



SIG 19 Religious and Spiritual Education Newsletter

Issue 2/2018

Dear SIG 19 Members and Friends,

In this summer issue, you find results of discussions and voting over our SIG's new name and identity. Majority of members voted for new name: **Religions and Worldviews in Education**. The new name will be confirmed by EARLI Executive Committee in October, which makes the change official. Congratulations and all the best to our SIG19's bright future!

The SIG 19 Conference, which was held in June 11-13, 2018, in Joensuu, Finland, provided excellent venue for motivating discussions and high quality presentations. We had a wonderful opportunity to build new networks and friendships, to get food for thought, and to create personally meaningful learning experiences. This Newsletter hopefully helps us to remember all the great moments by providing mosaic of photos and feedback edited by our intern Elina Hirvonen. She also interviewed two new SIG19 members, professor emerita Ulla Härkönen and doctoral student Leonardo Cedillo Berber, for the Newsletter.

This issue also includes three calls: 1 Call for papers for Special Issue related to SIG19 Joensuu conference. 2 Call for proposals for EARLI conference Aachen 2019, Germany. 3 Call for SIG19 officials: coordinator and newsletter editors.

We coordinators hope that all of you, dear Members and Friends, will submit to the calls. We wish to publish high quality special issue(s) and to arrange many SIG19 related symposia in EARLI conference Aachen 2019. We wish to continue developing our SIG19 and to provide opportunities for scholars in our field to present their work every year within EARLI.

Finally, we want to thank Nasibeh Hedayati for her work as a Newsletter Editor and hope her all the best in finalizing her doctoral thesis.

Have a restful and inspiring summer!

On behalf of SIG19 coordinators

Elina Kuusisto

COORDINATORS

Laura Hirsto

University of Eastern Finland

Elina Kuusisto

University of Helsinki

Alexander Unser

University of Würzburg
(JURE)

Participants

Members: Leonardo Cedillo Berber, Jenny Berglund, Nasibeh Hedayati (secretary), Laura Hirsto, Tapani Innanen, Raili Keränen-Pantsu, Anuleena Kimanen, Elina Kuusisto (chair), Konstantin Lindner, Niina Manninen, Mirjam Schambeck, Ulrich Riegel, Inkeri Rissanen, Kirsi Tirri, Martin Ubani, Alexander Unser

Friends: Risto Aikonen, Jorien Copier, Sarah Delling, Monique van Dijk-Groeneboer, Vasiliki Mitropolou

1 Opening

Elina Kuusisto welcomed all the participants and opened the meeting.

2 New name and identity of SIG19

Elina Kuusisto introduced viewpoints of members and friends given in questionnaire and opened the discussion on two options: *Religions and Worldviews in Education* and *Religious and Spiritual Education*.

Different views and ideas over which name is broader and can attract more members were discussed. Members also discussed the effect of this change on the SIG's agreement with Waxmann publication series. It was suggested that SIG can still keep that agreement even changing the name.

Another reason to change the name would be to recruit more members and keep the current members. It was suggested that other strategies should be used in this regard. For example, members should be reminded to renew their membership, in addition discounts in membership fees and conference fees for members and keynote speakers could be effective. The SIG 19 coordinators informed that they are planning to also add some interesting activities to the big Earli conference in line with these ideas. These could help to keep the current members since SIG has also dropouts.

Voting via Earli online poll-system: Members were asked to vote through the online poll.

3 Special Issue

Laura Hirsto introduced plans for Special Issue(s).

Journal of Beliefs and Values

- Theme: Worldviews in creating meaning and purpose for learning
- 7-9 articles
- Please send your article to Laura Hirsto (laura.hirsto@uef.fi) by **October 1, 2018**
- Publication in 2019

If many high quality papers are submitted, we have an option to publish

- Special Issue in *Journal of Education and Learning* (open access)
- Edited book in Waxmann series



4 Next conferences

Alexander Unser presented SIG19 plans for next conferences.

EARLI conference 2019 Aachen, Germany

- 12 - 16 August 2019
- JURE 10 - 11 August 2019
- Theme: Thinking Tomorrow's Education: Learning from the past, in the present and for the future
- We wish to submit at least two SIG19 Symposia. Each symposium should have a chair, four presenters and one discussant, from at least three different countries.
- Individual presentations are also welcome to be submitted
- Please send your proposal to Alexander Unser (alexander.unser@uni-wuerzburg.de) by September 15, 2018**, in order SIG 19 coordinators can organize and help with the proposals before the Earli submission deadline 30 October 2018.

