

2015 EARA-SRA Summer School Report

The 2015 EARA-SRA summer school took place at Embassy Suites Hotel in Atlanta, Georgia (USA) from May 18th to May 22th. The summer school was organized by Lauree Tilton-Weaver (Director) and Jeff Kiesner (Assistant Director) with generous funding by the Johan Jacobs Foundation. In sum, 23 Junior Scholars from ten countries across the world were brought together with eight well-established researchers (Senior Scholars) for five intensive days of collaborative research training. The Senior Scholars were (in alphabetical order):

Susan Branje (Utrecht University)	Janis Kupersmidt (Innovation Research & Training)
Pascal Deboek (University of Kansas)	Elizabeth Saewyc (University of British Columbia)
Nancy Gonzales (Arizona State University)	Wendy Troop-Gordon (North Dakota State University)
Patricia Hawley (Texas Tech University)	Frank Worrell (University of California, Berkeley)

The summer school started with a workshop about interdisciplinary and cross-cultural communication, where we learned how to communicate with colleagues from diverse backgrounds. After all, diverse disciplines were represented by the Junior and Senior Scholars in attendance, e.g., Developmental and Educational Psychology, Sociology, Human Development, or Public Health. Moreover, our group contained qualitative and quantitative researchers, who employed a variety of methods of analysis in their work. 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. Topics covered during the summer school included media literacy education, an evolutionary perspective on aggressive behavior, peer victimization, longitudinal data analysis, cultural values and acculturation, racial identity, variability in mother-adolescent interaction, and gender identity and sexual orientation. Next, we Junior Scholars worked together in groups on tasks assigned by the Senior Scholars. These tasks included developing new study ideas, applying research findings to interventions, and creating novel measures for assessment of tricky psychological constructs. These group tasks also greatly benefited from the diverse perspectives of the Junior Scholars, who came from a range of countries, disciplines, and theoretical frameworks. When Junior Scholars presented ideas to the full summer school group, what ensued was hardly a one-sided presentation. Rather, these presentations set the stage for engaging and collective discussions among both Junior and Senior scholars—oftentimes so engaging that it was difficult to restrain ourselves from exceeding the designated presentation time limit.

The Junior and Senior Scholars also attended a methodological block, where we discussed challenges of (longitudinal) data analysis and learned a new method for analyzing longitudinal data (i.e., differential equation modeling). In addition, Senior Scholars advised us about getting our messages out to different audiences, where we learned how to disseminate our research findings to the public. Moreover, we had a Q & A session about planning our career, where we had the opportunity to receive career advice from the Senior Scholars.

During the summer school, each Junior Scholar had the opportunity to present his or her work to two Senior Scholars and other Junior Scholars, in order to receive feedback and engage in critical discussion about our

own research. Although the idea of presenting our research to our academic seniors was intimidating at first, the Senior Scholars offered extremely beneficial constructive criticism on our ongoing work, while simultaneously instilling in us a sense of confidence and pride regarding our ideas.

Besides Senior Scholar sessions and Junior Scholar presentations, an important part of the summer school was the informal meeting times we shared, including our meals together. During our free time, we had the opportunity to get to know each other and learn from various research topics and cultures. Junior Scholars brought diverse perspectives, thoughts, experiences, languages, and life stories to our discussion that greatly enriched our time together. It seemed as if we were experiencing a visit around the world without leaving our hotel. We had conversations about our goals as junior researchers and the paths we might take to become professors and scientists in our respective fields. Of course, we also greatly valued the opportunity to meet and get to know well-established researchers to talk about research and goals and to get to know each other on more personal levels.

In conclusion, the EARA-SRA Summer School was a week of intensive academic activity, which introduced us to a diverse network of future collaborators from throughout Europe and the US who have the potential to teach us to see our work through new lenses through the application of diverse theories and methods. Beyond developing collaborative relationships, we also developed new friendships. We know that these friendships will continue and will be a source of support, advice, and encouragement to us Junior Scholars as we each finish our careers as students and move into professional positions.

We thank the organizing committee, Lauree Tilton-Weaver and Jeff Kiesner, the Johan Jacobs Foundation, SRA, and EARA for making this experience possible for us. Moreover, we thank the Senior Scholars for their inspiring presentations, critical discussions and valuable feedback on our research projects. We truly appreciate everything we have learned during the summer school, and feel privileged to have had the opportunity to partake in such a significant experience.



The 2015 EARA-SRA Summer School Junior Scholars (in alphabetical order):

Serena Bauducco (Örebro University)

Gökçe Çokamay (Ankara University)

Daniela Freitas (University of Porto)

Rob Gommans (Utrecht University)

Hyemin Han (Stanford University)

Charlene Harris (University of Kentucky)

Petra Havinga (University of Groningen,
University Medical Center Groningen)

Tasha Keyes (University of Chicago)

Jessica Latack (Stony Brook University)

Anna Lindell (University of Missouri)

Meghan Martz (University of Michigan)

Evelyne Meens (Tilburg University)
Diana Jill Meter (University of Arizona)
Oana Mocan (Babes-Bolyai University)
Jackie Nesi (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)
Loes Pouwels (Radboud University)
Alysha Ramirez (University of Arizona)
Luke Rapa (Michigan State University)

Hannah Schacter (University of California, Los Angeles)
Elisabeth Schubach (Friedrich Schiller University Jena)
Kristjan Ketill Stefansson (University of Iceland)
Jessica Trach (University of British Columbia)
Takuya Yanagida (University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria)