

# Early Education and Child Development

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

## Chair's Message

Melissa Sherfinski

Dear Early Education and Child Development (EECD) SIG Members,

Welcome to a wonderful new academic year filled with possibilities as we plan for and eagerly await spring of 2023 when our AERA Conference will be held in Chicago, Illinois and virtually. In this letter, I will recap some of the highlights of the 2022 Annual Meeting which took place in hybrid form in San Diego, California, and virtually, as well as summarize new EECD SIG activities and preview some conference highlights.

Before I touch on the 2022 AERA conference details and the achievements of the SIG in 2022, I would like to recognize Dr. Myae Han, of the University of Delaware, who served the SIG as Chairperson for two very challenging years (2020-2022) due to many difficulties, including a global pandemic. Myae's work involved an incredible amount of thought, creativity, flexibility, and orchestration behind the scenes to pull off two conferences and sets of meetings and workshops during these years in virtual and hybrid form. I, like so many others, was awed by Myae's leadership gifts and want to both recognize her and acknowledge that we still thankfully have her wisdom as a resource to the SIG as she has transitioned to Past Chair. Thank you, Myae, for all you have done for the SIG, we are looking forward to acknowledging you more formally at the 2023 meeting in Chicago!!

The AERA Annual Conference in 2022 was held for the first time through both in-person (in San Diego, California) and virtual modalities, which provided flexible attendance possibilities. I was very impressed by the quality and variation among the sessions and papers, my thanks and appreciation for all of the presenters and attendees. My deepest thanks to Kate McCormick of SUNY-Cortland, Kate Delaney of the University of Toledo, and Sophia Han of the University of South Florida, for their hard work as the 2022 Program Committee co-chairs, overseeing the review process and organizing a dynamic conference program for multiple modalities.

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The AERA EECD SIG business meeting was held virtually in 2022, and there were more than 50 individuals in attendance at this meeting. The SIG honored Dr. Rebecca Kantor posthumously for her distinguished contributions to the Early Education and Child Development fields during her long career. She was honored by Dr. Marty Lash, Dr. Lori Ryan, and Dr. David Fernie, who paid moving tributes to her many accomplishments in early childhood education and leadership, and to the incredible, dynamic, caring person that she was.

At the SIG business meeting, we presented awards to Dr. Kevin Wong of Pepperdine University for his excellent dissertation, and Dr. Elizabeth Hadley of the University of South Florida deservedly received the Early Career Award from the SIG. Both of these scholars were present to share their work through enlightening presentations. My thanks to Dr. Bethany Wilinski, of Michigan State University, and Dr. Christine Wang of the University at Buffalo, who led the committees who selected the dissertation and early career award recipients, respectively.

The SIG has been very fortunate in recent years to have the resources to expand the number of travel awards for both graduate students and early career scholars attending AERA. Dr. Alison Hooper, of the University of Alabama, kindly organized these awards for the AERA 2022 annual conference. The early career recipients of these awards were:

- °Kathryn Chapman, University of Kentucky
- °Michelle DeJohnette, San Diego State
- °Paul Kienlen, Texas A&M, San Antonio
- °Jillian Lauer, New York University
- °Michael Little, North Carolina State University
- °Soojin Park, University of Washington
- °Robin Sayers, University of Maryland
- °Katie Sloan, Oakland University
- °Cynthia Wiltshire, University of Texas-El Paso

And the graduate student recipients of travel awards were:

- °Melissa Bishop, Oakland University
- °Shayna Cook, American University
- °Emily Mack, University of California-Davis
- °Annette Pic, University of Delaware
- °Zhiling Shea, University of California-Irvine

°Wendy Wei, Harvard Graduate School of Education

Of special note, Jennifer Baumgartner, our Secretary and Treasurer for the AERA 2022 conference and Myae Han planned a special get together sponsored by our SIG, at a beautiful outdoor restaurant in San Diego, which offered the chance for SIG members and others interested in early childhood education and child development to network, relax, and enjoy one another's company.

Thank you so much to all of our dedicated board members, including all of those individuals named thus far, to Tomoko Wakabayashi who coordinated the SIG Board election call, to our talented newsletter editor, Sohyun Meacham of the University of Northern Iowa, to Mila Costa of Indiana University who has served as our graduate student representative, and to all of our SIG members and conference presenters who contributed to a dynamic conference and are dedicated to the growth and improvement of our field for the benefit of young children.

I would also like to welcome and congratulate the folks who are newly elected to the SIG board and already hard at work preparing for the 2023 AERA Conference in Chicago and virtually: our new Chair-elect, Jennifer Baumgartner of Louisiana State University, our new Secretary/Treasurer, Alison Hooper of the University of Alabama, our new Senior Member at Large, Ji Young Choi of the Ohio State University, our new Junior Member at large, Anamarie Whitaker of the University of Delaware, our new Program Committee Co-chair, Julia Atilos of East Tennessee State University and our new graduate student representative, Valkesha Rose Marshall of the University of New Orleans.