EARLI SIG19 conference 2020 Stockholm, Sweden

- June 8.-11.2020 – Please save the date!
- Professor Arniika Kuusisto will be chairing the conference

5 Newsletter

Nasibeh Hedayati briefly talked about the recent Newsletter and asked the members to send their pictures related to conference to be used in next Newsletter.

6 Greetings from EARLI Policy Council

Elina Kuusisto brought greetings from Policy Council:

- New journal in preparation: *Qualitative Research on Learning*, open access, online
- Funding possibility for presenters from low-GDP countries (500 e)
- Development of EARLI websites and conference system continues
- GDPR is taken into account within EARLI and its SIGs

7 Results of the online voting

Elina Kuusisto reported results: According to the voting *Religions and Worldviews in Education* gained 11 votes while *Religious and Spiritual Education* gained 7. Therefore the SIG 19's name was accepted to be changed to ***Religions and Worldviews in Education***.

8 Closing

Elina Kuusisto thanked all participants for the meeting, closed it, and invited everyone to join SIG19 tradition of karaoke singing at Laila's.

Report by Elina Hirvonen

TWO VIEWS FROM FIRST-TIMERS IN EARLI SIG 19

Ulla Härkönen, Emerita Professor, Educational science (early childhood education), University of Eastern Finland

"This was my first time at Earli SIG 19 conference. I am a new member of this SIG and I joined in because I find this SIG interesting also in the light of the pedagogical systems theory for the early childhood education that I have created.

I think this conference is very well organized and that the place is well chosen. Although count of participants is quite small, the program is well balanced and good, and topics are coherent. There is plenty of presentations so one can choose the most interesting ones to follow. The Keynote presentations were strong and productive.

The atmosphere at the conference was friendly and warm."



Leonardo Cedillo Berber, Doctoral student. University of Helsinki

"I was little nervous about coming here at Earli SIG 19 conference because I know that Earli is the so big thing at the research of education. I also presented my first international conference presentation here. I noticed my fears were in vane because the atmosphere here has been very welcoming and quite relaxed."

