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EARLI Association News, Spring 2010

In 2010, EARLI's Junior Researchers and EARLI's Special Interest Groups will be active and organise a meeting. Read on to find more information about the JURE 2010 conference and an overview of all the SIG activities. Besides two SIG coordinators, every SIG now has the possibility to appoint a JURE assistant coordinator. This is a new bottom-up initiative suggested by a number of EARLI members. The JURE assistant coordinator will be an important link between the SIG, EARLI and the Junior Researchers of EARLI. Further on in this issue, you can find an overview of the new JURE assistant coordinators, recently appointed.

From 18 to 20 November 2009, the 4th PBPR conference alias the 1st official EAPRIL conference took place in Trier, Germany. In this newsletter you can find a general evaluation of the conference.

On 16 and 17 December 2009, the research results of the European S.T.E.P. project in which EARLI is involved, were presented during the 2nd S-ICT Conference in Amsterdam. One last time, all partners gathered after the closing of the conference to round-up the project. When reading more about the online founded community, further on in this Association News, you will learn that, even now, new data are being gathered and new ideas are being discussed concerning preparatory teaching, remedial education, etcetera.

Finally, we invite you to mark the following dates in your agenda: August 30 until September 3, 2011. During those five days, EARLI's 14th Biennial Conference will take place at the University of Exeter (UK). We would love to welcome you there!

1. Junior Researchers of EARLI Conference 2010

The theme for JURE 2010 is **Connecting Diverse Perspectives on Learning and Instruction: A Conference of Synergy**. Currently, there is a wide range of perspectives on learning and instruction within and across different specific domains (e.g. reading comprehension in foreign languages or multi-digit subtraction in mathematics). Moreover, the lifelong educational process is viewed from various focuses (e.g. collaborative learning or metacognitive regulation). Furthermore, many different quantitative and qualitative research methods coexist in the research area of education.

JURE 2010 aims to connect diverse perspectives in research on learning and instruction with the intention of exploring and discussing comprehensive and interdisciplinary ideas. By connecting these diverse perspectives, young researchers can broaden their view and learn from each other; this leads to synergetic incentives for future theoretical and empirical research.

The conference will take place from **19 until 22 July 2010** in **Frankfurt am Main**, the most international city in **Germany**. JURE 2010 presents a great opportunity for junior researchers to get in contact with other young researchers in the same area. Moreover, participants have the chance to present, discuss and receive feedback on their research within a supportive, international environment.

JURE 2010 Conference website: <http://www.earli-jure2010.org/>

2. EARLI Special Interest Groups

SIG Meetings in 2010

SIG: 1 Assessment and Evaluation

Conference theme: Assessment for Learners

Date: 1-3 September 2010

Place: Slaley Hall, Northumberland, UK

Website: <http://www.northumbria.ac.uk/assessment2010>

SIG: 2 Text and Graphics Comprehension

Conference theme: Tracing the mind: How do we learn from text and graphics?

Date: 26-28 August 2010

Place: Tuebingen, Germany

Website: <http://www.earlisig2-2010.de>

SIG: 3 Conceptual Change

Date: 25-27 May 2010

Place: Louvain Institute for Ireland in Europe, Leuven, Belgium

Website: <http://ppw.kuleuven.be/cipt/EARLI%20CONF/EARLICONFwelcome.html>*SIG: 4 Higher Education and 11 Teaching and Teacher Education*

Date: 13-16 June 2010

Place: Majvik Conference Hotel, Kirkkonummi, Finland

Website: <http://blogs.helsinki.fi/jointsigconferenceheadtte/>*SIG: 5 Learning and Development in Early Childhood*

Date: 23-25 August 2010

Place: University of Teacher Education, Lucerne, Switzerland

Website: <http://www.earli.phz.ch/>*SIG: 6 Instructional Design and 7 Learning and Instruction with Computers*

Conference theme: Instructional Design for motivated and competent learning in a digital world

Date: 30 August–1 September 2010

Place: Ulm, Germany

Website: <http://www.uni-ulm.de/earlisig6-7-2010>*SIG: 8 Motivation and Emotion*

Conference theme: New Directions in Mind?

