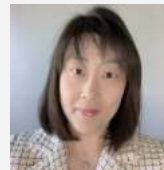
**Bethany Wilinski**  
**Junior Member-at-Large**  
**(2021-2023)**  
Associate Professor,  
Michigan State University



**Anamarie Whitaker**  
**Junior Member-at-Large**  
**(2022-2024)**  
Assistant Professor,  
University of Delaware



**Valkessha Marshall**  
**Graduate Student Representative**  
  
University of New Orleans



**Sohyun Meacham**  
**Newsletter Editor**  
**(2020-2023)**  
Associate Professor,  
University of Northern Iowa

## APPOINTED MEMBERS



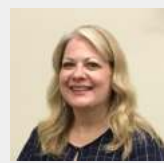
**Kate Delaney**  
**Program Co-Chair**  
**(2020-2023)**  
Associate Professor,  
University of Toledo



**Sophia Han**  
**Program Co-Chair**  
**(2021-2024)**  
Associate Professor,  
University of South Florida



**Julia Atilas**  
**Program Co-Chair**  
**(2022-2025)**  
Associate Professor,  
East Tennessee State University



**Amber Brown**  
**Communications Officer**  
**(2021-2023)**  
Associate Professor,  
University of Houston-Clear Lake