A GLIMPSE OF THE CONFERENCE

Opening



Picture by Varpu



Pictures by Varpu Heiskanen

Keynote presentations



Other sessions and meeting others

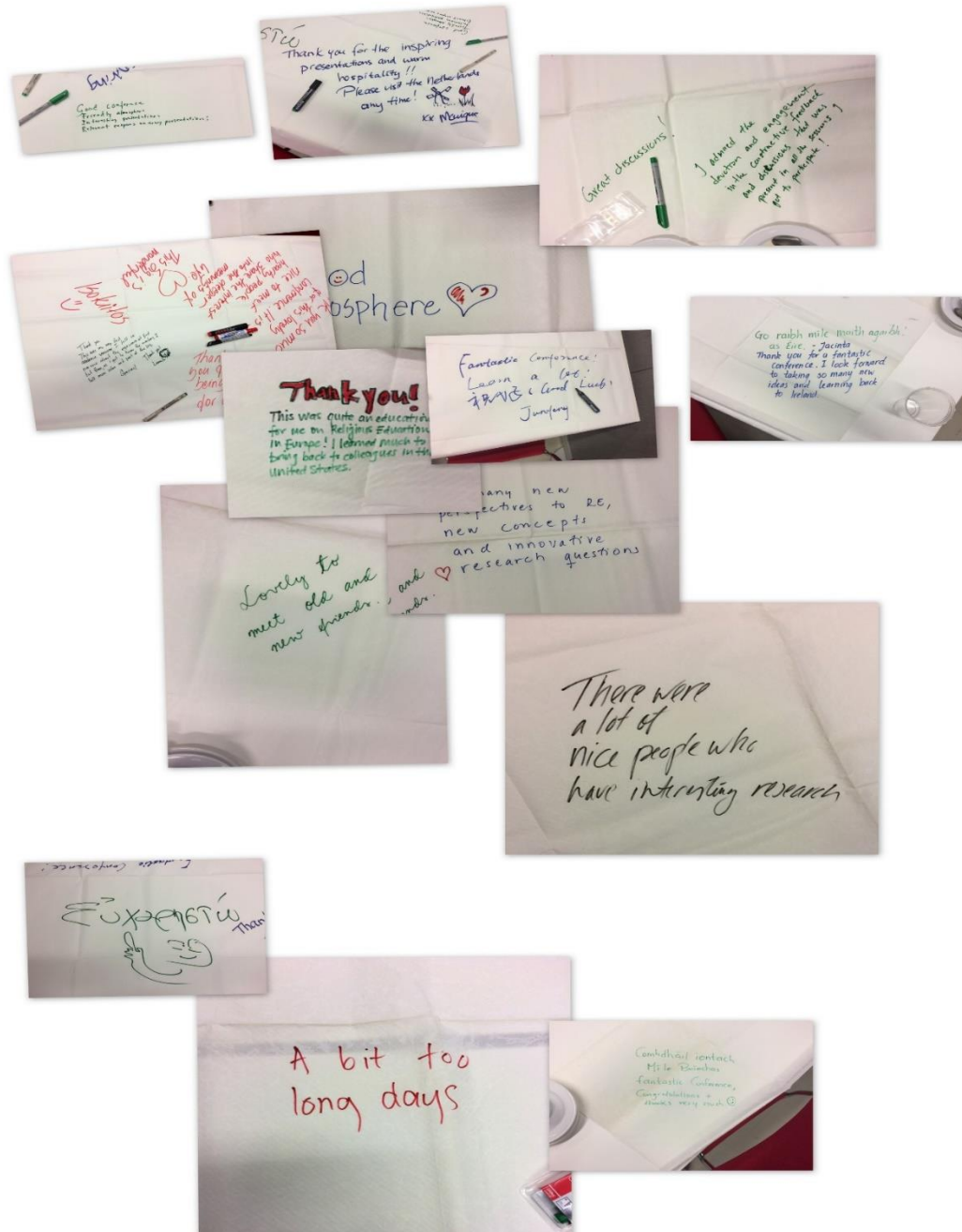


Excursion to Valamo monastery (and some karaoke)



Pictures by Laura Hirsto, Nasibeh Hedayati, Elina Hirvonen

FEEDBACK AND THOUGHTS ABOUT CONFERENCE IN JOENSUU



The feedback and thoughts about Joensuu conference was gathered on the tablecloths (see picture above).

"Good atmosphere <3"

"A bit too long days"

"Lovely to meet old and new friends"

"There were a lot of nice people who have interesting research"

"Great discussions!"

"I admired the devotion and engagement in the constructive feedback and discussions that was present in all the sessions I got to participate!"

"Thank you This was my very first academic seminar. I felt so nervous about the experience at first but then, as I got to know the members, I felt more relax and part of this SIG. Gracias! Thank you! Leonardo"

"Thank you for being so welcoming for us students!"

"So many new perspectives to RE, new concepts and innovative research questions"

"Go raibh míle maith agaibh! as Éire. – Jacinta Thank you for a fantastic conference. I look forward to taking so many new ideas and learning back to Ireland."

"Comhdháil iontach Míle Buíochas. Fantastic Conference, congratulations + thanks very much. ☺"

"Thank you! This was quite an education for me on Religious education in Europe! I learned much to bring back to colleagues in the United States."

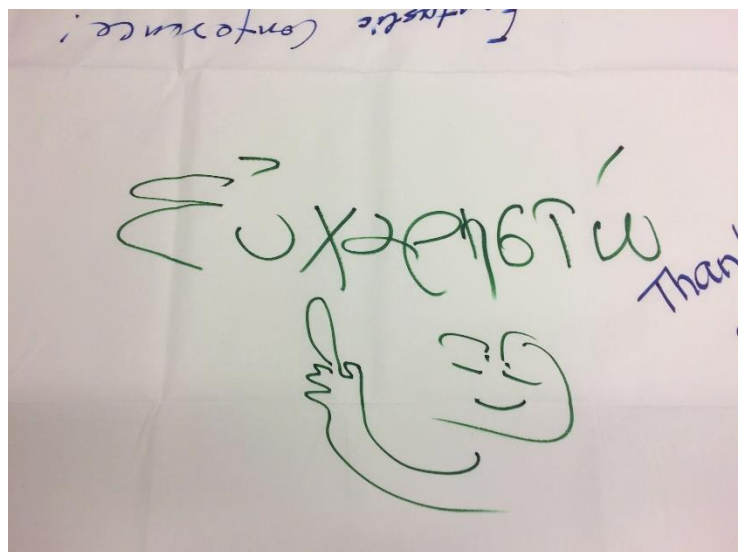
"Thank you for the inspiring presentations and warm hospitality!! Please visit the Netherlands any time! xx Monique"

"Good conference Friendly atmosphere Interesting presentations Relevant response on every presentation!"

