

Information on the «Swiss Society for Early Childhood Research».

Launch of the Society

Research has shown that early childhood is highly relevant across the life-span of an individual. What happens during early childhood influences all aspects of the child's further development, in particular in relation to his or her educational path, well-being and health.

Over the last decade, while significant progress has been made, it is necessary for the different institutions and universities to create a network and improve cooperation.

On September 24 2018, 40 researchers from all parts of the country and many different disciplines founded the «Swiss Society for Early Childhood Research».



Purpose of the Association

The aim of the «Swiss Society for Early Childhood Research» is to strengthen the Swiss research field relating to young children. It is a network of researchers from various disciplines and has been set up as an association.

The association will promote in particular:

- the training of the next generation of researchers,
- national and international networking,
- the exchange and dissemination of information and knowledge,
- dialogue between the disciplines, and
- dialogue with the public.

Vision

All children grow up in conditions that promote their well-being and in which they are able to develop in the best possible way from the very beginning.

Objectives

Closing current research gaps and meeting research needs

The synergies offered by a research network enable the precise identification of research gaps and the avoidance of redundant research efforts while promoting a comprehensive and well-founded understanding of young children and their development and living conditions.

Consolidation of interdisciplinary approaches

One key aspect of early childhood research is the diversity in methods and methodologies used and the level of interdisciplinarity required, reflecting a holistic and systemic view of childhood. The society will work on driving the methodological discourse through a variety of interdisciplinary projects.

Ensuring the next generation of young motivated scientists

The continuous aspirations of and platforms for exchange established by the society will create the foundations for the sustainable training of qualified researchers, regardless of changes in policy at universities and research institutions.

Increased visibility and knowledge transfer

Externally, the networking activities of the society are intended to strengthen the public and political visibility of the field, while internally they will enable the consolidation and further development of research projects and identity of researchers in the field. The society will promote knowledge transfer through dialogue with various fields of practise in order to identify research needs and to share findings.

Connection to international research

The sustainable activities of the scientific community should form the basis for the exploitation of national and international expertise. It is intended to strengthen the exchange within the international research community.

Sustainable funding

The society will create a high degree of continuity, visibility and evidence. These are prerequisites for securing funding that will allow research to flourish in a financially sustainable manner.

Planned activities and financing

A grant by the Jacobs Foundation (start up financing) is aimed to support the start phase of the society. It specifically

- facilitates the launching of the Society and the establishment of the networking activities;
- supports the development of a professional communication and administration strategy and
- supports the initialization, piloting and evaluation of the Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Research Academy.

Membership

Regular Members: Individuals, who conduct research in „early childhood“ and who either have completed a) a doctorate or b) a Masters level education (or equivalent) and have at least 5 years of experience doing postgraduate research, can become regular members of the Society. Regular members are eligible to vote and can be elected into the Society’s committee (Membership fee: CHF 50 per calendar year, starting 2019).

Junior Members: Individuals, who conduct research in „early childhood“, but do not have completed their doctorate, can become Junior Members. Junior Members are eligible to attend the Annual General Assembly, but are ineligible to vote and cannot be elected into the Society’s committee (Membership fee: CHF 20 per calendar year, starting 2019).

Associated Members: Other interested institutions or individuals, who do not conduct research themselves (e.g. implementers, representatives of funding organizations etc.) have the option of becoming Associate Members of the Society. Associate Members are eligible to attend the Annual General Assembly, but are ineligible to vote and cannot be elected into the Society’s committee (Membership fee: CHF 50 per calendar year, starting 2019).

Individuals who are interested in becoming a member are invited to sign up using the following link:

<http://www.surveytools.ch/survey2/index.php/639293?newtest=Y>

(Individuals who have already expressed interest in a membership before the launch event do **not** have to sign up again!).

Requests for membership will be reviewed as part of the Society’s committee meeting scheduled for January 2019. New members will be informed accordingly thereafter.

Society committee

Persons		Institution	Contact	Specific roles
Moritz	Daum	Universität Zürich	daum@psychologie.uzh.ch	
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