

Newsletter

April 2024

Volume 18, Issue 2

Early Education and Child Development Special Interest Group

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



Chair's Message

Melissa Sherfinski

Dear Early Education and Child Development SIG members,

Right around the corner is the American Educational Research Association (AERA) conference this spring in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, from April 11-14. We have a very strong program planned, please check the online program available on the AERA website (www.aera.net) for the sessions and events that are of the most interest to you. The program is searchable by SIG.

In addition to the many dynamic papers, symposia, roundtables, and poster sessions offered by the SIG, we will have two additional events that I hope you all can attend. The first is the **Mentor-Mentee Gathering** that will take place on Friday, April 12th from 3:05-4:35 PM (EST) in the Philadelphia Marriot Downtown Level 4, Franklin 5. This gathering is for Scholars practicing in the field of Early Childhood Education together with their mentees, although everyone is invited. The event will consist of a panel of distinguished mentors and mentor-mentee pairs who will discuss their experiences of cultivating a strong working relationship, followed by time to socialize and network. We will serve coffee and pastries.

The second event is the **SIG Business Meeting AND Reception** (combined) which will take place Friday April 12th from 6:45-8:15 PM (EST) in the Pennsylvania Convention Center, Level 100, Room 115B. (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. We will also have the opportunity to receive updates on the SIG. For the Reception portion of the meeting, we will serve a menu of delicious morsels and provide drink tickets for our members. You will not want to miss it! (Please note there is no virtual option for the Business Meetings during AERA this year.)



Spring is a transition time for the EECD SIG executive board. I would like to recognize our continuing, new, and outgoing board members. Continuing board members will be Jennifer Baumgartner (new Chair), Sohyun Meacham (starting her second year as Senior Member), Katy Chapman (second year as junior member), Julia Atilas (co-program chair), Tomoko Wakabayashi (co-program chair), Cynthia Wiltshire (listserv manager) and X. Christine Wang (website manager). Thank you for your hard work, commitment, wonderful ideas, and good humor.

I also will be transitioning after the Philly conference to a new role as Past Chair and am thrilled to support the new energy and terrific ideas that Jennifer Baumgartner and the rest of the board continually bring forward.

We have new board members joining us. Congratulations to Alison Hooper (new Chair-elect), Ana Whitaker (new Secretary and Treasurer), Minsun Shin (new Senior Member), Gerilyn Slicker (new Junior Member), Sara Michael-Luna (new Program Co-chair), and Yan Jiang (new Graduate Student Representative). We are so pleased you are joining the SIG; we look forward to getting to know you!

Chair's Message (Cont.)

I would like to express my special thanks to our outgoing board members. Myae Han (Past Chair), your work for the SIG has been beyond pivotal as you gracefully led the way through the uncertainty of COVID and strengthened our group in the process. Thank you for being an inspiring mentor and role model for me and all of us. Alison Hooper (Secretary and Treasurer), your wizardry with data and cheerful spirit helped our SIG run like a dream through the many jobs and hats you have worn for us over the past two years, which have positioned you to be a wonderful Chair-Elect. Ji-Young Choi (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, you made this look easy. Ana Whitaker (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 and am glad you can continue with the board in a new role. Sophia Han (Program Co-chair), I am grateful for your intensive efforts working together for conference sessions of high-quality papers over a three-year span, your organization and leadership was truly impressive. Cara Kelly (Graduate Student Representative), you have been an amazing and dynamic, highly motivated member of the Board who has so much to offer the field and an incredible support to graduate students through your writing group and creating and organizing the mentoring event.

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 Philadelphia.

- We determined the recipients of EIGHT Graduate Student Travel Awards that will provide a helpful portion of students' needs for place-based conference attendance.
- We determined the recipient of the 2024 Distinguished Contribution to Research Award.
- We decided the recipients of the 2024 Early Career Research Scholar Award.
- We finalized the winner of the 2024 Outstanding Dissertation Award.
- We elected a new slate of SIG Board members, please find the names of our new members in this message.
- We planned a mentor-mentee event for our graduate student members and mentors for the 2024 AERA conference.
- We planned our all-SIG gatherings for the 2024 AERA conference.

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

Melissa Sherfinski, AERA EECD SIG Chair, West Virginia University



DISMANTLING RACIAL INJUSTICE
AND CONSTRUCTING

EDUCATIONAL POSSIBILITIES:

A CALL TO ACTION

2024 AERA ANNUAL MEETING

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

April 11-14, 2024



EECD SIG Business Meeting AND Reception

Friday April 12th from 6:45-8:15 PM (EST)

Pennsylvania Convention Center, Level 100, Room 115B*

**Please check the online program just before the event as occasionally the locations of events do change.*

We will serve a menu of delicious morsels and provide drink tickets for our members.

LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!

Distinguished Contributions to Research Award

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 EECD SIG. The award is given annually and selected by a committee of previous chairs of the EECD SIG. This year the EECD SIG is pleased to award this honor to Dr. Elizabeth Graue at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Dr. Graue is Sorenson Professor of Early Childhood Education in the department of Curriculum and Instruction, and Director of the Center for Research on Early Childhood Education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is a former kindergarten teacher and an AERA fellow. Her pioneering research on school readiness altered the way of early childhood educators conceptualize the construct of school readiness. Her work emphasized the variability of school readiness based on children's sociocultural background and contexts within their local community, prompting early childhood educators and policy makers to reconsider what the readiness means.

Additionally, Dr. Graue underscored the necessity and significance of qualitative research such as ethnographic observation, classroom observation, interviews of stakeholders, and policy analysis to promote positive change in early childhood education. Dr. Graue's empirical work has persisted through her numerous studies investigating the changing kindergarten, the impact of class-size reduction on teaching, rethinking assessment, and prekindergarten expansion. She has consistently produced high-quality research that challenges education stakeholders to deeply contemplate their approach to educating children and their families.



Dr. Graue has served as a mentor to numerous graduate students in early childhood education over the past decades. Her guidance of the next generation of scholars, both at UW-Madison and beyond, has resulted in many of her former students to become leaders within the field of early childhood education. They have contributed significantly to major associations such as American Educational Research Association and the National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators. Therefore, the impact of her research extends beyond her published work; it is reflected in the expansion of ideas through her mentorship over 30 years. This influence is poised to endure and resonate throughout the field for generations to come.

AERA EE/CD SIG is honored to acknowledge her numerous and exceptional contributions through this award.

My hearty Congratulations, Dr. Beth Graue!

Myae Han, past chair.

2024 EARLY CAREER & Dissertation AWARDS

2024 EARLY CAREER AWARD

I am delighted to announce Daniel J. Castner, Ph.D., as the recipient of the 2024 Early Career Award for his excellence in scholarship and significant contributions to the field. We eagerly anticipate witnessing further advancements in his career trajectory.

Dr. Castner is an Assistant Professor of Early Childhood Education and Curriculum Studies at Indiana University. He earned his Ph.D. from Kent State University in 2015. He was nominated by Professor Mary McMullen at Indiana University and Professor Martha Lash at Kent State University.

Gratitude is extended to our dedicated selection committee members who generously volunteered their time to ensure an equitable and rigorous selection process amidst a pool of highly competitive and prolific nominees:

- Dr. Ji-Young Choi, Associate Professor, The Ohio State University
- Dr. Annemarie Hindman, Professor, Temple University
- Dr. Stephanie Sanders-Smith, Associate Professor, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- Dr. Sohyun Meacham, Senior Member at Large, Associate Professor, University of Northern Iowa



2024 OUTSTANDING DISSERTATION AWARD

The Early Education and Child Development SIG Outstanding Dissertation Award Committee was excited to receive 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 the winner of this year's Early Education and Child Development SIG Outstanding Dissertation Award.

Dr. Katie Mathew, now an Adjunct Professor in the School of Education at Drexel University, was selected for her dissertation "Ready or Not? A Mixed Methods Case Study of the Beliefs About Kindergarten Readiness and Transition Practices of Families." Dr. Mathew received her Ph.D. from the Drexel University School of Education.

A special thank you to the selection committee for reviewing the applications. Thank you, Gerilyn Slicker, Crystasany Turner, and Katy Chapman, Junior Member for your service.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT

Sophia Han, Julia Atilas, Tomoko Wakabayashi
Program Co-Chairs

Reviewers

- At the beginning of the new conference cycle, a total of 220 AERA members volunteered to review for the Early Education and Child Development SIG.
- We reviewed their qualifications for the SIG (e.g., not students, have ECE expertise), and invited 109 members as reviewers.
- Of those, 85 members accepted the reviewer invitation and served as proposal reviewers.

Proposal Submissions

- We received a total of 173 proposals (159 papers and 14 sessions), which is a slight decrease in total submissions from last year.
- While we did not make it back to the pre-pandemic years, it can be seen as a bouncing-back trend to an average number of submissions over the past 10 years.