Even though it is not yet conference season, the EECD SIG has been busy hosting events to benefit our membership. Myae Han sent a survey to our SIG membership in the winter of 2022, and we found that we had a significant number of graduate student members with an interest in finding grant support for their dissertations.

In response to this need, on Aug 30, 2022, the SIG sponsored a Dissertation Grant Funding Session,

*(chair's message continued.)*

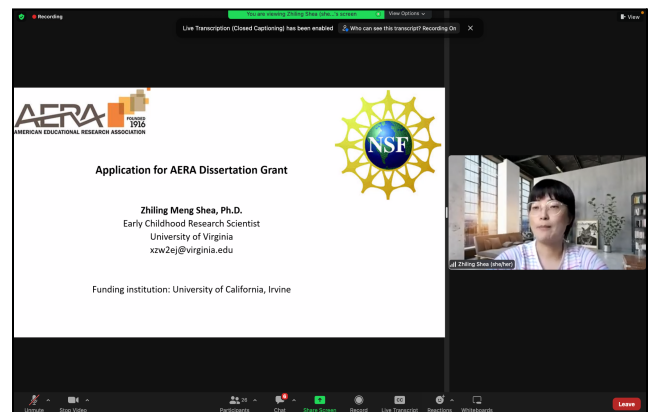
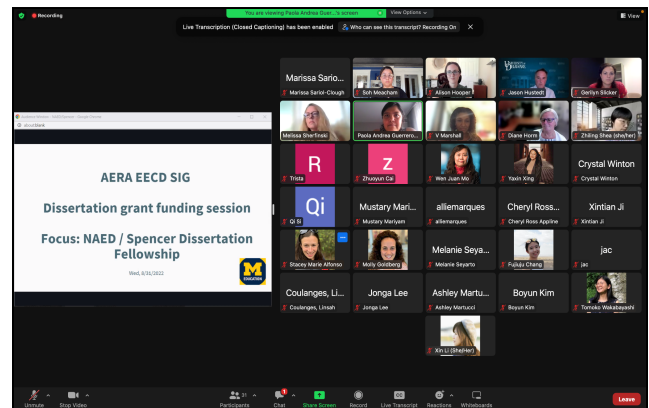
co-hosted by Dr. Alison Hooper and me, attended by more than 30 members and made available to all members of our SIG via video and PowerPoint. We were delighted by the presentations from recent recipients of some of the most prestigious grants available to dissertators. Attendees learned the details of each of the three dissertation grants presented, as well as some insider tips on how to plan and organize for success. The presenters were: Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE) grants—Gerilyn Slicker of the University of Nevada-Las Vegas and her mentor, Jason Hustedt of the University of Delaware; National Academy of Education/Spencer Foundation Dissertation Fellowship—Paola Andrea Guerrero Rosada of the University of Michigan; and AERA/National Science Foundation (NSF) Scholars—Zhiling Shea of the University of California-Irvine and the University of Virginia. Many thanks and congratulations to the presenters, we appreciate your willingness to spread your expertise to upcoming scholars and mentors in early childhood education and child development. I would like to give a special round of thanks to Valkessha Marshall, of the University of New Orleans, for helping to create a great advertisement for this event.

Looking ahead this fall, we will have an election for new board members in the following positions: Senior Member at Large, Junior Member at Large, Newsletter Editor, and Graduate Student Representative. Be sure to vote!

Additionally, right now we are calling for dissertation award and early career award, as well as graduate student travel award applications (see this newsletter for more details). We have a tremendously talented SIG and look forward to your applications.

AERA 2023 in Chicago and virtually is going to be amazing! We are anticipating a stellar program and all signs are pointing to a large turnout.

In addition to excellent in-person and virtual programs, the EECD SIG is planning a traditional business meeting with buffet, a virtual get together, and a time for graduate students and mentors to meet



and network, among other opportunities to gather and grow as a SIG.

On behalf of the AERA EECD SIG board, I hope to see you all there!

Best,

Melissa Sherfinski,  
West Virginia University  
Chair, AERA Early Education and Child  
Development SIG

# SEEKING **NOMINATIONS** for 2023 **AERA EE/CD SIG** BOARD MEMBERS

The Early Education and Child Development (EE/CD) SIG #32 is now accepting nominations for the following board leadership positions.

## **Senior Member-at-Large (2-year term)**

One senior member-at-large shall serve as a member of the nominations committee, and one senior member-at-large shall be responsible for managing the Early Career Awards (soliciting nominations, creating a committee, and deciding winners). Designation of these duties will be determined by the SIG Executive Committee.