Date: 2-4 September 2010

Place: University of Porto, Porto, Portugal

Website: www.fpce.up.pt/icm2010*SIG: 10 Social Interaction in Learning and Instruction and 21 Learning and Teaching in Culturally Diverse Settings*

Conference title: Moving through cultures of learning

Date: 2-3 September 2010

Place: Utrecht, The Netherlands

Website: <http://sig10and21meeting.risbo.org>*SIG: 12 Writing*

Conference title: 12th International Conference of the EARLI Special Interest Group on Writing

Date: 8-10 September 2010

Place: University of Education, Heidelberg, Germany

Website: www.sigwriting2010.de*SIG: 13 Moral and Democratic Education*

Theme of the symposium: Moral and Democratic Education and its influence on the society

Date: 30 August–2 September 2010

Place: Tel Aviv, Israel

Website: <http://campus.achva.ac.il/sig13-2010/Home.aspx>*SIG: 14 Learning and Professional Development*

Conference title: 5th Conference on Professional learning and development

Conference theme: Diversity in Vocational and Professional Education and Training

Date: 25–27 August 2010

Place: University of Munich, Germany

Website: <http://www.wipaed.bwl.uni-muenchen.de/earlisig14/>*SIG: 15 Special Educational Needs*

Conference title: Teaching, Learning and diversity

Date: September 6-7, 2010

Place: Goethe University of Frankfurt, Frankfurt, Germany

Contact: Adina Shamir (shamira@mail.biu.ac.il) or Gerhard Buettner (buettner@paed.psych.uni-frankfurt.de)*SIG: 16 Metacognition*

Conference title: 4th Biennial Meeting of the EARLI Special Interest Group 16 Metacognition

Date: 26-29 May, 2010

Place: Muenster, Germany

Website: www.metacognition2010.de

SIG: 17 Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches to Learning and Instruction

Conference title: Methodology in research on learning

Date: 2–3 September, 2010

Place: Friedrich Schiller University, Jena, Germany

Contact: Patrick Sins (p.h.m.sins@uu.nl) or Michaela Gläser-Zikuda (michaela.glaeser-zikuda@uni-jena.de)

SIG: 18 Educational Effectiveness

Conference title: Educational Effectiveness: Models, Methods and Applications

Date: 25–27 August, 2010

Place: Leuven, Belgium

Website: www.sigee2010.org*SIG: 19 Religious and Spiritual Education*

Conference title: New perspectives on religious and spiritual education

Date: 26–28 August, 2010

Place: University of Malta, Malta

Contact: Theo van der Zee (t.v.d.zee@iko.ru.nl) or Terrence Lovat (terry.lovat@newcastle.edu.au)

SIG: 20 Computer Supported Inquiry Learning

Conference title: 9th International Conference on Computer Based Learning in Science

Date: 4–7 July, 2010

Place: Warsaw, Poland

Website: <http://www.cblis2010.waw.pl/index.php?sr=glowna>*SIG: 22 Neuroscience and Education*

Conference theme/title: Educational Neuroscience: Is it a field?

Date: 3–5 June, 2010

Place: ETH Zürich, Switzerland

Website: <http://www.sig-neuroedu2010.ethz.ch/>**Junior assistant Coordinators**

Since 2009, every SIG can decide to appoint one Junior assistant coordinator, who will play an important role in creating a stronger link between the SIG, EARLI and the Junior Researchers.

On the EARLI website, in the section of each SIG, you can find the contact information of the Junior Assistant coordinators that were appointed so far, which are:

Anne Schüller, IWM-KMRC, Institut für Wissensmedien, Tuebingen, Germany for SIG 2. Text and Graphics Comprehension

Daniela Sofía Jadue Roa, University of Cambridge, UK for SIG 5. Learning and Development in Early Childhood

Katja Meyer, Ulm University, Germany for SIG 6. Instructional Design

Crina Damsa, University of Oslo, Norway for SIG 7. Learning and Instruction with Computers

Eva Wennäs-Brante, Kristianstad University College, Sweden for SIG 9. Phenomenography and Variation Theory

