

EUSPR Early Careers Forum

ACTIVITY REPORT 2016/17

Presented by Angelina Brotherhood and Samuel Tomczyk

EUSPR Members' Meeting, Vienna, 20th September 2017

Background – Early Careers Forum (ECF)



- Launched in 2015 to better support early-career members of EUSPR and increase visibility of early-career members/activities
- Technical committee of EUSPR
- All early-career members of the EUSPR can join - no additional fee
- **To join as an existing member**, send an email to the EUSPR administrator or look out for the sign-up forms at the conference registration desk!

ECF activities – overview

IN RELATION TO THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

- Pre-Conference Workshops
- Networking Event
- Special Parallel Session(s)
- Early Career Researcher Award
- Travel Bursaries
- Conference planning, abstract review & chairing

OUTSIDE OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

- Page on EUSPR Website
- Mailing list
- Blog euspr.hypotheses.org
- Social media ([#eusprECF](https://twitter.com/eusprECF); [fb.me/eusprECF](https://www.facebook.com/eusprECF))
- International collaboration & networking
- Training events (planned)
- Committee work

Support in many areas: methodological, networking, funding, feedback on ongoing work, increased visibility, career planning, job search, ...

ECF events at this year's conference

Wednesday, 20 September 2017	
09:00-15:30	Pre-conference workshop: "Publishing addiction science in practice" (prior booking required)
19:00-late	Early Careers Forum networking event (open to all early-career colleagues; prior booking required)
Thursday, 21 September 2017	
14:30-16:00 (GÖG EG 1+2)	Postgraduate and Early Career parallel session 1
16:30-18:00 (GÖG EG 1+2)	Postgraduate and Early Career parallel session 2
Friday, 22 September 2017	
09:30-11:00 (GÖG EG 1+2)	Postgraduate and Early Career parallel session 3
11:30-13:00 (GÖG EG 1+2)	Postgraduate and Early Career parallel session 4
17:15-18:00 (BMGF)	Prize Giving: EUSPR Early Career Award for outstanding promise based on a presentation at the conference

ECF Mailinglist

- EUSPR-ECF@jiscmail.ac.uk
- Approx. **80 ECF members**
- All members can send messages to mailinglist

- Aim is to circulate information about:
 - Fellowships (PhD & Postdoc)
 - Job opportunities
 - Conference announcements
 - Calls for abstracts & papers
 - Relevant publications (e.g., new review articles)
 - Methodological discussions and input
- **Currently mostly internal announcements – wish to change that, relies on input from membership**

ECF Blog

Informing prevention through big data – The Global Drug Survey

Posted on [01/06/2017](#) by [EUSPR Early Careers Forum](#)

The do's and don'ts of using focus groups in prevention research

Posted on [27/04/2017](#) by [EUSPR Early Careers Forum](#)

How to promote effective evidence- based prevention when no one is listening?

Posted on [27/03/2017](#) by [EUSPR Early Careers Forum](#)

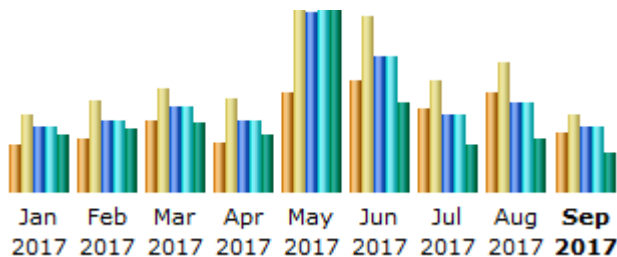


A European perspective: Traineeship at the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction

Posted on [15/02/2017](#) by [EUSPR Early Careers Forum](#)

ECF Blog

- Established in 2016
- Posts on a monthly basis
- New and returning authors
- Variety of topics
- Small but steady readership – estimate about 30-60 „real“ readers per month (remain for 5 minutes or more)



Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits
Jan 2017	1,391	2,332
Feb 2017	1,620	2,717
Mar 2017	2,130	3,075
Apr 2017	1,467	2,767
May 2017	2,990	5,403
Jun 2017	3,334	5,280
Jul 2017	2,489	3,316
Aug 2017	2,955	3,845
Sep 2017	1,750	2,333