Screening Process

- We screened all of the proposals before assigning reviewers to ensure they were related to early education and child development, blinded, complete, and met the 2,000-word limit (roughly 5 single-spaced pages or 7 double-spaced pages).
- We disqualified a total of 12 proposals (10 papers and 2 sessions) for the following reasons:
 - No paper uploaded: 3
 - Exceeded the word limit: 2
 - Incomplete: 5
 - Author info unblinded: 2
- We communicated to these presenters explaining why their respective proposals were being disqualified.
- We had 2 submissions withdrawn by authors.
- We received 2 transferred submissions from other units.

Conference Year	Paper Submissions	Session Submissions	Total
2024	159 147 place-based 12 virtual	14 all place-based	173
2023	185 150 place-based 36 virtual	5 4 place-based 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

PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT (CONT)

Review Process

- We sent out a total of 161 proposals for review.
- We assigned 4 topic-relevant reviewers to each proposal.
- Each reviewer was assigned 7-8 proposals, with no more than 10 proposals.
- It should be noted that AERA requires a minimum of 3 completed reviews for each proposal; thus, having a sufficient number of reviewers to assign 4 reviewers per submission was extremely beneficial in case there is a lack of follow-through from some reviewers.
- In addition, during this time, AERA decided to cancel the virtual component. Authors of 12 virtual proposals were directly contacted by AERA and provided with the following options: convert to place-based, convert to i-Presentation gallery, or withdraw.

Conference Program Development

- It should be noted that based on the number of submissions received by each Division and SIG in relationship 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.
- For the 2024 Annual Meeting, our SIG was allocated 15 paper/symposia sessions and 73 more individual papers for roundtable or poster. This is an increase of 1 paper/symposia and 19 papers compared to last year.

Conference Year	Paper/Symposia Allocation	Papers in Roundtable or Poster Allocation
2024	15	73
2023	20 14 place-based 6 virtual	54 all place-based
2022	15	49
2021	17	64
2020	18	93

PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT (CONT)

- To determine whether to accept or reject a reviewed proposal, we considered its overall average score, the reviewers' comments, and the 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 review.
- Our goal throughout the process was to develop a strong program that would reflect important and diverse topics in the field and be of interest to SIG members.
- Based on the review results and allocation, we accepted a total of 106 proposals – 97 papers (64% acceptance rate) and 9 sessions (81% acceptance rate). This year, the session proposals were particularly very strong.
- In the process of assigning accepted proposals as a paper, roundtable, or poster, we considered review scores and the extent to which each proposal could be grouped by topic/theme.
- In order to support more discussion and connection between scholars, it was decided that paper sessions would continue to include 4 papers with the Chair and Discussant model.
- We divided the allocated 15 paper/symposia into 6 paper sessions (with 4 papers each) and 9 symposia. The other individual papers were grouped in 12 roundtables (with 4 papers each) and two poster sessions.
- NOTE: This year, i-presentation proposals were accounted for as a separate group by AERA and were not included as a part of our SIG's program. Among the proposals submitted to our SIG, 2 were accepted for i-presentations based on the merits of the proposal.

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

2024 TRAVEL AWARDS for GRADUATE STUDENTS

Congratulations to our Early Education and Child Development SIG Graduate Student Travel Award winners! We had a strong pool of applicants this year and are pleased to award 8 travel awards to graduate students to attend the annual conference in Philadelphia. These students are all presenting their research in some capacity at the annual meeting as part of our SIG. Please join us in congratulating:

Boo Young Lim
University of Oklahoma

Quennie Dong
University of California, Berkeley

Cara L. Kelly
University of Delaware

Yan Jiang
University of California, San Diego

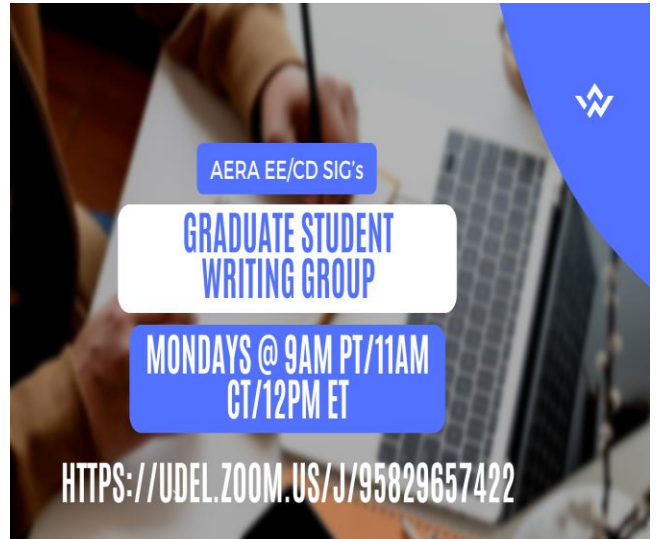
Allison McCann
University of Toronto

Tammy Yabik
University of California, Los Angeles

Robert Macias
Northern Arizona University

Yaxin Xing
University at Buffalo

A special thank you to Dr. Ana Whitaker for coordinating this.