## **Junior Member-at-Large (2-year term)**

One junior member-at-large shall be responsible for managing the Dissertation Awards (soliciting nominations, creating a committee, deciding winners), and one junior member-at-large shall be responsible for managing the Travel Awards (soliciting nominations, creating a committee, deciding winners). Designation of these duties will be determined by the SIG Executive Committee.

## **Newsletter Editor (3-year term)**

The newsletter editor shall be responsible for publishing and disseminating at least 2 SIG newsletters per year, in fall and spring, via electronic format. The Newsletter Editor shall also be responsible for transmitting the newsletters to the AERA office and providing an annual report to the chair.

**Graduate Student Representative (1-year term)** The Graduate Student Representative shall be responsible for attending to special project (s) at the discretion of the Chair. Other specific responsibilities include graduate recruitment to and involvement in the SIG.

Nominees must be current members of AERA and the Early Education and Child Development SIG. If you're nominating someone else, please be sure to communicate with the nominee and get their agreement and biographical statement prior to filling out the nomination form. In order to nominate yourself or someone else, you must provide the following information using this [nomination form](#):

- The full name of each candidate
- The institutional affiliation of each candidate
- The email address of each candidate
- A short biographical for each candidate (max. 250 words)

The deadline for submitting your nomination is **October 15, 2022**.  
(\*extended deadline)

If you have any questions regarding the nomination process, please contact X. Christine Wang at [wangxc@buffalo.edu](mailto:wangxc@buffalo.edu).

# SEEKING **NOMINATIONS** for the **2023 EARLY CAREER AWARD**

The EE/CD SIG is soliciting nominations for our Early Career Award. The committee urges all EE/CD SIG members to consider nominating a deserving early career scholar. The award recipient will be notified in February 2023 and recognized at the EECD SIG Business Meeting at the 2023 AERA meeting. Please see description and nomination guidelines below.

Early Career Award is made annually to an individual with an early and promising record as a researcher and scholar in the early childhood field, as evidenced through competitive publications and other scholarly activity suggesting a vital research agenda. Recipients of this award receive a \$500 monetary prize and are invited to present a brief summary of their research and interests at the SIG business meeting.

Please send all required materials as one combined PDF via email to Ji-Young Choi (choi.1893@osu.edu) with the subject "AERA EE/CD SIG Early Career Award" by **November 1, 2022, 11:59pm EST**. For inquiries, please contact Ji-Young Choi (choi.1893@osu.edu).

## Eligibility Criteria

1. Viable candidates for the EE/CD Early Research Career Award are no more than 10 years out from receiving their doctorate and have not received tenure.
2. Nominees must be members of the EE/CD SIG.  
*Note.* Nominees from previous years who did not receive the award are encouraged to apply, if they still meet the eligibility criteria above.

## Application Materials

1. A letter of nomination from a scholar, with sufficient justification of the nominee's qualifications.
2. A copy of the nominee's most recent Curriculum Vitae, including complete bibliographic information and present employment status.
3. Copies of 2 or more publications representative of the nominee's scholarly contributions to the early childhood/child development field thus far.

# SEEKING **NOMINATIONS** for the **2023 OUTSTANDING DISSERTATION AWARD**

Annually, the EE/CD SIG awards the Outstanding Dissertation Award for a recent dissertation of exceptional merit. The recipient will receive a plaque from the SIG and a monetary gift at the EE/CD SIG Business meeting. The recipient also receives an automatic invitation to present the dissertation work as part of the EE/CD Business Meeting. The EE/CD SIG is soliciting nominations for our Dissertation Award. **All nominations and required materials should be submitted to [this nomination form](#) by November 4, 2022.** Contact Dissertation Award Committee Chair Anamarie Whitaker ([awhit@udel.edu](mailto:awhit@udel.edu)) with any questions about the award or nomination process.

The criteria for this award are:

- 1) A completed and defended dissertation accepted by the Graduate School of the nominee's university within two years of the deadline for submission.
- 2) A study that investigates a topic related to the development of children between birth and age 8, including studies focused on families, teachers and others who care for and educate young children;
- 3) A nominating professor who is a current member of AERA.

To be considered for the award, please complete [this nomination form](#) and upload the materials listed below. Please include the nominee's name in the file name for all materials.

