

2021 Summer Research Program

Project title:	Children's perspective of Early Childhood Education and Care teachers through a gender lens.
Project duration, hours of engagement & delivery mode	10 weeks, at 28 hours/week As the applicant will be embedded in a broader team of researchers, it is preferred that applicant be on-site for the project so they can easily be included in team discussions and meetings. However, remote working arrangements are absolutely possible.
Description:	<p>There is a growing body of research aimed at understanding why so few men enter the Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) profession (Peeters, Rohrmann, and Emilsen, 2015). Studies also examine why men leave and why they stay (Brody, Emilsen, Rohrmann & Warin, 2021). This growing body of research provides an evidence-based outlook on the problems that men in the field face, their added value to the education of young children, and their acceptance and lack thereof.</p> <p>Furthermore, there is a growing body of research from the child's perspective on their male caregivers. Anecdotal and observational studies in different countries shed some light on the question of how children perceive and respond to their male caregivers (Brody, 2014), and a rigorous systematic study revealed children's thoughts about gender-appropriate staff activities (Xu, 2020).</p> <p>However, no large-scale international investigation of children's attitudes towards their male and female caregivers has been conducted. This study attempts to fill the gap by looking closely at children's perspectives on their caregivers within the particular social and cultural contexts that surround, nurture, and support these perspectives.</p> <p>Therefore, the key goal of the research is to:</p> <p>Understand children's perspectives of their teachers in ECEC through a gender lens.</p>
Expected outcomes and deliverables:	The scholar engaged in this project will gain skills in either qualitative or quantitative data analysis (dependent on the scholar's particular skills) by assisting in the analysis of parent surveys or transcripts of child interviews. The scholar may also have the opportunity to assist in literature searches and writing a literature review, and may have the opportunity to generate publication(s) deriving from their assistance with the research. Scholars may also be asked to produce a report or oral presentation at the end of their project.
Suitable for:	<p>This project is open to applications from students with either quantitative analysis or qualitative skills. The scholar's focus on the project can be tailored to their methodological skills.</p> <p>It would be desirable for scholars to have a particular interest in children's experiences, or gender theories and issues, or related areas.</p>
Primary Supervisor:	Dr Laetitia Coles
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