

RN04 Biennial Report 2017-2019

1. Name and Number of RN

Sociology of Children and Childhood, RN04

2. Names and email addresses of:

a. outgoing Coordinators and board members (past term)

Outgoing Coordinators:

Cath Larkins (University of Central Lancashire) – clarkins@uclan.ac.uk

Daniel Stoecklin (Université de Genève) – daniel.stoecklin@unige.ch

Lucia del Moral Espin (Universidad de Cádiz) – lucia.delmoral@uca.es

Outgoing Board Members:

Maarit Alasuutari (University of Jyväskylä, Finland)

Claudio Baraldi (University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy)

Tom Cockburn (Edge Hill University, UK)

Florian Esser (University of Hildesheim, Germany)

Pascale Garnier (University de Paris 13, France)

Vittorio Iervese (University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy)

Vicky Johnson (University of Brighton, UK)

Cath Larkins (University of Central Lancashire, UK)

Manon Lavaud (Roskilde University, Denmark)

Madeleine Leonard (Queens University Belfast, UK)

Lucia del Moral Espin (Universidad Pablo de Olavide, Spain)

Jo Moran-Ellis (University of Sussex, UK)

Randi Dyblie Nilsen (NTNU, Norway)

Ana Nunes de Almeida (University de Lisboa, Portugal)

David Oswell (Goldsmiths, University of London, UK)

Barry Percy-Smith (University of Huddersfield, UK)

Yannis Pectelidis (University of Thessaly, Greece)

Griet Roets (Ghent University, Belgium)

Maria Roth (Babes-Bolyai University, Romania)

Daniel Stoecklin (University of Geneva, Switzerland)

Nigel Thomas (University of Central Lancashire, UK)

Hanne Warming (Roskilde University, Denmark)

b. incoming Coordinators and board members (new term after this year's conference)

Incoming Coordinators:

Cath Larkins (University of Central Lancashire) – clarkins@uclan.ac.uk

Daniel Stoecklin (Université de Genève) – daniel.stoecklin@unige.ch

Lucia del Moral Espin (Universidad de Cadiz) – lucia.delmoral@uca.es

Incoming Board Members:

Maarit Alasuutari University of Jyväskylä, Finland

Claudio Baraldi(University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy)

Tom Cockburn (Edge Hill University, UK)

Lucía del Moral-Espín (Universidad de Cádiz, Spain)

Pascale Garnier (University de Paris 13, France)

Turkan Firini Orman (Baskent University, Turkey)
Vicky Johnson (University of Brighton, UK)
Cath Larkins (University of Central Lancashire, UK)
Madeleine Leonard (Queens University Belfast, UK)
Randi Dyblie Nilsen (NTNU, Norway)
Ana Nunes de Almeida (University de Lisboa, Portugal)
David Oswell (Goldsmiths, University of London, UK)
Barry Percy-Smith University of Huddersfield, UK)
Nigel Patrick Thomas (University of Central Lancashire, UK)
Daniel Stoecklin (University of Geneva, Switzerland)
Hanne Warming (Roskilde University, Denmark)

3. Activities:

Please describe all relevant activities of your RN in the past two-year term:

- a. Did you organise a mid-term conference? If yes, please provide the title, venue, date, organisers, number of papers and participants and overall assessment of the event. (Consult your midterm conference report which will not get published on the website.)

Our 4th Mid-term Conference took place on May 24-25, 2018 at the University of Lisboa, Portugal under the title "Sociology of Childhood: Theorising Childhood. Engaging with Citizenship, Culture and Context". It was organized in conjunction with the Instituto de Ciências Sociais, Universidade de Lisboa and the Institute of Education at University of Minho.

This Mid-Term Conference continued and articulated the ideas developed during the mid-term conferences in Jyväskylä (2012), Modena (2014) and Ghent (2016), by enhancing theoretical understandings of childhood drawing on classical and new directions in sociological theory. 32 papers were presented in 5 sessions dedicated to the following topics: 1) New theoretical directions for childhood studies (6 papers), 2) Arts and social research with children (6 papers), 3) Food insecurity, poverty and children rights (4 papers); 4) Family, parenting and gender (3 papers); 5) Children agency in social spaces (5 papers); Children, participation and school (3 papers) and 6) Children and welfare protection (5 papers).

The limited number of paper (32) and participants (38) allowed for active and intense dialogue, during as well as outside sessions, on theorising childhood with emphasis on the three sub-topics mentioned above. The organization comprising the coordinators and local scholars, in consultation with the Board Members, was quite effective and embodied the wish, expressed during the Business Meeting of ESA Conference in Athens (2017), to strengthen our network with a planning group.

However, the aspiration, also suggested in Athens, to have papers distributed prior to the symposium, and presenters introducing their papers in a few minutes, thus leaving more time for discussion has not successful because of the foreseen main constraint of this model, namely that attendees hardly can find the time, in their current work, to read all the papers before presentations. For the same reason, most presenters can hardly send extensive papers beforehand. The members of the Board at the Business meeting in Athens voted for 4 papers (15') in 90 minutes, and the format adopted in Lisbon was to have sessions of 3 presentations lasting 15' each, followed by 20 minutes discussions. Consequently the aspiration for the new model proved difficult in practice and we therefore come back to the classical format.

- b. Please report on your activities at the ESA Conference of this year: Number of sessions; how many presentations, how many distributed papers?

In the ESA Conference in Manchester (August 2019), we ran dedicated sessions for our network as well as developing joint sessions and a shared semi-plenary with related networks.

