

## **Report EADP-EARA-SRA Summer School 2018**

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This year's Summer School took place in Belgium from September 9 to 12 at the beautiful Drongen Abbey, close to Ghent. The summer school was directed by Susan Branje and Katariina Salmela-Aro. In total, 24 enthusiastic junior scholars from all over the world were admitted to the program and were eager to learn more about research on adolescent development and to collaborate with each other and with the senior scholars. The senior scholars included (in alphabetical order) Andrew Fuligni, Eva Pomerantz, Frosso Motti-Stefanidi, John Schulenberg, Loes Keijsers, and Sabine Walper.

After arrival in the beautiful abbey, we started with a well-prepared dinner at a restaurant in Ghent. In-between the delicious salmon tartare, the trio of wines, and the delicious dessert, the junior and senior scholars got the chance to get to know each other in a nice and relaxed setting. Already, some great discussions took place including both professional and personal topics. It was clear from this dinner, that the summer school would serve a purpose well beyond purely academic. Rather, all scholars seemed interested in building friendships, collaborations, and long-lasting relationships as "reunions" at future conferences were already being discussed. After the dinner, we returned to the abbey for a good night's sleep, to be well-prepared for three days of intensive collaborative training.

The next morning, we woke up early to have breakfast and to be ready at 8:30 in the morning. Susan gave an inspiring talk about how to communicate and collaborate with people from other countries and cultures. After setting the foundation for our collaborative work, we had our first block with one of the senior scholars. Each senior scholar session started with an introductory presentation to a specific topic. This year's topics included substance use during the transition from adolescence to adulthood, immigrant youth adaptation, controlling versus autonomy-supportive parenting, intergenerational transmission, and sleep during adolescence. Subsequently, groups of 5-6 junior scholars were formed in which assignments were given. These tasks included developing new research questions, applying research findings to interventions, and creating novel research designs to test tricky psychological phenomena. During these tasks, we not only had on-task engaging discussions from the diverse perspectives of the junior scholars, but they also provided us with the opportunity to get to know each other better.

The junior scholars also attended a methodological block, where we discussed the challenges of traditional longitudinal methods and learned more about a new method for analyzing longitudinal data: random-intercept cross-lagged panel models. Senior scholar Loes Keijsers made sure that every single junior scholar was engaged, whether it was using chocolate eggs to explain sampling and generalization or bringing individuals to the front of the room to play

dice games. Every junior scholar walked away with a greater understanding of how to apply these innovative statistical principles to their own research.

In addition to the presentations and assignments of the senior scholars, each junior scholar had the opportunity to present his or her work to two senior scholars and other junior scholars. In this way, junior scholars could practice their presentation skills and share their own personal research endeavors and interests, while also receiving focused feedback and engaging in critical discussion about their own projects. With the feedback on our own presented research projects, we were able to hit the ground running upon landing (or driving) back to our home country with a fresh perspective and renewed energy for our research projects.

Lastly, besides the senior and junior tasks and presentations, a very valuable part of the summer school was to get to know each other informally during the meals and evenings. We often found ourselves being asked to leave the dining room because everyone was so engaged in conversation that no one realized it was well past closing time. At every meal, the junior and senior scholars blended into one community, making it easy to get to know each other and begin forging collaborations that will last well beyond the summer school. The one bar in town became our “hang-out” spot on the last night of our summer school, and we had nice conversations over delicious Belgian beers. Moreover, Belgian chocolates were passed around to make the experience complete. A Facebook group with all junior scholars was initiated on the last day so that everyone has a convenient way to keep in touch and plan for future reunions. Many of us already have posted photos from our stay in Belgium as a way to reminisce about the experience. Even after the program had officially concluded, junior scholars continued chatting in the abbey and traveled with each other to their next location of their travels.

On behalf of all the junior scholars, we would like to thank Susan Branje for the organization of the Summer School and SRA, EARA, and EADP for financially supporting this wonderful program. It was an incredible experience that allowed us to walk away with new knowledge of adolescent development, unique perspectives on our own research, and friends and colleagues for years to come. We would also like to thank the senior scholars for their engaging presentations, thoughtful activity plans, and helpful feedback. We are looking forward to seeing all of you again at conferences soon!



The 2018 EARA-SRA Summer School Junior Scholars (in alphabetical order):

Allen Mallory

Ana Rodríguez Meirinhos

Angie Calvin

Çisem Gürel

Cortney Simmons

Erika Maksniemi

Farin Bakhtiari

Jessica Kansky

Lara Aumann

Lisan Henricks

Naseer Bhat

Nicolette Rickert

Nina van der Broek

Rengin Isik-Akin

Sabina Kapetanovic

Sarah Borowski

Savannah Boele

Shogo Hihara

Sofia Stepanyan

Sofie Danneel

Susanne Schulz

Suzanne van de Groep

Vaida Gabé

Xiaoyu Lan