

Swiss Society for Early Childhood Research – 5th Annual Meeting 2024

"Belonging & Connecting"

Dear Members and Friends of the Swiss Society for Early Childhood Research

We cordially invite submissions for the 5th Annual Meeting of the Swiss Society for Early Childhood Research (SSECR), an interdisciplinary conference that brings together scientists from various disciplines in early childhood research. Authors are kindly invited to submit their suggestions for symposia, oral presentations or posters. The language for presentations and posters will be English.

This year's meeting will be titled «**Belonging & Connecting**» and take place on **January 10th and 11th 2024 in St. Gallen. The meeting will be jointly organized by the Eastern Switzerland University of Applied Sciences and the Thurgau University of Teacher Education.**

The question of belonging has become more important in postmodern mobility. Studies show that the experience of belonging is important for children's agency, development, evolving identities, and their overall well-being. Therefore, in recent years, researchers in a variety of fields, including psychology, education, human geography, social sciences, migration studies and political sciences, have shown increasing interest in exploring belonging. Overall, it seems that belonging is a multidimensional concept that has been used to refer to a variety of issues at different levels. However, this is all linked to the question of how to create an inclusive and welcoming environment for young children in different settings (e.g., educational institutions, families, communities, health programs).

We are very pleased to have two experts as **keynote speakers** at the conference who will share their expertise on children's perspectives on belonging in educational settings and on the impact of belonging on the integration of refugee children:

Dr. Jaana Juutinen (FIN) | Faculty of Education and Psychology | University of Oulu

Prof. Dr. Nicole Yves (CA) | School of Social Work | McGill University, Montreal

In addition, the recent discourse on family-centred networking in Switzerland raises the challenge of how different disciplinary approaches and professionals in different settings can connect and work together for the benefit of all young children (and their families), particularly those with special needs or refugee children.

We are delighted that our partner **Alliance Enfance** has already committed to a **workshop** to discuss how family-centred networking could bring together professionals from different disciplines and settings.

We would like to invite you to **submit your contributions**.

PRACTICALITIES:

Abstract submission deadline:	August 31st 2023
Acceptance notification:	September 30th 2023
Registration for the meeting:	Beginning of October 2023

Detailed information on the speakers and guidelines for abstract submission can be found on our [website](#) or on [Conftool](#).

Date and Venue:

Wednesday and Thursday | January 10th and 11th 2024

OST-Ostschweizer Fachhochschule:

Rosenbergstr. 56, Fachhochschulzentrum (the only high-rised building behind the train station)

CH-9001 St. Gallen

<https://www.ost.ch/de/die-ost/campus/campus-stgallen>

Who can submit an abstract?

We invite abstract submissions relating to any aspect and discipline of early childhood research, such as psychology, education, healthcare/medicine, social sciences, migration studies. Alongside established researchers, we welcome attendance and submissions from early career researchers who wish to engage with other researchers in a welcoming and friendly atmosphere.

Types of presentations

Oral presentations are followed by a discussion with the audience. The duration of each oral presentation is 10 minutes plus 5 minutes for questions and discussion.

Poster presentations are interactive and open, allowing researchers to visualize their work and providing opportunities for interaction and discussion. Poster sessions are suitable for both early-stage and advanced research.

A symposium involves a panel of speakers presenting in-depth, state-of-the art research, including the application of new knowledge to practical examples, etc. For symposia, we encourage an interdisciplinary team of presenters. The duration of a symposium is 90 minutes, including 30 minutes for discussion.

Please use this [form to submit a symposium](#) and upload it to [Conftool](#).

Abstract details

- Abstracts should not exceed 250 words.
- Abstract title, authors' names, and affiliation are NOT included in the word count.

Submission guidelines

- Language: English
- Title: Each word should begin with a capital letter except transition words. Please do not use abbreviations or accented letters.
- Key words: select 3 - 5 key words which are relevant for your presentation.
- The abstract must include: Abstract title, Abstract authors (First name, Last name, Affiliation, State and/or Country). The name of the presenting author should be underlined. The details of the presenting author should be the same as the conference registration name. Abstract body may include tables, but no attachments and no references are allowed.

- Abstract format must include: Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, Conclusion
- When submitting an abstract, the author grants the organizers the right to publish the submission electronically or in printed form.

The same person may serve as presenting author on up to two abstracts.

The Scientific Committee of the Conference will review and select the abstracts to be presented at the conference.

All presenters (including all speakers considered for a Symposium) must register for the conference and pay the respective fees.