



Newsletter

From the President

November, 2024

Dear Members of the European Association for Research on Adolescence (EARA),

It is with immense pride and gratitude that I assume the role of President of our association. I am deeply honored to collaborate with such a vibrant community of scholars and professionals dedicated to advancing research on adolescence.

Since 2006, when I first joined EARA as a PhD student attending the summer school and my first conference in Antalya, Turkey, this association has been a cornerstone of my professional and personal journey. Within EARA, I have found mentors, colleagues, and friends who have become central to my life.

Over the years, I have had the privilege of serving EARA in various roles: as Representative of Young Scholars (2012–2016), Secretary of the Association (2016–2022), and President-Elect (2022–2024). Each of these roles offered me the wonderful opportunity to engage with most of our members and collaborate closely with remarkable colleagues.

As I begin my presidency, I would like to share the key initiatives I aim to pursue to further strengthen our association. My hope is that every member finds in EARA the same sense of “family” that has nurtured my professional and personal growth.

Fostering Collaboration

To build on EARA’s core strengths, I will work closely with the Council members, the Early Career Researchers’ Committee (ECR), and our national representatives. Our ongoing initiatives thrive thanks to the dedication and hard work of past and current

Editor

Olga Solomontos-Kountouri

Theological School of the Church of Cyprus,
Nicosia, Cyprus.

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members of the EARA Executive Committee, Council, and other specific committees.

This year, we bid farewell to two exceptional Executive Committee members who completed their second term. A heartfelt thank you to **Wim Beyers**, former EARA President, and **Metin Özdemir**, former Treasurer, for their invaluable contributions to our association. We also extend our gratitude to **Katariina Salmela-Aro** and **Müge Artar** for their service on the EARA Council.

The recent EARA elections witnessed an unprecedented level of participation, with numerous candidates vying for Council positions. During the Council meeting at our biennial conference in Cyprus, we warmly welcomed new members:

- **Fabrizia Giannotta** as the new EARA Secretary.
- **Philipp Jugert** and **Stefanos Mastrotheodoros**, who will collaborate with **Susan Branje** to contribute to the SIAD series and summer school organization, respectively.
- **Filomena Parada**, who, in collaboration with **Olga Solomontos-Kountouri**, Editor of the Newsletter, will coordinate the National Representatives.
- **Savaş Karataş**, who will join the Membership Committee, chaired by **Katharina Eckstein**.

We also congratulate **Jennifer Symonds**, our former Secretary, on her election as President-Elect, and **Andrik Becht**, who now assumes full responsibility as Treasurer after working closely with Metin for the past year. **Neslihan Güney Karaman** will continue her work as Chair of the Awards Committee. Finally, I am fortunate to count on the guidance of our Past President, **Ingrid Schoon**, whose insights will remain invaluable.

To all candidates who ran in the elections but were not elected this time, I encourage you to remain engaged. Your passion and expertise are vital to our association, and I hope you will consider running again in the future.

Collaboration is also thriving within the Early Career Researchers' Committee. I am delighted to work with this enthusiastic team: **Beatrice Bobba** (Representative), **Fabio Maratia** (Deputy Representative), **Anna Maria-Mayer**, and **Maria Petridou** (Secretaries), along with **Saira Wahid** (Communication Manager). Their energy has been instrumental in organizing activities for the Cyprus conference and in developing future initiatives for early career scholars.

To streamline our activities and ensure smooth transitions, we will create an **EARA Handbook**. This comprehensive guide will detail step-by-step processes for implementing EARA initiatives, promoting efficient coordination and transparency across all roles.

Strengthening Partnerships

Collaboration with other scientific organizations remains a cornerstone of our mission. We aim to deepen our ties with the **Society for Research on Adolescence (SRA)** and the **European Association for Developmental Psychology (EADP)**. I am grateful to **Susan Branje** for her exceptional work in networking, including her role as President-Elect of the International Consortium for Developmental Science (ICDSS). Together, we will explore new opportunities for joint initiatives, such as the highly successful summer schools we have co-organized since 2017 with SRA and EADP.

Supporting Early Career Researchers

Supporting early career researchers is central to EARA's mission. Together with the ECR, we are launching a **two-year series of methodological webinars** starting in January 2025. This program will feature 8–10 webinars, held bi-monthly, addressing pressing training needs and fostering connections among early career researchers. Participation will be free for EARA members, with a fee for non-members.

In addition, I am excited to introduce the **EARA Visiting Program**, designed to enhance mentorship and networking

opportunities. Early career researchers will have the chance to visit senior scholars within EARA to collaborate on joint publications or prepare grant applications, such as for the Marie Curie program. The first call for applications will be announced by the end of 2024, with the program launching in early 2025.

We will also continue the **EARA Collaborative Research Network**, established by Ingrid Schoon, to further expand mentoring opportunities for our early career researchers.

In this newsletter you can find both Calls. We look forward to your applications!

Looking Ahead: EARA Conferences

Last September, we had the pleasure of attending the EARA conference in Cyprus. My deepest thanks to **Olga Solomontos-Kountouri** and her team for organizing an outstanding event. Everything—from the quality of the scientific program and the depth of interactive discussions to the sunny weather, delicious food, and engaging social activities—was exceptional.

Looking ahead, I am thrilled to announce two upcoming conferences:

1. **20th EARA Conference**, to be held in Utrecht, the Netherlands, from August 18–21, 2026, organized by **Susan Branje**.
 2. **2028 EARA Conference**, which will take place at my home institution, Alma Mater Studiorum University of Bologna, Italy. I am honored to serve as Chair for this event and look forward to welcoming you to Italy.
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In this newsletter and on the **EARA website** (www.earaonline.org), you can find detailed information about these initiatives and stay updated on upcoming webinars, as well as calls for the Visiting Program and the EARA Collaborative Research Network.

