

Dear SIG 4 members,

The Higher Education Conference (HEC 2016) is getting closer, and this letter includes some practical information concerning the SIG 4 activities during the conference.

The programme of the conference has been published, and it includes several interesting presentations from the SIG 4 members:

http://www.hec2016.org/content/programme_detailed.pdf

We update regularly the [SIG 4 Facebook](#) page concerning HEC and other important issues (all the important issues will be announced also through the newsletters). Already 54 SIG4 members are members of the Facebook group. Please join us there if you are not a member of the group yet! (Search for "EARLI SIG4" in facebook)

The SIG 4 symposium 'Social aspects of learning and teaching in higher education' at the HEC 2016 will take place in the morning session on *Friday, July 15th*.

The discussant is professor Piet Van den Bossche (University of Antwerp, Belgium).

The presenters are Crina Damsa (University of Oslo, Norway), Annedien Pullen (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands), Milla Räisänen (University of Helsinki, Finland) and Rike Bron (University of Twente, The Netherlands).

Symposium abstract:

Nowadays it is highly important that university students develop their collaboration and team-working skills to be able to survive in the working life where these skills are necessary. In addition to self-regulation of learning, social regulation has become increasingly important, which means that students regulate their cognition, motivation, emotions and behavior together. Developing teaching practices that enhance students' skills to work collaboratively in diverse teams and promote their skills to socially regulate their learning, remains an important challenge for today's university teaching. Because of these challenges, also university teaching is facing new demands in that teaching as an individual task is challenged by more collaborative forms of designing and practicing teaching.

The EARLI SIG 4 symposium will address the social aspects of learning and teaching in universities. The first contribution focuses on identifying interaction patterns in student teachers' small group learning activities and discusses how collaborative activities can be organised to support student learning and collaboration skills. The second contribution provides an insight into how group members contribute to group processes during a group project and presents categories of students' group roles. The third contribution presents results of a longitudinal study on university students' self-and co-regulation of learning and their relations to students' study-

related exhaustion. In the fourth contribution the focus shifts from the students to the teachers. The study focuses on how teacher teams collaboratively design new courses and focuses on the teams' learning processes. The symposium will provide insights into how students' collaboration, team-working and co-regulation skills can be enhanced through effective forms of education.

SIG 4 Members' Meeting at the HEC 2016 will take place on *Thursday, July 14th*, at 17:15. The place will be announced later.

At the meeting, we like to present and to discuss the recent activities we started in order to strengthen the communication among the SIG members. For this end, we plan to involve you and your experience and opinion in a much deeper way than previously. Please bring your statements on the SIG and especially on communication within the SIG to the meeting! We also like to respond to all of your questions or issues that will have come up until then. And we would like to start the "search" for a new coordinator who could follow Liisa Postareff in 2017.

Unfortunately there is no time for a SIG 4 dinner during the conference, because on Wednesday there is an opening reception and on Thursday the conference dinner takes place. So let's get together to discuss with each other during these events!

Please notice the following **SIG 24 conference** which might be of interest to SIG 4 members:

EARLI SIG 24, Researcher Education and Careers, organizes a conference in Porto, on Sept 18-20, 2016. The theme of the conference is *Careers: Beyond the thesis and beyond the academy*. The conference is preceded by a writing retreat for those who wish to participate. More information:

<http://www.fpce.up.pt/earli2016/contacts.html>

Looking forward to seeing many of you in Amsterdam in July! We wish you and your families a relaxing summer time and safe travels to Amsterdam!

SIG 4 coordinators,
Liisa, Robert & Rike

Liisa: liisa.postareff@helsinki.fi
Robert: robert.kordts.freudinger@upb.de
Rike: r.bron@utwente.nl