International collaboration & networking

- Invitation to present the EUSPR Early Careers Forum at the German “Prevention Day” in Hanover
- Joint abstract on early-career challenges with colleagues from the Early Career Preventionist Network (ECPN) of the US Society for Prevention Research for SPR meeting in Washington, DC



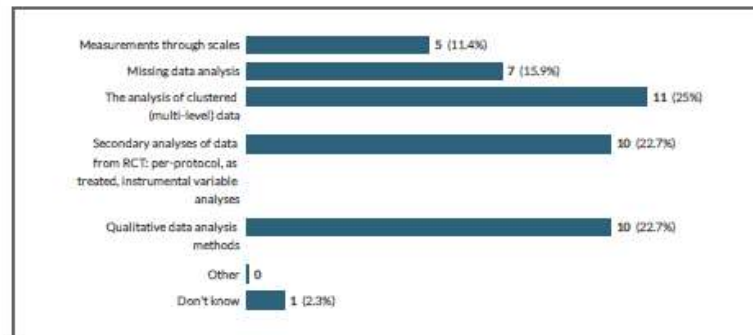
Larissa Maier presenting the ECF in Hanover (photo by Gregor Burkhardt)



Regional training events (planning stage)

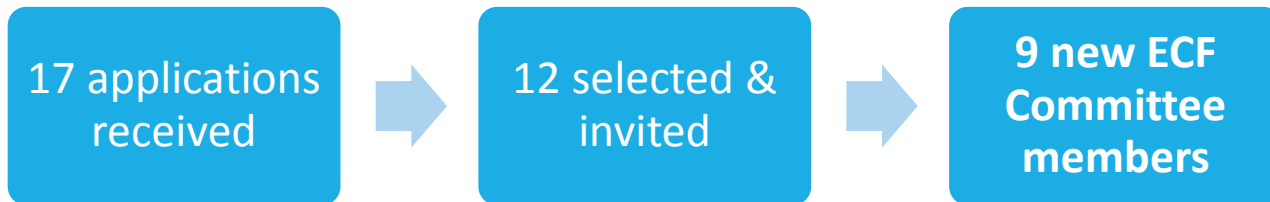
- Initiative led by Prof Rosaria Galanti
- Questionnaire developed and circulated among ECF members; 18 responses
- Assessed interest/needs as well as availability to help with organisation
- Suggested that workshops should focus on methodological issues rather than academic skills

4 Within the area of data analysis, which topic would be of most interest to you?



The ECF Committee

- Sustainability of the Forum work beyond 2017 has been a major concern (end of term for existing co-leads; except Larissa Maier)
- Actions taken:
 - Formalised the supporting structure: “Committee” with defined roles (e.g. Lead, Blog Editor-in-Chief, Conference Officer, ...)
 - Undertook a formal recruitment and hand-over process
- Positions advertised (including via EUPHA newsletter)
- New committee selected by outgoing committee members (anonymised, using a points system)
- Formal induction via Skype and email



The new ECF Committee



Clara Alfino-Ruggi has been a member of the EUSPR since 2017. She has a nursing background, but after many years of practice, decided to go back to academia. She is pursuing a Masters of Public Health at the Medical University and University of Vienna and currently interning as a research assistant at the International Health Policy Unit at the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Austria, working on a literature review project on "Health systems strengthening". Clara is particularly interested in the health and healthcare of migrants and refugees and would like to continue her future career in this area.



Emma Adde-Brandelmeier has been a member of the EUSPR since 2017. She is currently working as a trainee at the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) in the Public Health Unit. Prior to her traineeship she completed a master's degree in Global Health at Trinity College Dublin and in Anthropology at the University of St Andrews. Her most recent thesis focused on the introduction and operation of a drug consumption room in Dublin. Alongside her studies she has volunteered in hostelling services in Ireland and the Netherlands. She hopes to continue her research on harm reduction initiatives, particularly social and cultural issues within drug services.



Mark Chapman has been a member of the EUSPR since 2015. Mark is a researcher attached to the research laboratory iNOSPR DAN-112 (Health Services and Performance Research) at Jean Monnet University, Saint-Etienne, France. With a background in health geography and a Master's in public health, he has worked on projects related to media influence on teenager's substance use, on the prevention of professional risks of cancer within a professional training context and on the implementation of therapeutic patient education programmes dedicated to oral and cancer treatment. Mark is currently looking at developing a research project in relation to the influence of message spread on social networks on teenager's intake.



Elena Cervilla has been a member of the EUSPR since 2015. Elena works at the University of the Balearic Islands, Spain, where she is currently an Associate Professor at the Area of Methodology of Behavioral Sciences and the Secretary of the Department of Psychology. Besides, she contributes as a course instructor with the Open University of Catalonia. Elena's previous experience includes teaching and research tasks in the area of Methodology and Statistics at the Autonomous University of Barcelona. Her area of research includes the analysis of the risk and protective factors of a school use among adolescents and young adults in natural social contexts with particular interest in the improvement of the quality of the data collection and the implementation of data mining techniques. In addition, Elena collaborates closely with the European Institute of Studies on Prevention (IOPRE), Spain, in the development and implementation of research projects.



Nicole Gröbly has been a member of the EUSPR since 2017. She has been working as a Research Fellow within the Department of Health Sciences at the University of York since 2015 and is a member of the Department Research Governance Committee. Nicole previously completed her PhD in Psychology at Birkbeck University in 2014 and then worked as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Department of Psychology at the University of Greenwich for one year. Her research has primarily focused on evaluating the impact of targeted and preventative parenting interventions on parental mental wellbeing and child behavioural outcomes, as well as assessing relationships between characteristics of the early home learning environment and children's later language development.



Verónica Lubián joined the EUSPR in 2017. She has long years of experience working in different fields in the non-profit sector, on national, European and global levels. Since 2013, Verónica's work has focused on policy, both from the aspects of carrying out advocacy activities and education, with particular focus on alcohol, tobacco, drugs and prevention and control of non-communicable diseases. She was part of the Civil Society Task Force connected to the UN Global Drug Policy 2015, representing Youth. Verónica worked for Active Society, Friendship and Peace in Budapest and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) in Berlin, before joining the International Federation of People's Associations (IFPA) in 2014. Her education is in the areas of Economics (with specialisation in Business and Project Management), with a doctorate in law that pursues her interests in prevention research.



Larissa J. Meier has been a member of the EUSPR since 2018. Larissa is a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Zurich, Switzerland, who has specialised in substance abuse research and health geography. For more than four years, she has conducted award-winning research as a trainee at the Research Institute for Public Health in Zurich, an affiliated institute of the University of Zurich. Her main research has focused on the epidemiology of pharmacological cognitive enhancement and recreational drug use among adolescents and young adults. She has implemented an instrument for the early detection of problematic substance use patterns in nightlife settings to improve both prevention and harm reduction, collaborating closely with the Swiss drug testing services and local nightlife projects. In addition, Larissa is part of the Core Research Team of Global Drug Survey (GDS) aiming to measure usage and representation of the age status of the drug.



Steliana Onelciu has been a member of the EUSPR since 2015. Currently she is a doctoral student in Public Health Epidemiology at University of Sorbonne. Her research focuses on the role of early childhood education and care in the psychosocial development of children. She has a background with four years of work experience for various public health establishments in Europe. In the field of substance use prevention, she has worked as a trainee in the European Commission, EUSPR and as a researcher at Karolinska Institutet in Sweden. Steliana has a strong interest in intervention research and the uptake of scientific evidence into policymaking.



Samuel Thomczyk has been a member of the EUSPR since 2017 and is the current Lead of the EUSPR Early Careers Forum. He completed his doctorate in Psychology at the University of Cologne on the topic of multiple substance use in adolescents and started his postdoctoral research on prevention in child protection at the University of Osnabrück. In addition to his research, he has worked on the development, implementation, and evaluation of school-based prevention projects. His main interests include health across the lifespan, substance use, and methodology in prevention research.

