

SIG 13 news

Newsletter from EARLI SIG 13 Moral and Democratic Education

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Fritz Oser (1937-2020)

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Editorial

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Dear members of SIG 13 “Moral and Democratic Education”,
Sadly, I am tasked to inform you that Fritz Oser, founding member and former coordinator of SIG 13, has died this September 2020. First and foremost, I extend my condolences to his family and friends. I only knew him for a short time and met him at EARLI business meetings. Still I felt shock and loss when I learned of his passing. I am grateful that both former and current coordinators of SIG 13 shared some experience they had with Fritz Oser.

Fritz Oser was born in July 1937 in Hofstetten (Switzerland). Throughout his life, he devoted his time to the research of religious and moral development and functioning, also from a pedagogical perspective. He published a multitude of impactful scientific works and was widely recognised. However, Fritz Oser was much more than just his research, and stories can help us to take a few glimpses at the human we lost.

Remembrance can be an individual and a collective action. The act of sharing stories can waken our own memories and help us to connect the dots of memories to a picture of the person we lost. Sometimes it can also help us access our own grief or find meaning. Nothing of this is necessary, but it is a ritual that helps those staying behind and honours the personhood of the remembered. Therefore, I am very grateful that many colleagues shared some memories of Fritz Oser.

We are left behind with a great legacy and many precious memories. I thank you all for taking the time to remember Fritz Oser with us.

Sincerely,

JOHANNA F. ZIEMES
Editor

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Memories of Fritz Oser

Eveline Gutzwiller-Helfenfinger shares two important moments with Fritz Oser which impacted her life:

“Fritz Oser was one of the big names when I was a doctoral student. My supervisor suggested him as second supervisor for my dissertation, as the topic related to moral development. I met Professor Oser twice to discuss my progress. He listened to my ideas, took a quick look at my coding manual, asked a few questions, and said: “Perfect. Just go on like this.” That was all, both times. I felt uplifted. Before my defense, I was suddenly afraid he might feel that I should have asked his advice more often. Directly after the defense, he offered me a job. He had seen me and given me the guidance I needed.

I have been working with Fritz in his last entrepreneurship research project for two years now, until he died. As we trained vocational education teachers, he introduced the concept of social enterprise, using the example of SAP, who employ people identifying on the autism spectrum because of their unique talents. “Can you imagine what it means to these people to find real employment and be seen as a resource?” He then talked about his son, Wilfried, and what the employment question meant to him and his family. Fritz – as always – enthralled the audience. He shared part of his life, one human being with fellow human beings.“

Karin Heinrichs looks back at Fritz Oser’s impact on the scientific community and her own development as a researcher:

“Fritz Oser, one of the founders of EARLI SIG 13, has passed away. We will miss him as a great scientist, a scholar of Kohlberg and expert in moral development and education. He has left behind an enormous amount of publications in particular in the field of SIG 13. Moreover, we will miss him as a person, a colleague, a mentor, a friend. He seemed always ready to inspire and invite us to share his ideas, to develop common projects, to edit books, and discuss his visions. Even after retiring, he was full of ideas to contribute and foster research. But meeting Fritz was more than meeting a scientist: he had a great gift to connect to people. He seems to be interested not only in their research rather than in their individual lives. During more than 4 decades, he managed to develop an impressive network of colleagues, mentees and friends all over the worlds, and many of us have their own story meeting Fritz.

As I was a student, Fritz inspired me when I read his publications on moral education. As a young researcher, I particularly remember Fritz as a lovely host of encouraging scientific conferences in Fribourg, such as an annual meeting of a group of German-speaking researchers of moral development and education, 1998, or the AME conference, 2006. In 2009, after a symposium on moral motivation I organized Fritz spontaneously encouraged me: “Karin, we will edit a book together.” This was the beginning of a great and intensive collaboration. I am very grateful that had the chance to know Fritz. He became my mentor and, moreover, a paternal friend. I will miss him.

When I was the EARLI SIG 13 coordinator from 2011-2015, I always felt supported and encouraged by Fritz’s commitment to our group, not only when he joined our conferences (as busy as he always was, he often had only time to jump in for some hours, at least for presenting

a paper, talking to the participants and having a glass of wine). Remembering Fritz may help us to be ready for meeting the current and future requirements in the field of moral and democratic education. He was convinced that moral development of students and teachers is important to foster effective and responsible teaching as well as sustainable learning. Thus, the core issues of our SIG are not marginal. They are worth to become even more visible, even within EARLI. As Fritz received the OEVRE Award for his scientific lifetime achievement during the biennial EARLI conference 2013 in Munich, this was a great step in this direction. Now, it is up to us to make a difference, to develop visions of a better world, to continue in conducting and discussing research across disciplines and standpoints in an appreciative and constructive atmosphere. I am convinced SIG 13 could stay a good place to do so.”

Cees Klaassen remembers Fritz Oser's ability to engage with and connect complex topics and to engage in meaningful debates:

“Fritz Oser has been a source of inspiration for me a long time before I met him in person. I believe it was somewhere in the seventies that I first scanned the name of Fritz Oser. I think it was in a publication on religion. I saw that he (like me) was interested in the search for a humanistic Christianity. I remember that he also showed interest in a specific catholic educational phenomenon called the ‘catechism’, a book that already in my boyhood I associated with methods of indoctrination. I also discovered then that in this early (theological) phase of his career he paid attention to the ‘developmental approach’ of religious socialization.

In these years, I was working as a sociologist of education and busy with my first interdisciplinary projects on moral and political socialization. Already then, the work of Fritz Oser on morality and development was high on my agenda. I was especially interested in his writing on moral judgment, social responsibility, moral self-determination, the discourse method and the various aspects of moral professionalism. His publications impressed me because of his reflective way of using theory, but also his sophisticated conceptualization and systematic categorization of ideas and his way of connecting theory and research. Other aspects of his work attracted my attention as well. Besides the many ‘moral’ books and articles, Fritz also published on various ‘general’ aspects of education and pedagogy. I think of things such as self-regulated (and later ‘painful’) learning, teacher education, professionalization, competence oriented education, educational assessment, competence profiles for teachers and entrepreneurs and the relation between psychology and pedagogy. He was involved in educational debates about teaching strategies and issues of educational quality and evaluation, often bringing theoretical and practical knowledge together and in my view also with a good dose of reflexivity and awareness for the problems. Fritz was also active in educational policy. During his career, he wrote not only about the pedagogical and moral aspects of schools but also of other institutions, social groups and companies.

When I had met Fritz in person at the many international educational and moral conferences (aera, ame, earli) another important contribution of Fritz became clear to me. He was important in bridging the international scientific gap between the United States and Europe. In my years as a sociology student I had been astonished by the gap between the dominant (American) structural functional approach and the very interesting sociological theories of e.g., the German and French sociology that were clearly unknown in the US. Listening to Fritz Oser I realized that he connected not only empirical research with philosophy and social and psychological theories, but also Kohlbergian influences with Habermasian ones. Stimulating scientific international collaboration was important to him. On many occasions, he delivered special insights and points of view promoting the moral and education fields of study. Meeting him on for instance, the Sig 13 symposia was always fun, both intellectually and personally. I remember that when we talked about a research paper that I had presented in one of our ‘moral sessions’ he used to give me some unsolicited advice about relevant literature and suggested ideas and possible pathways for my further research. Yes, meeting Fritz was really encouraging

for every time he was full of new plans and projects and used to drop new or refreshed ideas to think about. The last time I met him he told me that he wanted to stay active in the ‘moral business’ as long it would be possible. He still enjoyed that very much. In his words: “my work is my pleasure, and if they don’t invite or call me anymore for something, I will call them”. I will always remember him with much respect and also with a smile.”



Fritz Oser near the *Ponte dei Sospiri* (Bridge of Sighs) in Venice

Jean-Luc Patry shares two small stories which reveal a bit of Fritz Osers sense of humour:

“Fritz liked to play the violin. In a gathering of the Institute in Fribourg, in the early nineteen-eighties, he played once a duo with a colleague, who played the violoncello. This presentation was recorded and reproduced immediately after. At the hearing of these sounds, Fritz exclaimed: "You hear: Others rasp on the fiddle as well." ("Kratzen auf der Geige")

Fritz Oser had once an argument with a psychologist colleague from the Faculty in Fribourg.

The colleague said to Fritz: "Researchers deal with topics with which they have particular problems. Your topic is moral education, so you seem to have a problem with morality." Fritz answered: "OK, researchers deal with topics they have problems with. What is your topic?

Intelligence!"“

Dimitris Pnevmatikos recounts Fritz Osers incredible ability to encourage and motivate (young) researchers:

I met Fritz Oser in my readings for my PhD in early 90es and during the EARLI Conference in Athens in person. This meeting influenced my academic career. Fritz encouraged me to keep working with the topics about moral development. He invited me also to join the new Special Interest Group within the EARLI association. Without any doubt, I signed the application becoming one of the founding members of the SIG13. He always asked to organise a SIG 13 meeting and he was so happy when I accepted to organise the first SIG13 Symposium in Greece. He was the first invited Keynote speaker of the 1st Symposium of the Special Interest Group Moral and Democratic Education. His keynote was on the topic "Morality and Civics: Two Powerful Domains each having its own basic Core "Mother structure". He was present

during the Symposium days, encouraging the young researchers. He was also present during the long-lasting Symposia after the last presentation on the program... He was so happy! This is the image I will keep in my mind.

Wiel Veugelers shares with us the story of how “Fritzerland” came into being:
Fritzerland

“At AERA 1996 Fritz invited Kirsi Tirri and me for a lunch. We spoke about creating a group of researchers on moral education in Europe. A few months later we started in Athens the Special Interest Group Moral and Democratic Education of EARLI (the European Association of Learning and Instruction). Fritz and I spoke already about celebrating it’s 25 years in 2021.

In 2008 Fritz and I started the book series ‘Moral Development and Citizenship Education’ with Sense (now Brill Sense). The last time he called me on the phone, beginning of 2020, he was proud that we had already 15 volumes and he was happy that several new ones are in preparation. And he added, I have new ideas.

We have been presenting often together in symposia, all over the world. The last few years I often told him that it would be great if he could give an overview what he has learned in his long and rich career. He always responded with ‘young professor I have new interesting data but I will include a lot of reflection in my presentation’, and he started a long and interesting journey through 70 slides. Many young scholars liked his presentations. He gave the impression that he never would stop doing research, giving great feedback and having fun together, often with good wine.

A few years ago I attended his 80th birthday party. In my speech I confessed that I sometimes thought and even said ‘Fritzerland’ instead of Switzerland. The next day when walking around in Fribourg several locals smiled at me and said ‘Fritzerland’.”

Alfred Weinberger reminds us of Fritz Oser's charm and how enthusiastically he engaged with the world around him:

“When I think of Fritz, I immediately think of an experience that I will never forget. This anecdote, I think, says a lot about the wonderful person Fritz Oser.

When Fritz arrived at the hotel during the International Conference on Moral Education in Nanjing 2011, he noted: "The driver who drove me from the airport to the hotel probably asked for a little too much money." It was obvious that Fritz had paid more than the normal cost of the cab ride. The majority of people who experience something like that would probably be annoyed that they were ripped off. However, Fritz didn't go into this in any detail at all, but over a glass of wine he said: "What a great country and what an interesting culture. I have already arranged an excursion for this evening." I wondered if he might even arrange the trip with the same cab driver.”

Call for Contributions

Please send texts and other items of interest to the Newsletter Editor – contributions are welcomed any time!

Maslovaty Award – Call for Nominations

The Maslovaty Award is a great opportunity for people working on issues on moral and democratic education to present their work, get constructive feedback and – if they win – 1000 Euros.

The Young Researcher Award:

Were you or your mentee successfully accepted as presenters of a paper at the EARLI conference in 2021? Please feel encouraged to submit your or your mentees or colleague's proposal for the Maslovaty Award!

The Senior Researcher Award:

Do you know a very good paper on issues in the field of moral and democratic education that deserved an award?

Conditions: The paper must have been published in 2019 or 2020.

You can submit your own paper as well as a paper written by others. Please feel free and submit good examples and challenge the reviewers to select the winner!

Papers must be submitted in full length by **July 1st, 2021** as pdf-file to the Jury members, that is, to the joint SIG 13 coordinators (eveline.gutzwiller-helfenfinger@uni-due.de & alfred.weinberger@ph-linz.at) and to the Maslovaty Foundation representative David Melnik (david@melnik.org.il).

You are kindly invited to submit your papers for the Maslovaty Award, which is traditionally presented during the EARLI conference. Kindly note that the nominees should attend the SIG 13 Business Meeting at the next conference. Moreover, awardees will be invited to the next SIG conference to present their awarded work. Papers should be sent to the SIG coordinators.