"Fantastic conference! Learn a lot! Good luck, Junfeng"

"Thank you so much for this lovely conference. It is nice to meet hearty people who share the interest into the deeper meanings of life <3 This SIG is wonderful"

"Isokiitos ☺"



CLOSING AND THANKING



A heartfelt thank you to all participants at the EARLI SIG 19 – conference in Joensuu!

As can be read from the participant feedback, the atmosphere was fantastic. You all were important parts in constructing this great conference. It is of great importance that doctoral students felt also welcome, and we were able to provide them a warm, inclusive and fruitful experience. We had amazing keynotes, prof. Ulrich Riegel, Prof. Jenny Berglund, Prof. Kirsi Tirri and Dr. Shauna Morin! The keynotes were of very high quality and keynote speakers showed great effort in aligning their topics to our conference theme. We also had time for lively discussions after every keynote, so we were able to benefit fully from their abundant expertise. According to informal feedback, it was thought that the keynotes were well selected, and altogether provided variety of interesting viewpoints to the topic of “Worldviews in making meaning and purpose for learning”. This conference showed me again that our SIG 19 is powerful and fertile environment for fruitful scientific discussions. As feedback emphasized the great discussions, the very special thanks must go to all of the participants; there are no good discussions without good discussants. And finally, my earnest thank you goes to our organizing committee, whose efforts made this all possible for us: Elina Kuusisto, Martin Ubani, Elina Hirvonen, Alexander Unser, Raili Keränen-Pantsu and Risto Aikonen.

-Conference Chair Prof. Laura Hirsto

Special Issue: Worldviews in creating meaning and purpose for learning

We are happy to invite scholars to contribute in our special issue in the *Journal of Beliefs & Values*. JBV has been among the most respected journals in our field for a long time. We believe that our peer-reviewed special issue can contribute in the high-level scholarly discussion of the journal with a viewpoint represented especially by the EARLI SIG19 Conference 2018.

The Special Issue will be based on both the best papers of the EARLI SIG 19 conference 2018 and possible supplementing papers derived from this open call. We particularly welcome submissions that recognise the conference theme “Worldviews in creating meaning and purpose for learning”, and that address, for example, the following questions: How worldviews impact people’s motivation to learn, how worldviews guide people's life choices and future orientation, and how worldviews and religions help people to find meaning and purpose in life. The articles can be empirical or philosophical. We anticipate not only methodological diversity but also wish the articles to reflect diverse interpretations and representations of worldviews, values and beliefs in education, cultural and national contexts.

We expect the authors to study the JBV homepage and familiarise oneself with the scope and format of the journal. <https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/cjbv20/current>

The deadline for the full and anonymised papers with the length and format of the JBV guidelines by **1st of October 2018**. After the blind review process, the revised final versions of the manuscripts are expected to be submitted by 15th of December 2018. The estimated publication of the special issue will be in 2019.

Please contact guest editors with queries concerning the topic and send your contribution to Laura Hirsto (laura.hirsto@uef.fi).

Thank you!

Guest Editors

Laura Hirsto, Professor, University of Eastern Finland, laura.hirsto@uef.fi
Elina Kuusisto, Title of Docent, University of Helsinki, elina.kuusisto@helsinki.fi
Martin Ubani, Professor, University of Eastern Finland, martin.ubani@uef.fi

12 - 16 August 2019, JURE 10 - 11 August 2019

Theme: Thinking Tomorrow's Education: Learning from the past, in the present and for the future

SIG19 wishes to submit at least two SIG19 Symposia. Each symposium should have a chair, four presenters and one discussant, from at least three different countries.

Individual papers are also welcome to be submitted.

Please send your proposals to Alexander Unser (alexander.unser@uni-wuerzburg.de) by September 15, 2018, in order SIG 19 coordinators can help with the proposals before the EARLI submission deadline 30 October 2018.



Please find below EARLI criteria for empirical and theoretical papers, and symposium as a whole:

EMPIRICAL PAPER

- ☐ Relevance to EARLI domain of Learning and Instruction
- ☐ Significance for theory, policy and practice
- ☐ Theoretical framework, conceptual rationale or pragmatic grounding
- ☐ Research method and design for both qualitative and quantitative approaches (research questions, context, participants, data sources, sampling, procedure, ethical issues)
- ☐ Clarity of results and conclusions
- ☐ Overall quality and scientific originality

THEORETICAL PAPER

- ☐ Relevance to EARLI domain of Learning and Instruction
- ☐ Significance for theoretical debate
- ☐ Theoretical framework, conceptual rationale or pragmatic grounding
- ☐ Embeddedness in relevant literature
- ☐ Clarity and robustness of theoretical argument
- ☐ Overall quality and scientific originality

SYMPOSIUM AS A WHOLE

- ☐ Relevance to EARLI domain of Learning and Instruction
- ☐ Significance for theory, practice and policy
- ☐ Theoretical perspective, conceptual rationale or pragmatic grounding
- ☐ Organisation and coherence of the whole symposium
- ☐ Evidence of how this symposium will be interactive
- ☐ Overall quality and scientific originality

Each paper in a symposium will also be reviewed as an individual paper using the criteria outlined above.