Jörg Holle, University of Trier, Germany for SIG 10. Social Interaction in Learning and Instruction

Maike Endedijk, Utrecht University, The Netherlands for SIG 11. Teaching and Teacher Education

Dorit Alt, Bar Ilan University, Israel for SIG 13. Moral and Democratic Education

Esther Winther, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, Germany for SIG 14. Learning and Professional Development

Sebastian Poloczek, Goethe-University Frankfurt, Germany for SIG 15. Special Educational Needs

Arniika Kuusisto, University of Helsinki, Finland for SIG 19. Religious and Spiritual Education

Marieke Meeuwisse, Erasmus University Rotterdam, The Netherlands for SIG 21. Learning and Teaching in Culturally Diverse Settings

Section 4 of the SIG coordinator guidelines

(http://www.earli.org/special_interest_groups/sig_coordinator_guidelines) provides an overview of the requirements and regulations.

3. EAPRIL

From 18 until 20 November 2009, the European Association for Practitioner Research on Improving Learning (EAPRIL), sister association of EARLI, organised its annual conference in Trier (Germany). This year's conference theme was 'Improving Social Competences and Network Learning in education and professional practice'. Over 100 participants attended the 1st 'official' EAPRIL Conference. More than 50% of the participants filled in an online evaluation form about the conference. In overall, the feedback about the conference was very positive, a good reason to check out the upcoming conference which will be held in November, 2010, in Lisbon, Portugal. More information about the next conference and pictures of the previous conference will be available soon on the EAPRIL website: <http://www.eapril.org>. If you are interested in practitioner research or the link between educational research and practice, subscribe for EAPRIL membership online. EAPRIL Members are entitled to a reduced conference fee and stay informed of all EAPRIL activities.

EAPRIL is involved as a partner in a European project entitled 'Evidence Informed Policy and Practice in Education in Europe'. The lead partner is the EPPI-Centre, The Institute of Education, London (UK). Stay informed about this initiative through the EAPRIL website!

4. Studies on Transitional Electronic Programmes - European project

The final S.T.E.P. Meeting, together with all the partners, took place in Amsterdam on the 17th of December, 2009. As you know, EARLI is a partner in the S.T.E.P. project, which focuses on the transition for students from school to universities and between universities' programmes. As this transition turns out to be challenging for European students due to their increasing mobility, enrolling in a preparatory course will facilitate this transition. During this project, a validated framework for assessing and comparing (online) preparatory transitional programmes (EFTPC) was developed. The discussions that originated from the research during this project still live on, and the gathering of new input for the database is ongoing. Since August 2009, we have started a group on the social network site LinkedIn called '**Community of Practice Effective Preparatory Courses**'

(http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=1950572&trk=hb_side_g), whereby teachers, researchers and practitioners can share their best- and worst practices of effective teaching for transitional and preparatory courses. Please join us! In addition, if you know anyone in your institute or network who is teaching a transitional or preparatory course, please forward the link of the database (<http://www.science.uva.nl/onderwijs/database/step/public/>) and ask him/her to add the best-practice as well to the database. During this project we have also created a page on Wikipedia about Remedial Education: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Remedial_education.

On 16th and 17th of December 2009 the 2nd S-ICT Conference "Student Mobility and ICT: Dimensions of transition" was held in Amsterdam (the Netherlands). This conference was supported by the S.T.E.P. project in which EARLI is involved as a partner. 69 participants from 12 countries discussed how ICT can support independent learning as well as learning irrespective of time and geographical dispersion. The 42 presentations at the 2nd S-ICT conference focused on how ICT and E-learning helps learners on their life-long learning paths, especially with regard to the various dimensions of transition. The conference proceedings, presentations and pictures of the S-ICT conference can be found at <http://www.s-ict.eu/>.

5. EARLI 2011 Biennial Conference, August 30 until September 3, Exeter, UK

And, last but not least, behind the scenes, the International Scientific Programming Committee is very busy with the organisation of the 14th EARLI Conference in Exeter. Keep an eye on your mailbox: we will send out a first call for submissions very soon! More information will be available soon on www.earli2011.org.