

Activity Report of the IASSIDD Profound Intellectual and Multiple Disabilities - Special Interest Research Group (SIRG-PIMD) - 2017

1. Members

The membership of the SIRG-PIMD is still decreasing. We had 110 members in 2013 (27% of the IASSIDD-members); 96 (22%) in 2014; 56 (28%) in 2015; 49 (10%) in 2016 and only 34 in 2017. We need an action plan to increase membership. We will discuss this on the members meeting in Athens.

2. Board

The board members were: Bea Maes (Chair), Juliet Goldbart (Secretary, Treasurer, IASSIDD representative), Annette Van der Putten, Sheridan Forster, Nan-Chieh Chen, Krysti De Zonia, Gare Fabila, Peter Thorpe (webmaster).

The Board decided to have 6 monthly skype based communications, next to the meetings at the conferences.

3. Activities

3.1. 8th Roundtable - Switzerland

The 8th Roundtable meeting of the SIRG-PIMD has been organized by Geneviève Petitpierre and Juliane Dind at the University of Fribourg , Switzerland on the 29th – 30th of August 2017.

There were 37 participants from 8 countries (UK, Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, Japan, France, Switzerland, Bulgaria). One researcher from Côte d'Ivoire participated by skype.

The topics discussed were: People with PIMD and their families' development during the lifespan; Context, supports and assistive technology; Functioning and development; Current state of research in the field of PIMD and perspectives. Presentations have been made available on the SIRG-PIMD pages of the IASSIDD-website.

3.2. Early career research meetings

The 7th Early Career Researchers Meeting was held in Switzerland, before and after the roundtable on the 28th and 31st of August 2017. About 20 people participated. Next to presentations of ongoing PhD research, some general topics have been discussed: Behavioral videocodings, Impact of research on families; Relevance of neuroscience research in the

understanding of PIMD functioning; Dealing with sample size, control groups, missing data and comparative research; and Approaching the end of a PhD trajectory.

4. Communication

There were two editions of the electronic newsletter in 2017. 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 updated the content of the SIRG-PIMD pages on the IASSIDD-website.

5. Plans for the future

We had a discussion about the cycles of the roundtables and early career researchers meetings. Because of the changes in the cycle of the IASSIDD-conferences, these cannot be held anymore in the years in between the European and world conferences. The board will make a plan for the next years, trying to make it possible for as many people as possible to attend the activities.

The board will further discuss a possible Academy event from the SIRG PIMD in Plovdiv Bulgaria.

The SIRG will prepare symposia for the next European IASSIDD conference in Athens (August 2018) and for the next World IASSIDD conference in Glasgow (2019).

Submitted by:

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Chair

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