More information about the conference: <https://earli.org/EARLI2019>

SIG19 introduces an open call for a new coordinator and two newsletter editors.

COORDINATOR

All EARLI SIGs have two coordinators and a JURE coordinator (JUNior REsearcher), who usually serve for four years.

Coordinator's tasks:

- Organizing SIG19 conference with the local organizing committee
- Organizing SIG19 symposia at EARLI conferences
- Chairing annual business meeting at EARLI and SIG19 conferences
- Participation in EARLI Policy Council meetings once per year at EARLI conference or in Leuven, Belgium
- Act as a contact person between EARLI and SIG19
- Finding and engaging new members and friends
- Responsible for organizing SIG19 webpages, newsletter, and other related matters

Coordinator's position provides opportunity

- to develop SIG19 and EARLI and to build international networks
- to guest edit special issues
- to suggest keynote speakers for EARLI biennial conferences
- to suggest candidates for EARLI awards, which are given in EARLI conferences. E.g. Eric de Corte award for young researchers. Please notice: Candidates should have been EARLI SIG19 members for at least two years in order to be named.
- to get 50% discount on EARLI conference fees. EARLI also covers the travel costs to the policy council meetings held in Leuven.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

EARLI SIG19 Newsletter has two editors, who usually serve from two to four years.

Editors' tasks:

- To edit and publish two issues per year. Usually spring issue introduces the forthcoming conference either SIG19's own conference or the big EARLI conference. Summer/autumn issue informs about decisions made in business meeting and presents memories from the conference.
- Editors ask members and friends to contribute to the newsletter
- Editors discuss and plan with coordinators which news and ideas that should be addressed
- Editors send newsletter to the members and friends

Editors' position provides opportunity

- to develop SIG19 and EARLI and to build international networks
- to develop your editing skills
- to get excellent experience for the future and to know EARLI and SIG19 from inside

LETTER OF INTEREST

Please let current coordinators Elina, Laura, or Alexander know whether you would be interested in these positions or you know someone who would possibly be a good candidate. Let us know why you or your friend would like to become a coordinator or newsletter editor, what does EARLI and SIG19 mean to you, and how would you like to develop SIG19 further. If many candidates are willing, SIG19 will organize a voting. Please send your letter of interest via email to one of the coordinators:

Elina Kuusisto, elina.kuusisto@helsinki.fi

Laura Hirsto, laura.hirsto@uef.fi

Alexander Unser, alexander.unser@uni-wuerzburg.de

SIG 19 NEWSLETTER: NOTES AND GUIDELINES

We want to encourage a wide participation in SIG 19 and in the Newsletter. If you intend to contribute to the newsletter, please take into account the following issues. You can make suggestions concerning to content of the SIG 19 and the newsletter. However, the editors retain the rights to alter and modify the contributions.

Interviews:

In each newsletter we will focus on one or two researchers connected to the SIG 19. One of the covered researchers is preferably a junior researcher. Please do not hesitate to make suggestions concerning the interviewees.

Reviews:

In this section the SIG members can review different things, such as, books, articles and conferences, etc. Please do not hesitate to contribute and to present also your own works. A review should not exceed 250 words.

Special feature:

This section we feature some interesting and inspirational aspect concerning the SIG 19 areas of interest. The author is invited by the editors with regards to the suggestions by the members. The contributions should not exceed 500 words.

Announcements:

If you feel that there is something relevant happening in the interest areas of SIG 19, please use this section. Such things are up-coming conferences and projects. This section can also include propositions for shared projects. The announcements should be 100 words at maximum.

New members:

We wish new members warmly welcome to our SIG 19! We will list the new members in this section after we have been informed by them.

Publication & contact:

Elina Kuusisto, University of Helsinki, Finland
elina.kuusisto@helsinki.fi

EARLI SIG 19 MEMBERSHIP – HOW TO JOIN US?

To become a SIG member, you must first become a member of EARLI. For more information, please visit the EARLI website: <http://www.earli.org/>

LIST OF SIG 19 MEMBERS

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