Below please find the official regulations regarding the Maslovaty Award

A. THE AWARD FOR YOUNG RESEARCHERS

This award will be given to the best presentation at the EARLI 2021 by a young researcher who presents a paper for the first or second time at an EARLI conference. Presenters are cordially invited to submit their paper, and supervisors of young researchers presenting are invited to encourage their supervisee to do so or to submit the paper themselves. The paper must be submitted in full length by **July 1st, 2021** as pdf-file to the Jury members, that is, to the joint SIG 13 coordinators (eveline.gutzwiller-helfenfinger@uni-due.de & alfred.weinberger@ph-linz.at) and to the Maslovaty Foundation representative David Melnik (david@melnik.org.il).

B. THE AWARD FOR PUBLISHED PAPERS (SENIOR RESEARCHERS)

The award will be given to the best publication (monograph, chapter in a book or paper in a recognized journal) within the last two years (2019 and 2020) (co-) authored by a SIG 13 member and dealing with moral and/or democratic education. Publications in English or with an English abstract are eligible. SIG 13 members are cordially invited to submit papers that satisfy these conditions (whether your own paper or the paper of another SIG 13 member) by **July 1st, 2021** according to the rules as pdf file (if available) and including the exact bibliographic information and the ISBN or ISSN number to the Jury members, i.e., to the joint SIG 13 coordinators (eveline.gutzwiller-helfenfinger@uni-due.de & alfred.weinberger@ph-linz.at) and to the Maslovaty Foundation representative David Melnik (david@melnik.org.il).

The Maslovaty Foundation for the Advancement
of Education on Morals and Society

CODE OF PROCEDURE

TITLE I

Objectives of the Award

“The Maslovaty Foundation for the Advancement of Education on Morals and Society” (hereinafter: “The Maslovaty Foundation”), in collaboration with and participation of SIG 13 “Moral and Democratic Education” of EARLI (hereinafter: “SIG 13”), grants an award for the purpose of encouraging expert and young scientists to actively participate in the activities of the special interest group.

TITLE II

The Maslovaty Award

Chapter I

Description of the Award

Sec. 1. Categories. Two awards will be given -

- A. Award for young researchers
- B. Award for published papers

Sec. 2. Frequency. The awards will be given every two years at the bi-annual conference of EARLI and the interest group at the Business Meeting of the SIG 13.

Sec. 3. Award Components. The awards will total €2000 (€1000 for each category). Each award will carry an inscribed certificate and a prize of €1000.

Sec. 4 Publication. The SIG 13 will publish information on the Maslovaty Award on its website, in newsletters and any other printed publications, in order to publicize the award to potential candidates. The publication will include all necessary details required for candidates as specified in this code of procedure.

Sec. 5. Mentions and Commemoration. The Foundation’s conditions for granting the awards are:

- i. To mention that the Maslovaty Foundation is the grantor, both when presenting the award as well as in case the awarded paper is published. The text of the mention will be in the language in which the article appears in the publication, with wording to be determined by the Maslovaty Foundation.
- ii. To issue a certificate indicating that the award was given with the participation of the

Maslovaty Foundation.

- iii. The SIG 13 coordinators and/or the recipients of the award will appraise the Foundation of the publication and will see to sending two copies of it to the Foundation.
- iv. The SIG 13 coordinators will see to advertising the Maslovaty Foundation and the winners of the award on the EARLI website and through other appropriate means.

Sec. 6. Amendment. The Maslovaty Foundation is entitled, at its sole discretion, to modify all or part of this code of procedure, to revoke the award, and to raise or reduce the amount of the award.

Chapter II **The Award for Young Researchers**

Sec. 7. Eligibility. The award for young researchers is open to a paper (co-) authored and presented by a researcher at an EARLI session organized by the SIG 13 if –

- i. The nominated author is scheduled to present the paper him- or herself at the conference.
- ii. The young researcher presents a paper at a SIG 13 session in EARLI for the first or second time.

Sec. 8. Nomination. There can be self-nomination of an EARLI SIG 13 member or nomination by the supervisor, provided he or she is a member of SIG 13. If the supervisor nominating the paper is member of the Jury, Sec. 20 herein will apply.

Sec 9. Submission date. The full paper must be submitted by July 1st before the EARLI Conference at which the paper will be presented.

Sec. 10. Method of submission. The paper must be submitted as a pdf-file or as a scanned version of the paper. The paper must be sent no later than the submission date to the three members of the jury via their published e-mail addresses.

Chapter III **The Award for Published Papers**

Sec. 11. Eligibility.

- i. Only papers (co-)authored by SIG 13 members are eligible
- ii. Only one paper per SIG 13 member can be submitted.
- iii. Any papers published in the last two calendar years before the year of the EARLI conference are eligible (e.g., for the 2019 conference, papers published in 2018 and 2017 are eligible).
- iv. Only papers published as a monograph, a chapter in a book or in a refereed journal are eligible. The publication must have an ISBN number.
- v. The paper must be written according to APA rules.
- vi. The paper must be written in English or at least have an English abstract.

Sec. 12. Nomination. The nomination can be by:

- i. The (co-)author or any other SIG 13 member.
- ii. A jury member. In this case, section 20 herein will apply.

Sec. 13. Submission date. The paper must be submitted by May 1st of the year of the EARLI conference in which the award is given.

Sec. 14. Method of submission. The paper must be submitted as a pdf-file or as a scanned version of the paper. The paper must be sent no later than the submission date to the three members of the jury via their published e-mail addresses.

TITLE III

Judgment

Chapter I Jury

Sec. 15. Membership. The jury will consist of three members: the two SIG 13 coordinators and a person nominated by the Maslovaty Foundation.

Sec. 16. Decision. Decisions of the jury will be unanimous.

Sec. 17. Objections. The jury's decision will be deemed final. No objection to any award will be considered.

Chapter II Reviewing

Sec. 18. External reviewer. The jury can request an external reviewer. Reviewers may, but do not need to, be members of SIG 13.

Sec. 19. Paper not in English. If the paper is not in English, the jury must have three external reviewers fluent in the language of the paper.

Sec. 20. Conflict of interest. The jury must have an external reviewer if the (co-) author or the nominator is a member of the jury. In this case, the reviewer is chosen by the two other jury members. The external reviewer may, but does not need to, be a member of EARLI.

Chapter III Evaluation of Awardees

Sec. 21. Decision deadline. Decisions will be made by the jury no later than 14 days before the date of the conference.

Sec. 22. Lack of suitable candidates. The jury may decide not to grant an award at a particular conference, due to lack of suitable candidates.

Sec. 23. Method of selection. The decision by the jury will have two stages: a) The in / out stage; b) The best of the best three papers.

Sec. 24. Criteria for selection. The criteria for selection will be determined by the jury and will be published.

EVELINE GUTZWILLER-HELFFENFINGER
ALFRED WEINBERGER

Maslovaty Foundation

Coordinators of SIG 13

Guidelines for Authors

SIG 13 Members are **warmly encouraged** to submit texts and other contributions to the SIG 13 Newsletter. This newsletter is intended to be a service for the members – an opportunity to learn and to gain from other people’s experiences. By submitting contributions to the newsletter, each author is assumed to fully accept the guidelines below. However, these guidelines are not set in stone: readers are cordially invited to suggest improvements. Please send any suggested changes for the better to the editor (eveline.gutzwiller@intergga.ch).

Formats

The SIG 13 Newsletter welcomes contributions in varying formats, for example:

- Reports can consist of short summaries from meetings or other events of interest to the SIG 13 community.
- The Notice Board consists of short announcements where notices will be published under categories (and subheadings) such as Forthcoming meetings (including conferences, workshops, summer schools etc), Publications, etc.
- Articles that enable the authors to develop and explore a line of argument of interest to the readership.

Language and Manuscript

Many of us have first languages other than English. Even so, in the newsletter we will stick to English as our good old lingua franca.

- Contributions should be submitted electronically to the editor
- (Johanna.Ziemes@uni-due.de). Send your contributions as an attachment to an e-mail. Please use Word-files for text (doc suffix). Photos, tables, illustrations or other figures can be submitted as jpg, eps, or Photoshop files.
- The author’s identity and e-mail address must be provided on the top of the first manuscript page. Below that, please add the following sentence: “This manuscript does not interfere with any third party’s copyright.”
- Manuscripts for the Notice Board should be short, and each announcement should not exceed 150 words.
- Manuscripts for reports should not exceed 500 words, and should not include an abstract or bibliography.
- Manuscripts for articles should not exceed 2500 words, including references and abstract. Abstracts should not exceed 100 words. Footnotes should be avoided. Please use APA style (sixth edition) for references.

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- The individual authors retain the copyright to their work.
- The newsletter editor will not publish anonymous contributions.

- Make sure that your contribution does not contain any copyrighted material that belongs to someone else (third party).
- Please contact the editor if you are at all uncertain about the copyright of your contribution to the SIG 13 Newsletter.

JOHANNA F. ZIEMES