In closing, the initiatives outlined above reflect our shared commitment to fostering a vibrant and thriving scholarly community. By working together, I am confident we can achieve these goals and continue to grow

EARA's influence and reach. Thank you for your dedication to EARA. I look forward to collaborating with all of you to bring these projects to life.

With warm regards,

Prof. Elisabetta Crocetti, PhD
Full Professor of Social Psychology
Department of Psychology, Alma Mater Studiorum University of Bologna, Italy
President, European Association for Research on Adolescence (EARA)



XIV EARA Conference in Cyprus

*Submitted by Olga Solomontos-Kountouri,
Chair of the EARA 2024 Conference,
Limassol, Cyprus*



The EARA 2024 conference was organised by the Theological School of the Church of Cyprus in collaboration with EARA and took place between 25th to 28th of September, 2024, in Limassol, Cyprus. The local organisation EASY CONFERENCE undertook the administration issues in close teamwork with Olga Solomontos-Kountouri, the chair of the EARA 2024 Conference.

The conference theme was “Promoting Adolescent Solidarity and Well-Being” that highlighted that youth is growing up in a constantly transforming, diverse, and digitally-driven world that is marked by significant challenges, such as natural disasters, diseases, wars, economic and environmental crises, and other societal challenges. The result from the call for abstracts is a record number of excellent submissions on newest research in adolescence: Studies examining various dimensions of solidarity, such as social, emotional, intercultural and environmental competences and moral values; Studies exploring different aspects of adolescent development, including resilience, mental health, academic achievement, identity formation, citizenship, media impact, relationship with parents, teachers, peer and romantic relationships; Also studies on prevention and intervention programmes for: reducing bullying and discrimination, immigrants’ adaptation, and healing traumatic experiences of war conflicts. By promoting an understanding of these critical issues, we can work towards creating a more supportive and inclusive environment that fosters the well-being of young people and solidarity between them for a more peaceful world.

The conference venue is the St. Raphael Resort in Limassol. Nine conference rooms were used, along with all the 5start facilities of the hotel: indoors and outdoors coffee places, two restaurants, swimming pools, beautiful gardens and a blue flag beach. The fabulous location gave opportunities for excursions into Limassol and Cyprus overall. Limassol is a city with centuries of history, located between two of the most renowned ancient kingdoms of the island, Amathous to the east and Kourion to the west. Many other world heritage sites are near as well as crystal clear beaches, picturesque traditional countryside villages, vibrant night life.



The programme was organised across four days. The first day consisted of six pre-conference workshops organised by the EARA Early Career committee. The main conference took place across three days and include four keynote talks, seven invited symposia, four roundtables, three bite-size research sessions, 73 parallel sessions (34 symposia, 37 thematic sessions, 1 discussion round and 1 project presentation), and two poster sessions (82 posters).

Opening Ceremony

In the Opening ceremony the Archbishop of Cyprus, who is also the chair of the council of the Theological School of the Church of Cyprus and the Director of Higher Education, Dr Terpsa Constantinidou on behalf of the Minister of Education, Youth and Sport of Cyprus were addressing the opening. Higher state officials of Cyprus were attending. Cypriot TV Channels covered the event and presented it in the News. The chair of the EARA 2024 Conference, Olga Solomontos-Kountouri welcomed the 418 participants from 38 countries and promised an excellent conference and the heartfelt hospitality to all

participants: locals, nationals and internationals. She also mentioned that Cyprus is the only divided country in Europe. Its inhabitants have a first-hand experience with war, refugees, and atrocities, but nevertheless hope for a peaceful solution and a unified country. The thoughts and prayers would go to the people of the neighbouring countries and all those around the world who suffer the consequences of war conflicts. The president of EARA Ingrid Schoon expressed appreciation for opening the Conference to the State and the Church of Cyprus. The program concluded with a short music program performed by 4 young musicians of the youth music group “Romiosini Ensemble 2024”. The Welcome Reception is offered in the gardens of the St Raphael Hotel, and included excellent Cypriot wines and hot and cold beverages.

EARA 2024 Committees

The conference was chaired by Olga Solomontos-Kountouri assisted by the organising and the scientific committees. The organisation committee started to function, immediately after the EARA Conference 2022. It has 17 members, coming from EARA Executive Committee and from local academics from the main Universities of Cyprus. The Organising committee contributed a lot in finding the title of the conference and to appoint the keynotes, the invited symposia and roundtables and the workshops’ facilitators. They also gave feedback for the web-side and other organisational issues. They all helped for the dissemination and advertising the conference. Further, local academics helped for a wine and cheese night event to promote the Conference amongst Cypriot academics and practitioners. The scientific committee is consisted from all members of organising committee, plus 12 academics from Theological School and other renowned academics. The scientific committee helped a lot with reviewing the abstracts and giving feedback for the scientific program.

Pre-Conference Workshops

There were 6 pre-conference workshops. Three on advanced statistics: Stefanie A. Nelemans (Utrecht University, The Netherlands) offered the *Mixture modeling for cross-sectional and longitudinal data*. Stefanos Mastrotheodoros (University of Crete, Greece) offered the *Introduction to longitudinal data modelling with R*. Jennifer Symonds (UCL, UK), offered the *Secondary data analysis across studies*. Eleni Theodorou (European University, Cyprus) offered a workshop on *Qualitative research design and analysis*. Marlies Maes (Utrecht University, The Netherlands) offered the *How to get your message across: Creating a powerful (conference) presentation*. Linda Juang (Potsdam University, Germany) offered the workshop: *On writing well*. The workshops were enthusiastically attended by 49 participants. The instructors offered practical and hands-on experiences, as well as informal discussion and bespoke feedback to participants based on their research career stage and questions.