- **One letter of faculty endorsement** from a member of the student's dissertation committee who is an AERA member, attesting that the dissertation was completed by the student during the time period specified and that the faculty member nominating or endorsing the nomination served on the dissertation committee. Please also include the oral defense date. This letter should include a brief clarification of the purposes, scope, and quality of the student's dissertation research, as well as an explanation of how the dissertation contributes to the field of early childhood, child development, or early education. **This letter can be uploaded to the google form or sent directly to Anamarie Whitaker ([awhit@udel.edu](mailto:awhit@udel.edu)) with the subject line "EECD Dissertation Award." All other materials *must* be uploaded to the google form.**
- **A single Word document or PDF that contains:**
  - **Title page for the dissertation** (including university/college, name of the professor chairing the dissertation committee and a complete list of committee members). In addition, please add to the title page complete contact information (postal and e-mail) of either the student or the nominator that can be used for all correspondence regarding the award.
  - **Table of Contents** from the dissertation.
  - **1-2 page summary** (abstract) of the study to be published in the SIG newsletter should the award be given to the recipient.
  - **Scholarly summary of the dissertation**, written by the nominee. This summary should adhere to the APA manual's (7th ed.) guidelines for manuscript preparation and should be approximately 15-20 pages (double spaced). The summary should provide an overview of the dissertation study, including: objectives/purpose; perspectives/theoretical framework; methods/mode of inquiry; data sources and analyses; results/discussion; and conclusion and educational/scientific importance of study. The summary will be evaluated by a panel of scholars in the field and former dissertation winners.

**Please note that *all* nominees are required to submit a summary, regardless of dissertation format (e.g., traditional dissertation or three article dissertation).**

## Eligibility Criteria:

- 1) Dissertation topic should be congruent with the award purposes as described above.
- 2) The dissertation was completed within the past two academic years (2020-2021 or 2021-2022).
- 3) Nominees are encouraged to become a member of the EE/CD SIG if not already members. However, membership is not required.
- 4) Self-nominations will be accepted.

**Submit**  
all required materials  
as Word or PDF  
documents through the  
nomination form no later  
than November 4, 2022.  
Please direct any questions  
to Dissertation Award  
Committee Chair  
Anamarie Whitaker  
([awhit@udel.edu](mailto:awhit@udel.edu)).

# 2023 TRAVEL AWARDS for GRADUATE STUDENTS

The EE/CD SIG is pleased to once again offer a competitive funding opportunity for graduate students who are SIG members, have been selected to present in an EE/CD SIG session at the 2023 Annual Meeting, and plan to attend the conference in person. This year, we anticipate being able to provide multiple awards ranging from \$300-\$500.

Deadline for submission is  
**December 2, 2022.**

Please submit your application to  
this google form:

<https://forms.gle/PvS4xkx6ryARAvxH8>.

Please contact

**Bethany Wilinski**

(bethanyw@msu.edu)

with any questions pertaining to  
this award or application  
process.

To apply for a travel award, please provide the following information through this [google form](#):

- A copy of the letter of acceptance from AERA for the 2023 Annual Meeting.
- A brief statement of your plans to attend AERA this year as well as how a travel award will enhance your professional development.
- Please indicate if your institution does or does not provide any support for conference travel. If your institution does provide support for conference travel, please indicate the amount you anticipate receiving this year.

**2023 AERA ANNUAL MEETING**

**PLACE-BASED: CHICAGO, APRIL 13-16**

**VIRTUAL: MAY 4-5**

INTERROGATING  
**CONSEQUENTIAL  
EDUCATION RESEARCH**  
IN PURSUIT OF TRUTH

# 2022 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)	Current Membership (September 2022)
Current	413	378	413	373	342	409
New	89	86	93	92	68	99
Lapsed/still in AERA <sup>+</sup>	58	74	109	93	86	106

+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	2018
<b>Starting balance (January)</b>		\$17,623.89	\$14,013.79	\$10,016.52	\$7,713.92	\$9,785.73
<b>Income</b>	<b>Membership dues</b>	\$4,935.00	\$6,030.00	\$5,760.00	\$7,290.00	\$6,780.00
	<b>Sponsorships</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$0.00
	<b>Reimbursements</b>	\$0.00	\$1,630.00			
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		\$4,935.00	\$7,660.00	\$5,760.00	\$7,690.00	\$6,780.00
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Awards</b>	(\$1,000.00)	(\$1,500.00)	(\$1,000.00)	(\$2,000.00)	(\$2,500.00)
	<b>Plaques/Certificates (+shipping)</b>	(\$90.00)	(\$119.90)	(\$171.24)	(\$135.00)	(\$135.00)
	<b>Graduate Student and Early Career Registration Grants</b>	(\$2,820.00)	(\$1,630.00)			
	<b>Conference reception</b>				(\$2,441.00)	(\$4,988.36)
	<b>Board meeting</b>	(\$650.35)			(\$511.40)	(\$928.45)
	<b>Meeting expenses</b>					
	<b>Webinar honorarium</b>		(\$500.00)			
	<b>AERA Management Fee</b>		(\$300.00)	(\$300.00)	(\$300.00)	(\$300.00)
	<b>Web hosting/management</b>			(\$291.49)		
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		(\$4,560.35)	(\$4,049.90)	(\$1,762.73)	(\$5,387.40)	(\$8,851.81)
<b>Balance</b>		\$17,998.54	\$17,623.89	\$14,013.79	\$10,016.52	\$7,713.92



# 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



**Valkesha 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