Writing Group for EE/CD Graduate Students

Cara Kelly, the Graduate Student Representative for the EE/CD SIG, is hosting formal writing groups for all graduate students who are interested in participating. The writing groups are held every Monday at 9am PT / 11am CT / 12pm ET.

The writing group lasts for an hour, and we dedicate the first five minutes of every session to discussing our goals for the hour. This is a great opportunity to connect with fellow graduate students who are interested in EE/CD and hear about their work. Please join us if you are interested in networking with other graduate students and dedicating time to writing each week!

Zoom link: <https://udel.zoom.us/j/95829657422>

Mentor/Mentee Gathering at the 2024 AERA Conference

Join us at the 2024 AERA conference for the EE/CD SIG Graduate Student Mentor/Mentee Gathering on Friday, April 12th from 3:05-4:35pm at the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown. We will have a group of panelists who will be discussing effective mentoring strategies and will be answering questions about mentoring EE/CD graduate students. Following the panel session, we will have time to network and mingle with other mentors and mentees while enjoying coffee and pastries. We encourage all mentors to attend with their mentees to make the most of this event! Please reach out to Cara Kelly (ckelly@udel.edu) if you have questions about the event.

2024 Membership

Spring 2024 EECD SIG Membership

Membership Categories	April 2019 (Toronto)	2020 (No Conference)	2021 (Virtual)	2022 (San Diego)	2023 (Chicago)	Current Membership
Current	378	413	373	342	388	327
New	86	93	92	68	66	64
Lapsed/still in AERA ⁺	74	109	93	86	87	72

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

Budget

Category	Description	2023	2022	2021	
Beginning Balance		\$19,282.45	\$17,623.89	\$14,013.79	
Income	Membership dues	\$5,430.00	\$7,350.00	\$6,030.00	
	Reimbursements	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1630.00	
TOTAL INCOME		\$5,430.00	\$7,350.00	\$7,660.00	
Expenses	Awards	(\$2,000.00)	(\$1,000.00)	(\$1,500.00)	
	Plaques/Certificates (+shipping)	(\$272.33)	(\$121.09)	(\$119.90)	
	Graduate Student and Early Career Registration Grants	(\$1,000.00)	(\$2,820.00)	(\$1,630.00)	
	Conference reception	(\$4,098.88)			
	Board meeting	(\$734.32)	(\$650.35)		
	Webinar honorarium		(\$800.00)	(\$500.00)	
	AERA Management Fee	(\$300.00)	(\$300.00)	(\$300.00)	
	Web hosting/ management	(\$365.61)			
	TOTAL EXPENSES		(\$8,771.14)	(\$5,691.44)	(\$4,059.90)
	Ending Balance		\$15,941.31	\$19,282.45	\$17,623.89

EE/CD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS 2023-2024

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



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



Sohyun Meacham
Senior Member-at-Large
(2023-2025)
Associate Professor
University of Northern Iowa



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



Katy Chapman
Junior Member-at-Large
(2023- 2025)
Assistant Professor,
University of Florida



Cara Kelly
Graduate Student Representative
(2023 – 2025)
University of Delaware



Grace Keengwe
Newsletter Editor
(2023-2025)
Associate Professor,
University of North Dakota

EE/CD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS 2023-2024

Cont.

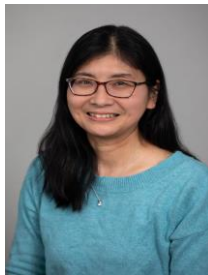
Sophia Han
Program Co-Chair
(2021-2024- Appointed)
Associate Professor,
University of South Florida



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



Tomoko Wakabayashi
Program Co-Chair
(2023 – 2026; Appointed)
Associate Professor
Oakland University



Cindy Wiltshire
Communications Officer
(2023-2025)
Assistant Professor
University of Texas at El Paso



X. Christine Wang
Website Master
(Appointed)
Professor,
University of New York at
Buffalo