- Diverse committee:
 - Career level - Masters to Associate Prof
 - Practice - Practitioners, academics, researchers outside academia
 - Professional backgrounds (psychology, nursing, anthropology, economics, ...)
 - Geographical/cultural (UK, Belgium, Germany, Macedonia, Romania, France, Spain, ...)
 - Finally some male colleagues on board!
- United in their passion for prevention research and early-careers issues 😊
- For details, please see <http://euspr.org/early-careers-forum/> (or meet them in person: most of them are attending EUSPR 2017!)

Please give a round of applause to ...

- **A big Thank-you to the outgoing ECF Co-Leads**



Angelina Brotherhood has been a member of the EUSPR since 2010 and is serving on the Board of the EUSPR (until 2017). She is currently a doctoral student at the Institute of Sociology, University of Vienna, Austria, exploring why people consume certain substances in some places but not others. Previously she worked as a researcher at the Centre for Public Health at Liverpool John Moores University, UK, where she is still a Visiting Research Fellow. She has also done consultancy work for the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Her research has focussed on the scientific evidence base for drug prevention as well as the mechanisms for implementing evidence-based policy and practice.



Kimberley Hill has been a member of the EUSPR since 2011 and helped to facilitate previous early career events. Kimberley is a Chartered Psychologist and Lecturer in Psychology at The University of Northampton. She also sits on The University of Northampton's Research Ethics Committee. Kimberley recently completed her PhD and Associate Lectureship at Oxford Brookes University. Her research focuses on the development of young people, promoting health and preventing health risk behaviours. This includes investigating the contexts in which social behaviours, such as excessive alcohol consumption, are conducted.




Dijana Jerković has been a member of the EUSPR since 2013. She works at the Office for Combating Drugs Abuse of the Government of the Republic of Croatia, as Senior Expert Advisor at the Croatian Focal Point for cooperation with the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA). Dijana has recently completed her PhD in Prevention Science at the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences, University of Zagreb. In it, she was exploring some of the determinants for alcohol and cannabis consumption among students in student dormitories from the perspective of Self-Determination Theory. Her interests are focused on aetiology of drug consumption, as well as on enhancing the quality of prevention practice.



Aniek van Herwaarden has been a member of the EUSPR since 2015. Aniek is a Research Master student in Development and Socialization in Childhood and Adolescence at Utrecht University, The Netherlands. Her research experience in both The Netherlands and Sweden has guided her towards an interest for prevention and intervention research. She contributed to research on preventing problem behaviors in children through the implementation of parenting programs. She has the ambition to conduct research that focuses on development, socialization and problem behaviors in children and adolescents.

Thanks also to...

- ... those who are staying on



Larissa J. Maier has been a member of the EUSPR since 2016. Larissa is a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Zurich, Switzerland, who has specialized in substance abuse research and health psychology. For more than four years, she has conducted several significant research studies at the Swiss Research Institute for Public Health and Addiction (ISGF) in Zurich, an affiliated institute of the University of Zurich. Her main research has focused on the epidemiology of pharmacological cognitive enhancement and recreational drug use among adolescents and young adults. She has implemented an instrument for the early detection of problematic substance use patterns in nightlife settings to improve both prevention and harm reduction, collaborating closely with the Swiss drug testing services and local nightlife projects. In addition, Larissa is part of the Core Research Team of Global Drug Survey (GDS) aiming to make drug use safer, regardless of the legal status of the drug.

- Larissa joined the ECF in 2016 and remains on the new Committee

New ECF Lead



Samuel Tomczyk, postdoctoral researcher at the University of Greifswald, Germany

Current status & next steps

- **What have we achieved?**
 - Built upon and further consolidated prior successes
 - Widened our reach and activities
 - Resolved workload and sustainability issues (at least for now)
- **Challenges and next steps to address**
 - New committee needs to “grow together”
 - Funding for additional activities
 - Follow up on promising ideas, such as regional trainings, mentoring, ...
 - Expand membership, make ECF more widely known
 - Strategic goals:
 - **K** - Knowledge & Continuance
 - **N** - Nurture & Support
 - **O** - Overview
 - **W** - Wisdom & Quality



Thank you