Invited Symposia and Roundtables

There were 7 invited symposia, 4 invited roundtables and one discussion round along the conference theme. Thus, there was an invited session for each section across the 3 days. Symposia brought together cutting-

edge research from diverse methods, perspectives and countries/samples, while the roundtables offered an engaging and provocative way for participants to engage with experts across career stages. The 7 symposia chairs and topics are listed here:

- Metin Özdemir, Örebro University, Sweden: Moving beyond deficit perspectives: Can developmental research propose new approaches to studying youth with refugee and immigrant backgrounds?
- Susan Branje, Utrecht University, The Netherlands: Dynamics of parent-adolescent relationships: Individual processes and long-term outcomes.
- Carmel Cefai, University of Malta: Enhancing adolescents' wellbeing and resilience.
- Jane Hurry, UCL, UK: The emotional consequences of environments, particularly school environments, on the mental health of neurodiverse adolescents.
- Siegmund Otto & Nicolas Neef, University of Hohenheim, Germany: Youth, climate, and change: Exploring responses, well-being, and pro-environmental behaviour.
- Laura Taylor, University College Dublin, Ireland: From trauma to peace: Global perspectives on youth in conflict settings.
- Jennifer Symonds, UCL, UK: The EARA collaborative network showcase: New research on discrimination, inequality, LGBTQ, prejudice and mental health.

In addition, there were 3 invited roundtables:

- Frosso Motti-Stefanidi, National and Kapodistrian University Athens, Greece: Promoting positive adaptation and development among refugee children and youth.
- Dagmar Strohmeier, University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria, Austria & University of Stavanger,

Norway: Destination future: Is developmental psychology ready to take off?

- Elisabetta Crocetti, Bologna University, Italy: Research on adolescence: The experience of ERC projects.

A forth invited round table organized by the Early Career Researchers:

- Beatrice Boba, University of Bologna, Italy, & Maria Petridou, Theological School of the Church of Cyprus (chairs). Editors:
Wim Beyers for Journal of Adolescence
Susan Branje for Journal of Research on Adolescence
Elisabetta Crocetti for Identity
Kostas Fanti for European Journal of Developmental Psychology



Across these events, there were numerous questions from the audience, with time for reflection among the panelists as well as those in attendance.

Bite-Sized Research

The initiative of Bite-Sized Research, a 30-minute discussion during the lunch break, about open research practices and debates was also taken place. Pamela Wadende, Jenna Spitzer & Susan Branje hosted the first session on *Planning eco-friendly conferences: the future of scientific meetings*. Kazumi Sugimura and Susan Branje, hosted the second session on *Effective mentoring relationships in science*. Susan Branje hosted the last session on *Balancing open data with privacy considerations*. These sessions were

informal, interactive, and had participants from all career stages and multiple disciplines.

Invited Keynotes

Taken individually each of the Keynote talks at EARA 2024 were thought-provoking and shone a light on different facets of research on adolescent development in different countries, and drew attention to disciplinary norms, evolutions, and the challenge and rewards of cross-disciplinary work. Taken together, the Keynotes presented a sensitivity to the affordances and cautions needed in today's challenging world, and they seek to apply theory and research findings to enhanced wellbeing and solidarity for adolescents across the world.

- Panayiota Kendeou from the University of Minnesota, USA, presented the *Education in the age of Artificial Intelligence (AI): Implications for theory and instruction*.
- Michael Pluess from the University of Surrey, UK, presented *More than resilience: Positive development*.
- Kostas A. Fanti, from the University of Cyprus, presented *Callous unemotional traits, emotional processing, and pathways to antisocial behavior: Evidence from empirical and intervention studies*.
- Marlis Buchmann from the University of Zurich, Switzerland, presented *Civic engagement and expressions of solidarity during adolescence: The role of developmental antecedents and social change*.

Generally, the academic program of the Conference was multidisciplinary, international, interactive, and leading edge, offering high-caliber presentations and posters. There was wide array of opportunities for participants to ask questions, to solve enquiries, to find solutions, to discuss and exchange ideas, to network and socialize with fellow researchers.

Practitioner Day

The Practitioners Day was held on Friday, 27th September, 2024 and attracted 30 local practitioners. The rich scientific program of that day offered interesting themes, such as applications of research, intervention, and prevention programs. Cypriot practitioners had the opportunity to follow the latest scientific developments in adolescence topics, to learn about new evidence-based programs and to network with scientists.

Social Events



Throughout the program, time was provided for informal and networking meetings, around fabulous coffee breaks and 5star lunches. The Welcome Reception on Wednesday night included excellent Cypriot wines and hot and cold beverages.

The Conference Gala dinner took place on Friday, 27 September 2024. In total, 165 people registered for the conference, Gala Dinner. Immediately after the last session of Friday, delegates were transported in four buses. The tour included a visit to Petra tou

Romiou/ the Stone of Aphrodite and there they had enjoyed the sunset. Then, to the Museum of Palaepaphos in Kouklia village, in where a professional guide assisted the tour to the history of Cyprus and antiquities. The Gala Dinner place was in Aphrodite Hills Restaurant. There the participants were welcomed with Cypriot music and rosewater essence and attended the preparation of traditional food and drinks. The buffet was rich, the drinks plenty and the sweets freshly made. The Entertainment program with Cypriot and Greek songs and dances, offered by the dancing group Paradosi (Tradition) with 4 musicians and 8 dancers. There was such festive mood amongst participants who were dancing and enjoying the night.