Within RN04 50 papers were presented. These were divided into 10 long-paper sessions and 2 short-paper sessions. There were 34 papers presented in the long papers sessions and 16 papers presented in the short paper sessions as follows:

- 01: Borders and Theory in Childhood Studies I
- 02: Children, power, politics and dialogue
- 03: Childhoods and Children's Rights
- 04: Children navigating economic inequalities
- 05: Approaching capabilities in diverse childhoods
- 06: Children in space and place
- 07a: Belonging and Migration
- 07b: Lived experiences of generational relations
- 08: Boundaries and Generationing
- 09a: Borders and Theory in Childhood Studies II
- 09b: Protecting and promoting children's rights and well-being
- 10: Naming and Intersectionality

In collaboration with RN13 (Sociology of Families and Intimate Lives) we ran five joint sessions on the shared theme of: 'In the child's best interests?': Global perspectives on parenting culture, family policy and child well-being. The 19 long papers presented in these five sessions covered Early Childhood Parenting and Education; Parenting Childhood, Scheduling and Time; Parental interpretations of children's best interests; Doing research with children and parents; and Meanings of 'child welfare' and 'good parenting'

The Semi plenary was entitled [New Understandings of Children and Young People's Activism](#)

- c. Did you establish a Newsletter of your RN? If so, how often is the Newsletter published; is it sent through the ESA RN website?

We use regularly the ESA RN website to disseminate information among our members. Over the last two years a total of 32 RN04 news have been send.

- d. Does your RN have a website of its own, other than the space on the official ESA website?

No, our website is in the space of the official ESA website. A blog was create specifically for the Mid Term Conference <https://esachildren2018.wordpress.com/>

- e. Publications related to RN sessions and/or midterm meetings?

None

- f. Any action to be taken to improve participation of PhD students and early career researchers?

We have decided to create an Advisory Group is composed of the following (eight) members:

Florian Esser (University of Hildesheim, Germany)
Vittorio Iervese (University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy)
Manon Lavaud (Roskilde University, Denmark)
Jo Moran-Ellis (University of Sussex, UK)

Yannis Pechtelidis (University of Thessaly, Greece)
Griet Roets (Ghent University, Belgium)
Maria Roth (Babes-Bolyai University, Romania)
Aleksandra Zalewska-Królak (PhD student, Poland)

This has enabled us to create spaces on the board (for more junior researchers) and to enable interested PhD students to get a more involved in the working of the network, shaping our direction.

- g.** Any action to be taken to expand membership, especially from countries with overall weaker ESA membership? Also, are there members from outside Europe?

In the Business Meeting of RN04 in Manchester, 22 August 2019, it was decided that Board members should be around 15. The former Board, composed of 22 members is now reduced to 16 members, as the result of an election in which there were candidates with identical numbers of votes and in the interests of ensuring gender balance and diversity in terms of geographical spread and seniority.

The newly elected coordinators (2019-2021) are Lucia del Moral-Espin, Daniel Stoecklin and Cath Larkins. They all serve their second term. The coordinators have proposed to set up an Advisory Group (see under f) in order to expand membership and also participation of PhD students and early career researchers.

- h.** Any collaboration within ESA with other RNs? If so, please give details. Do you plan to improve collaboration across RNs?

We collaborated with RN 13 to create joint sessions and through the work which developed this collaboration some of us will contribute to a shared publication.

- i.** Any action to be taken to improve opportunities for publication of papers presented at the RN meetings and sessions?

We invited a publisher in our Business Meeting in Manchester (22 August 2019: Sociology of Children and Families. Bristol University Press. The publisher invites to contact the series editor.

We have also held discussion with editors of relevant journals to highlight the fields of interest which emerged from the conference.

- j.** Any other important activities undertaken by your RN?

The duties and rights of members of RN04, of Board members of RN04, of the Advisory Group of RN04 and of the Coordinators of RN04 have been decided as follows:

Duties and rights of Members of RN04 :

The Members of RN04 (unlimited) have the following individual duties and rights : elect the coordinators of RN04, actively participate in the activities of RN04 (submit papers, make suggestions to coordinators, etc.). Any Member of RN04 is eligible as Board Member and as Coordinator of RN04.

Duties and rights of the Board members of RN04:

The Board Members of RN04 have the following individual duties and rights : review papers, decide on plans for mid-term conference, deal on any other issues directly connected to the Research Network and indirectly connected to ESA.

Duties and rights of the Advisory Group of RN04:

The members of the Advisory Group include former Board Members and PHD Students. The members of the Advisory Group have the following individual duties and rights: extend information about RN04 activities to new potential members, especially among PHD Students.

Duties and rights of the Coordinators of RN04:

The coordinators of RN04 are 3 Board members, elected for 2 years, eligible for 2 consecutive terms. They are responsible for the overall organization of RN04.

Election system

The election of Members to the Board and Advisory Group takes place at or around each ESA conference, the Members of RN04 are invited via online survey to express their wish to be Board Member ; they have to provide a short profile of themselves. The coordinators then make a voting list with all candidates, urging the Members to vote for 12 candidates. The coordinators elect the 4 remaining seats with the aim of reaching gender-, geographic- and seniority-balance.

The election of the Coordinators takes place at each ESA conference (or following month), the Coordinators that have served for one term are invited to state whether they run for election for a second term. The remaining seat(s) are filled with candidates from the Board. The coordinators then make a voting list with all candidates, urging the Members to vote for 3 candidates.

k. Any plans for further activities of your RN?

We have discussed the next Mid-Term Conference: the proposition made by Daniel Stoecklin to host the next Mid-Term Conference at the University of Geneva, in its campus in Sion (Switzerland), was acclaimed. The topic was decided as follows: *Childhood in (climate) change*. The date will be specified later: either end of May or end of August 2020.

21 October 2019

Daniel Stoecklin

Lucia del Moral Espin

Cath Larkins