

Activity Report of the IASSIDD Profound Intellectual and Multiple Disabilities - Special Interest Research Group (SIRG-PIMD) - 2015

1. Members

The SIRG-PIMD had 56 subscribed members in 2015. The membership is decreasing: 110 in 2013 (27% of the IASSIDD-members); 96 (22%) in 2014; 56 (28%) in 2015 and 49 (10%) in 2016.

2. Board

The board members were: Bea Maes (Chair), Juliet Goldbart (Secretary, Treasurer), Annette Van der Putten, Sheridan Forster, Nan-Chieh Chen, Krysti De Zonia, Gare Fabila, Carla Vlaskamp and Peter Thorpe (webmaster). Loretto Lambe (past chair) has deceased at the end of 2015.

3. Activities

3.1. Roundtable

The 7th Roundtable meeting of the SIRG PIMD has been organized in Sweden. Jenny Wilder from the Mälardalen University in Västerås was our host. The roundtable is an ideal forum for researchers in the field of persons with PIMD to present current research, to discuss new research plans, and to network. This year's topics were Early development, Education, Social Participation, and Future collaborative research.

3.2. Early career research meetings

There has been an early career research meeting 22-23 September 2015, just before the Roundtable. 22 young researchers, coming from 6 countries have participated. It is an excellent opportunity for young researchers in the field to meet each other, to network, and to discuss their research plans. Senior researchers are available for coaching and support. Young researchers can discuss their own plans, but also more general methodological or publication issues (e.g. small sample research, analyzing video-data, triangulation of data) are discussed.

The young researchers also set up a website for this group, see ecrmpimd.weebly.com

4. Communication

There were two editions of the *electronic newsletter* in 2015. The newsletter informs SIRG-members about upcoming events, current research projects, new PhD's, awards, new publications, questions of members to cooperate in certain projects, etc.

Sara Nijs (KU Leuven) and Leontien Bossink (RU Groningen) are coordinating the newsletter.

We transferred our own *website* of the SIRG-PIMD: <http://www.sirgpmid.be> to the official IASSIDD-website and updated the format and the contents.

5. Plans for the future

At the *IASSIDD world conference in Melbourne* (15- 19 August 2016) the SIRG-PIMD will organize several symposia with current research with regard to persons with PIMD.

In Melbourne another *Early Career Researchers Meeting* will take place on Friday 19 August.

The *8th Roundtable* meeting of the SIRG-PIMD will be organized by Geneviève Petitpierre at the University of Fribourg , Switzerland. Dates are: 28 - 30 August 2017. There will also be an Early Career Researchers Meeting.

Submitted by:

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