At the closing ceremony, on the last day, Saturday 28.9.2024, the chair of the EARA 2024 Conference gave special thanks to EARA that entrusted Theological School with the organisation of the 19th EARA Conference, to the president of the TSCC council, Archbishop of Nova Justiniana and All Cyprus Georgios, the TSCC sponsors (Hellenic Mining Public Company LTD, Hellenic Technical Enterprises LTD, Hellenic-Tzilalis), to the Theological school (academic and administrative staff) who helped facilitate the difficult task, to the Organising and Scientific Committees for the continuous support and scientific guidance, and to Easy Conference. Last but not least, she thanked all participants.

The new president of EARA Elisabetta Crocetti and Susan Branje the chair of the EARA 2026 Conference in Utrecht thanked Cyprus team for the excellent Conference, the warm hospitality and the family atmosphere and encouraged participants to the upcoming conferences: 2026 in Utrecht and 2028 in Bologna.

Farewell of conference, was a Beach Party that took place on the beach. There were snacks, beer and music. The music was life by Nikolas Savvidis duo. The delegates were with their beach wear, very happy and relax and many of them enjoy swimming either in the swimming pool or in the sea.

We are looking forward to the next EARA 2026 Conference in Utrecht, the Netherlands!



Minutes from the EARA General Assembly

Submitted by Fabrizia Giannotta & Jennifer Symonds

EARA General Assembly
Thursday 26 August 2024
19th EARA conference, Limassol, Cyprus

President's Report

Ingrid Schoon, EARA President welcomes all to the general assembly. She thanks Olga and her team for organising the conference. She reports on the 2024 elections to the EARA Council. She congratulates Elisabetta Crocetti for her role as President, and Jennifer Symonds for her role as President Elect. She welcomes new members to the EARA Council, Stefanos Mastrotheodoros, Savaş Karataş, Philipp Jugert, and Filomena Parada. She also welcomes new members of the Early Career Researcher Committee, Saira Wahid and Fabio Maratia. She thanks outgoing members of the EARA Council, Wim Beyers, Metin Ozdemir, Katariina Salmela-Aro, and Muge Artar, for their support of the organisation.

Ingrid Schoon mentions the EARA special issue on Adolescents' Digital Lives, published in JoA and edited by Wim Beyers, Ingrid Schoon, and Jennifer Symonds. She announces that there will be a new special issue on Adolescent Solidarity that will feature work of EARA members following the theme of the 2024 conference, and that the call for this special issue will be circulated to all EARA members soon. Ingrid also announces the books that are published and in development for the SIAD book series. Ingrid thanks Olga for her work on the EARA Newsletter.

Ingrid overviews EARA's collaboration with international organisations ICDDS (International Consortium Developmental Science) and EFPA (European Federation of

Psychological Associations). She congratulates Susan Branje in her new role as President of ICDDS.

Ingrid notes the EARA activities of her presidency. They include a fresh website image and a new logo, the appointment of social media editors, a webinar series on trauma, and the EARA Collaborative Network for linking mentors and fellows in thematic areas.

EARA 2024 Cyprus

Olga Solomontos-Kountouri reports on the 2024 conference. She overviews the scientific programme, including pre-conference workshops, keynotes, invited symposia, symposia, thematic paper sessions, round tables, bite sized research, and a practitioner's day. Olga gives the overview of the social programme including the welcome reception, early career researchers evening and dinner, the Gala Dinner and tour, and the farewell beach party. Olga thanks her family for their support and help during the conference. She describes the challenges of accommodating researchers from Turkey due to the Turkey-Cyprus conflict. Olga thanks Easy Conference for their role in organising the conference with her.

EARA 2026

Susan Branje presents the next EARA conference venue: Utrecht, Netherlands.

Incoming President

Elisabetta Crocetti introduces her plans for presidency across 2024 to 2026. These include improving the management of the EARA association, strengthening relationships with other organisations, a two-year series of methodological webinars, and a visiting fellowship programme to connect ECRs with senior scholars through onsite visits. Elisabetta announces the approval of the 2028 conference in Bologna by the EARA Council.

EARA Awards

Neslihan Güney Karaman, Chair of the Awards Committee: Marcel van Aken, Figen Çok and Peter Titzman, decided the EARA awards.

Lifetime Achievement Award for to Katariina Salmela-Aro

The Life Time Achievement award is given to Professor Katariina Salmela-Aro, University of Helsinki, Finland. The award is accepted on Katariina's behalf by colleagues from Finland. Ingrid Schoon describes Katariina's major contributions to adolescent science.



EARA Young Scholar Award for Beatrice Bobba

The Early Career Researcher Award is presented to Beatrice Bobba, University of Bologna, Italy. Beatrice thanks EARA for her award and presents her work on ethnic prejudice to the assembly.



Outstanding Mentor Award for Kazumi Sugimura



The Outstanding Mentor Award is presented to Professor Kazumi Sugimura, Hiroshima University, Japan. Kazumi thanks EARA for her award, and thanks her mentees and those who nominated her for the award. She outlines her mentoring philosophy: monitoring and supporting wellbeing, working together, and connecting young Japanese researchers with colleagues in Europe.

Poster Awards

Beatrice Bobba presents the poster awards for ECRs. The best poster award is given to Daniela Chavez.



2024 EARA/EADP/SRA Summer School: A Global Gathering of Adolescent Research Scholars

The 2024 EARA/EADP/SRA Summer School united 22 exceptional junior scholars and 7 renowned senior scholars in the field of adolescent research, creating a vibrant learning and networking experience. Hosted on the sun-drenched island of Cyprus, the Summer School was a collaboration between the European Association for Research on Adolescence (EARA), European Association of Developmental Psychology (EADP), and the Society for Research on Adolescence (SRA).

Junior scholars hailed from diverse regions, including Belgium, Brazil, China, Finland, Germany, South Korea, and the USA, bringing an array of perspectives to the event. Senior scholars fostered rich exchanges of knowledge and ideas.

A cornerstone of the program was the senior scholars' presentations, offering junior researchers an opportunity to engage closely with experts on critical topics. These sessions sparked creativity, inspired innovative research questions, and provided practical solutions to research challenges. Professional roundtables on topics such as open science and citizen science further enriched the experience, offering invaluable career advice and insights into navigating the academic landscape.

Junior participants presented their PhD projects in smaller sessions of seven attendees, allowing for focused feedback and constructive discussions. The breadth and depth of the research presented underscored the immense talent and dedication of the

scholars, making these sessions a highlight of the program.

The Summer School's informal activities fostered companionship and personal connections. From sunset gatherings on Cypriot beaches and refreshing swims to a spirited water Zumba session, participants bonded in memorable and enjoyable ways. Evenings were reserved for relaxed conversations over drinks, which often extended late into the night, deepening friendships and creating a sense of community.

In sum, the 2024 EARA/EADP/SRA Summer School was more than an academic event; it was a dynamic and enriching experience that combined professional growth with personal connections. It not only advanced participants' research trajectories but also created lasting memories and networks that will continue to inspire their work for years to come.



Updates from EARA Early Career Researchers committee

Submitted by Beatrice Bobba and Maria Petridou

Dear EARA-members,

We would like to update you on news and activities organized by the EARA Early Career Researchers committee.

Looking back at EARA 2024

It was lovely to meet in presence in beautiful Cyprus during EARA 2024! We kicked off the conference activities with a very nice Drinks Night Out, where we had a chance to get to know each other and connected with colleagues and students from all over the world. We also had an amazing Dinner on the following evening, enjoying the local cuisine and the company of other early career researchers.

We also had a great turnout at the Meet-the-Editors event, organized by the Early Career Researchers committee and chaired by Dr. Beatrice Bobba and Dr. Maria Petridou. During the roundtable, we had the opportunity to gather important tips and suggestions for publishing in high impact journals and navigating the peer-review process. We would like to thank again our panelists, Prof. Wim Beyers, Prof. Susan Branje, Prof. Elisabetta Crocetti, and Prof. Kostas Fanti, and all attendees for the engaging discussions and stimulating reflections.

Last but not least, the Early Career Researchers Committee has also organized the Best Poster Award competition. We had a showcase of high-quality studies among the ten participating posters. After a thorough evaluation, the EARA 2024 Best Poster Award has been awarded to Daniela Chávez (University of Turku, Finland) for the poster entitled “Prosocial Contagion in Adolescence”. Congratulations again on this great achievement!

Committee News

We would like also to share exciting news from the Early Career Researchers committee. Savaş Karataş had stepped down from his role as Communication manager of the committee. We would like to thank Savaş for his commitment to the committee and the great work done over the past years. We would like to congratulate him on his recent appointment as member of the EARA Executive Council.

We are also very happy to have two new members in our committee: Fabio Maratia as Deputy-Representative, and Saira Wahid as Communication manager. We are very excited to welcome you in the group and look forward to working together for the community of EARA Early Career Researchers!

Emerging Scholar Spotlight Initiative

Do you want your research to be distributed within and outside the EARA community? Then, participate in the Emerging Scholar Spotlight initiative. Every month, the spotlight is published on our social media channels and the EARA website. If you are an EARA Early Career Researcher and you recently published a study in an international journal, you are the perfect candidate for participating in the next spotlights of the group. For further details, you can reach out to our email address: earaearearlycareer@gmail.com. We are looking forward to receiving your research updates and spreading the news about the great work you have been doing!

Stay Updated!

We regularly publish news, announcements, and the monthly spotlight on our [Twitter page](#) (@Earaearlycareer). Follow us to stay updated!

Your EARA Early Career Researchers committee,
Beatrice Bobba, Fabio Maratia, Anna-Maria Mayer, Maria Petridou, Saira Wahid

National Representatives Meeting in Limassol

*Submitted by Filomena Parada
Lusófona University, Portugal*

The meeting for the EARA national representatives was held in person on the 26th of September 2024, at the 19th EARA Conference in Limassol, Cyprus. The coordinator of the EARA national representatives and newsletter editor, Olga Solomontos-Kountouri, organized the meeting. Filomena Parada, the incoming coordinator of the national representatives, co-hosted the meeting with Olga Solomontos-Kountouri. Twelve people attended the meeting, amongst them EARA Executive Committee members, and EARA Early Career Scholar representatives.

Olga Solomontos-Kountouri welcomed the National Representatives and thanked them for their contribution to the EARA and the EARA Newsletter. After a quick introduction from all attendees, Olga reminded the audience of the main duties of the national representatives:

1. To contact potential EARA members in their country and attract them to become EARA members. Spread news and information for EARA activities, especially for EARA Conferences to EARA members of their country as well as to psychologists, sociologists, social workers, or educators who are dealing with adolescents. Collaborate with the Early Careers representative of their country.
2. To collaborate with the Newsletter. Each Representative undertakes the presentation of research activities on a hot topic or research activities related to adolescents from their country.

As Olga showed during the meeting, EARA National Representatives collaboration with

the Newsletter has been a successful initiative, with 14 contributions so far. Three special contributions from the national representatives were decided at the meeting: two in 2025 from Simona Trip (Romania) and Cyril Perchec (France), and one in 2026 from Beatrice Bobba (Early Career Scholar committee).

Next, Filomena Parada introduced herself to the national representatives and challenged them to think about how the network could be more effective in its activities. She informed the national representatives that she intends to organize an online meeting after the conference so discussions can start.

Before the meeting is held, Olga has transferred the role to Filomena by sending all national representatives an email, and then Filomena would contact them separately.

Presently, the position of national representative is open in the following countries: Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Iceland, Israel, Poland, Serbia, and Slovakia. Other national representative positions in other countries may open soon. When the full list of open positions is confirmed, a call for candidates will be made through the EARA mailing list.

Those interested in applying for the position of national representative in one of the countries mentioned above, send an email to info@earaonline.org.

When sending the email, make sure you:

- Mention in the subject of the email you are manifesting your interest in the role of national representative.
- Specify in the body of the email your current position and why you are interested in being a national representative.
- Attach proof of membership to the email. National representatives must be EARA members.

Book Review

On “Understanding Adolescents’ Political Agency. Examining How Political Interest Shapes Political Development” by Håkan Stattin (Studies in Adolescent Development, Routledge, 2024, a book series published in conjunction with the European Association for Research on Adolescence)

Book review by Peter Noack, Friedrich Schiller University Jena

Many of us know Håkan Stattin as a longtime EARA member who has contributed to the development of the Association in multiple ways. Even more of us are aware of his substantial and partly groundbreaking work as a scholar of adolescent development. His studies into the workings of monitoring in processes of parenting styles that shook up the field are but one case in point. And quite some of us had the privilege to listen to Håkan Stattin’s talks and know that he is an excellent storyteller. This is not about fake news in a Trumpian sense but about following up an idea in a well-structured and easy-to-understand way. And this is what he does in this book – telling a coherent story based on facts, i.e., based on empirical evidence. The story revolves around the concept of political interest and its, according to Håkan Stattin, pivotal role in the course of adolescent political development. By this he tries to convince us that political interest is not only an important developmental outcome but also a crucial driver of stability and change of young people’s orientations, attitudes, and behavior.

Taking this perspective, Håkan Stattin revives a metatheoretical view on adolescent development which is meanwhile so widespread and accepted that it may even sound like a truism to some of us, namely that development, at least during this period of the lifespan, is a result of action in context or, in other words, that teenagers are actively taking forward their own development. No

matter how familiar and self-evident this may sound, the truth is that we have rarely taken on the challenge to empirically address this basic understanding of development. Håkan Stattin sets out to do so in the series of studies which he presents in his book.

And, boy, what an empirical basis can he draw on to this aim. The data sets analyzed are comprised of six cohorts spanning ages 13 through 26, each including almost 1000 young people, followed up longitudinally for at least two and up to five years. For the two youngest groups, it was possible to also include parental reports in more than half of the cases. And, obviously, assessments of the younger ones were administered in the classroom, yielding a sample of classrooms that meets the requirements of multi-level analyses. While most of the data are self-reports in a narrow sense, some sociograms of the classroom were also collected. It should be noted that all this tells us a lot about young people -- strictly speaking -- in Örebro, a middle-sized town in Sweden. However, Håkan Stattin, by way of comparisons with national and OECD data bases, can make it plausible that his sample(s) represent(s) more than just mid-Sweden. It should be noted, however, that these comparisons mainly address sociodemographic similarities. When it comes to politics as the subject of enquiry as is the case here, it is not unfair to raise the question as to possible peculiarities of Nordic nations on the societal and political level. Moreover, the assessment period encompasses an election year in Sweden (2014) which, on the one hand, is a lucky coincidence for a researcher of political development but, on the other hand, can be assumed not to leave data unaffected.

Without wanting to prematurely jump to specific results that Håkan Stattin’s studies yield, it is worth mentioning that he does not give away the opportunity offered by his data to address issues that are not inextricably related to research on political development but present a challenge to developmental

researchers at large and thus are of general interest. Perspectives represented in self-reports are a noteworthy example. Analyzing parallel adolescent and parental reports yields zero to at best medium-sized correlations concerning most variables in focus. Moreover, variable associations are mainly found within adolescent or parental data but not across respondents. Håkan Stattin summarizes this observation in the chapter heading “We do not see things as they are, we see them as we are”. And I am certain that many of us have experienced the same when analyzing our data. What does it tell us about the results we get?

Let me now dive deeper into some of the research findings reported in the individual chapters of the book. We first learn that political interest is quite low at age 13 to swiftly go up from middle to late adolescence followed by an only slow increase in early adulthood. The more general interest in what is going on in society follows a parallel pattern even though on a somewhat higher level. Moreover, stability in terms of correlations across time also increases in the early adolescent years to then reach values around the .60s which is typical of many a variable of political orientations. The reported findings are basically in line with earlier research.

Political interest and self-efficacy are major predictors of offline (not online) political activities as is goal setting in the political realm. More importantly, Håkan Stattin observes interaction effects of interest and goals across the board with strongest effects surfacing when young people score high on both variables. Even though the analyses were designed drawing on the Fishbein & Ajzen model, social norms seem to play a negligible role. When asking for events that have led to increased political interest, around one out of five respondents confirm this. However, Håkan Stattin notices a great deal of interindividual variability when it comes to the type of events that raise interest even though cohorts are exposed to the same

ones at about the same age. This finding does obviously not correspond to the quick identification of specific youth cohorts due to cohort-forming experiences, the often cited Generations X, Y, and Z. As could be expected, reporting interest-raising events indeed predicts increases of interest. More interestingly, and in line with Stattin’s central agency hypothesis, higher political interest also raises the likelihood of reporting such events. Interest thus seems to be working as an eye-opener. And experiences of this type also result in an increase of political discussions with parents and peers.

Going further through the wealth of findings presented in the book would take these lines beyond the word limit granted and may keep you from reading yourself. So, I will only highlight some specific aspects in the following paragraphs. Håkan Stattin draws attention to the concept of political reputation, namely adolescents being seen as politically knowledgeable and competent by classmates, which, indeed is one of the few predictors of young people’s political interest. Given the possible interference with social fears when it comes to actively speaking out in class, Stattin, again in passing, provides an explanation of the processes by which the often cited powerful variable of open classroom climate may impact political development. We also get several empirical hints pointing to early adolescence, here captured in terms of the 13 to 15 years age-range, as the most relevant period of parental engagement in political socialization. During this time, parents are most active trying to exert influence, youngsters see themselves as more susceptible to parental influence, and political discussions in the family seem to impact political interest around these years. Still, political discussions with parents are not just substituted for by conversations with friends and colleagues in later years but there is even some spill-over from the family to the other relationships and family discussions continue to be a widespread phenomenon. The only exception are romantic

partnerships in which such discussions take place most often and which even affect the frequency in which these issues are then discussed with parents.

Two final take-away messages: Håkan Stattin addresses the conundrum of small convergences of adolescent and parental political views by way of person-centered analyses showing that there is a subgroup of about one out of four young people where parental perceptions of high political sophistication does correspond to adolescent perceptions. It seems to be this group which is most open to discussions and parental influence. Secondly, strong political interest seems not necessarily make a “good” democratic citizen. Relevant values only go along with political interest among one third of the sample of 16-year-olds while almost 10% are interested but do not share the so-called universal values, the latter group being dominated by young males.

That should do for a glimpse on the book. I closed it feeling to have spent reading time well. Readers do not only learn about political development of young people but also get more general insights. Given theories and empirical findings referred to in the course of Håkan Stattin’s argumentation, one could almost use this volume as a handbook with some 300 entries in the reference list. There is only one aspect I would have liked to have seen more on: If political interest is such a quintessential driving variable in young people’s political development – what may be its ultimate roots? In the very end, we get some information on associations of interest with Big 5 variables, namely openness to experience, as well as on the possible workings of the genetic makeup. And, of course, if your samples start at age 13, you could not empirically dive into processes taking place during earlier years which could be assumed to be instructive to arrive at an answer. Still, I would have loved to get to know Håkan Stattin’s speculations on this matter.

Announcements

Call for the EARA visiting program

The EARA visiting program is launched for the first time in 2024 by the EARA President, Elisabetta Crocetti, to support networking and mentoring among EARA members.

Who can apply?

One or a small group of EARA early career members (defined for this call as those who are currently working on pre-doctorate levels or have obtained their doctoral degree within the last five years) can apply together with an EARA senior member (a member with at least 10 years of experience after the PhD).

The EARA early career members can apply for a visiting fellowship to visit the EARA senior member to work on either:

- a joint publication
- a joint grant application (e.g., for Marie Curie grants that require an early career scholar to apply together with a scientist in charge).

The possibility to apply is open to all EARA members, including those who hold specific roles in the association (e.g., national representatives, members of the EARA committees) and those who apply for the EARA Collaborative Research Network.

How to apply?

The EARA early career member(s) need to apply together with a matched senior member. They need to:

- fill out this form with the data of each applicant (https://unibopsice.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_b8FE6VbNi9IAr6m)
- submit their CVs (labelled Surname_cv.docx)
- send a proposal (max 1000 words, with the word count specified on the first page) specifying the purpose of the visit (e.g., which is the joint

publication or grant application you will be working on) and how it will be organized (e.g., for how long, how it will be structured) (labelled Proposal.docx)

- provide a budget plan (specifying if you have access to any additional support for the mobility; e.g., from your institution). The budget should be included on the last page of the proposal and does not count for the word limit.

These documents must be sent to the EARA secretary, Fabrizia Giannotta, by email (fabrizia.giannotta@unito.it). Indicate in the Object: “Application for the EARA visiting fellowship”.

Do you need help to find your match?

If you are an EARA early career and/or senior member interested in this Call, you might already have an idea who could be your best match (e.g., from prior conferences or shared research interests). If you need more ideas you can check who the EARA members are by accessing the Members directory (<http://www.earaonline.org/membership/members-directory/>; Note: the access is restricted to members).

Furthermore, to facilitate the matching, you can post messages on the LinkedIn page of EARA (<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/4303105/>)

How much is the visiting fellowship?

The amount of the visiting fellowship can be a maximum of 1,500 euros (total for each proposal). The specific amount will be assigned by the committee based on the submitted budget plan and is meant to provide support to the EARA early career members. The fellowship will be paid by the EARA treasurer after the presentation of receipts of expenses.

As a token of appreciation, EARA senior member of selected proposals will have their membership extended for two years.

When to apply?

There will be two calls, one opened in late 2024 and one in the second half of 2025. The total budget available for the first call is 5,000 euros.

The schedule for the 2024 Call is the following:

- Call opens: December 2024
- **Deadline: March 31, 2025**
- Selection of applicants and notification of responses: By the end of April, 2025
- Travel visits can be done between May 2025 and August 2026.

The evaluation committee consists of Elisabetta Crocetti (EARA President), Fabrizia Giannotta (EARA Secretary), and Andrik Becht (EARA treasurer).

What is the expected outcome?

Awardees are required to prepare a report to document the joint activity done during the visit. Each report will be published in one of the editions of the EARA newsletter.

Awardees are also encouraged to present their work at the next EARA 2026 conference in Utrecht, the Netherlands, in a dedicated symposium.

Call for the EARA Collaborative Research Network

The EARA Collaborative Research Network was launched for the first time in 2022 by the former EARA President, Ingrid Schoon, and will be repeated in 2024 to provide early career scholars with the opportunity to work together with an EARA mentor on a joint publication.

The Call is organized in two steps:

1. Mentors (EARA members with at least 10 years of experience after the PhD) are invited to join the Network, become mentor, and propose possible ideas for Collaborative Research

2. After a list of mentors is made available, early career scholars - mentees (defined for this call as those who are currently working on pre-doctorate levels or have obtained their doctoral degree within the last five years) can apply to be matched with a mentor.

Call for Mentors

We are looking for mentors interested in supporting early career scientists in collaborative research on adolescence and youth development. Our hope is that mentors would be available to:

- Prepare information about ongoing projects and ideas in which they can involve early career scholars. Drawing on datasets already collected by the mentors and/or open/existing datasets, the mentors and the mentees can work on a joint publication.
- Meet regularly (virtually) with mentees (e.g., once a month).
- Meet with mentees at the 2026 EARA biennial meeting in Utrecht, 18-21 August 2026 in-person, should you both be in attendance.

As a token of appreciation, EARA mentors will have their membership extended for two years.

The possibility to apply as a mentor is open to all EARA members, including those who hold specific roles in the association (e.g., national representatives, members of the EARA committees) and those who have applied for the EARA Visiting program.

How to apply to become a mentor?

Step 1. The EARA members interested in applying to become a mentor need to get in touch and specify:

- Their idea/ topic for investigation (five keywords regarding the topics they would like to propose).
- Brief description of suggestions for the collaborative research (max 200 words).

- Available data sources.
- Five keywords regarding their methodological expertise/interests
- Their short CV

These documents must be sent to the EARA secretary, Fabrizia Giannotta, by email (fabrizia.giannotta@unito.it). Indicate in the Object: “Application for the EARA Call for Mentors”.

Step 2. Once a list of mentors has been generated, the EARA early career scholars interested in applying to become a mentee need to:

- Fill out a form to indicate.
- Five keywords regarding their research interests.
- Five keywords regarding their methodological expertise/interests.
- The data they are interested in using, or have already experience with.
- Which mentor (they can express up to two preferences) they would like to work with.
- A motivation statement (max 200 words to indicate why they are interested in the program and why they think they could match well with the mentors).
- Submit their CVs (labelled Surname_cv.docx)

The form and CVs must be sent to the EARA secretary, Fabrizia Giannotta, by email (fabrizia.giannotta@unito.it). Indicate in the Object: “Application for the EARA Call for Mentees”.

When to apply?

The schedule for the 2024 Call is the following:

Call opens: December 2024

Step 1. Deadline for mentors to self-nominate: January 31, 2025

Mentors are selected and a list of possible mentors is provided to early career scholars: End of February

Step 2. Deadline for early career scholars: March 31, 2025
Selection of applicants and notification of responses: By the end of April 2025
Collaborative research completed between May 2025 and August 2026.

The evaluation committee consists of Ingrid Schoon (EARA Past President), Fabrizia Giannotta (EARA Secretary), and Jennifer Symonds (EARA President-elect).

What is the expected outcome?

Each team, including one mentor and mentees, is required to prepare a report to document the collaborative research conducted together. Each report will be published in one of the editions of the EARA newsletter.

Each team is also encouraged to present their work at the next EARA 2026 conference in Utrecht, the Netherlands, in a dedicated symposium. Early career scholars can apply for the EARA travel grants to attend the conference.

EARA webinar series 2025-2026

The EARA is organizing a webinar series for the period 2025-2026 on methodological issues and core topics relevant to the field of adolescent research. These webinars offer a unique opportunity for researchers, especially early career ones, to advance their knowledge and create a sense of community. Moreover, they offer a chance to network with early career and senior EARA members on shared interests.

EARA members can attend the webinars for free (although registration is required using the available forms). Webinars will be held online approximately every two months starting from January 2025 onward. The first webinar of the series is ***On Writing Well***, organized by Linda Juang and Elisabetta

Crocetti on **January 17th, 2025**. Check the EARA website (<http://www.earaonline.org/resources/webinars/>) for more information about this webinar and how to register.

Moreover, the following webinars have already been confirmed for the upcoming months:

- *Introduction to Structural Equation Modeling with Mplus and R*, Beatrice Bobba & Stefanos Mastrotheodoros
- *Introduction to Longitudinal Data Modeling with Mplus and R*, Stefanos Mastrotheodoros
- *Qualitative Research Design and Analysis*, Joseph Schwab
- *Secondary Data Analysis: An Introduction to Cross-Study Research*, Jennifer Symonds
- *Multilevel modeling with Mplus and R*, Takuya Yanagida

Further details will be released soon on the EARA website (<http://www.earaonline.org/resources/webinars/>) and via the social media channels of the association. So, follow us on LinkedIn (<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/4303105/>) and on X/Twitter (@EARAadolescence and @Earaearlycareer) to stay updated about EARA webinars and other initiatives!

EARA Publications

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