

## Contributors

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**Maarit Alasuutari** is Professor of Early Childhood Education at the University of Jyväskylä, Finland. Her field of study includes family studies and parent-hood, parent-professional collaboration, childhood studies, documentation in early education and early education and childcare policy. Currently, she is director of the research consortium *Finnish Childcare Policies: In/equality in Focus* funded by the Strategic Research Council at the Academy of Finland (2015–21). Alasuutari has published extensively internationally and among others has co-authored the book *Assessment and Documentation in Early Childhood Education* with Ann-Marie Markström and Ann-Christine Vallberg-Roth (2014) and co-edited the 2015 special issue of *Children and Society* with Helga Kelle on documentation and childhood.

**Lucia Balduzzi** is Associate Professor at the Department of Education Science, University of Bologna, Italy. She has conducted several studies focused on the analysis of education policies at national and international level and on the professional development of early childhood practitioners (Erasmus+ TRACKs project, 2017–20; Save the Children, 2013–14). Her research work, at policy level, aims to investigate the relations between educational guidelines, institutions and models for the delivery of early childhood education and care (ECEC) services. Particular attention is drawn to the analysis of these mutual interactions and to the way they affect the pedagogical identity, as well as the educational methods, adopted by ECEC institutions. Her most recent publications include the book, co-edited with Tiziana Pironi, *L'osservazione al nido. Una lente a più dimensioni per educare lo sguardo* (2017). Currently, she is Director of the scientific journal *Infanzia* edited by the Department of Education.

**Petteri Eerola** is Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Tampere University, Finland and honorary research fellow at the University College London. His research focuses on fatherhood, parenting and families. His recent publications include 'How to Unravel Conceptualizations of "In/equality" in Early Childhood Education and Childcare System?' (*Nordic Journal of Studies in Educational Policy*, 2019, with M. Paananen, K. Repo and M. Alasuutari), 'Fathers' Narratives on Support and Agency: A Case Study of Fathers in a Finnish Child Welfare NGO' (*Nordic Social Work Research*, 2017, with J. Mykkänen,

H. Forsberg and L. Autonen-Vaaraniemi) and ‘Paternal Masculinities in Early Fatherhood: Dominant and Counter Narratives by Finnish First-Time Fathers’ (*Journal of Family Issues*, 2015, with J. Mykkänen). Eerola spent three months in autumn 2012 as a visiting PhD candidate at the Université Laval, Canada, working with the Masculinities and Society research team. He was also a visiting researcher at the Thomas Coram Research Unit of the University College London for the academic year 2017–18. Eerola was awarded the Young Scientist Prize 2014 by the European Society for Family Relations.

**Jannelle Gallagher** has been a teacher for 38 years and a director of the Kurri Kurri Preschool, New South Wales, Australia for most of this time. She has completed a master’s in early childhood education and explored leadership and management in ECEC and activism in ECEC (by invitation). Her centre is one of the few in Australia that has been assessed by the Australian Early Childhood Quality Authority as ‘Exceeding National Quality Standards’ in 2013 and 2018. In recent years Gallagher has developed an innovative child-centred integrated service delivery model bringing together numerous healthcare professionals and teachers in collaborative and holistic professional practice. Besides her numerous research projects, her work in ‘boys’ education has earned her an ‘Excellence in Teaching’ award, and she passes on her extensive knowledge through staff and university mentoring. Gallagher’s close relationship with her local Aboriginal community has increased participation rates for Aboriginal children aged three to five years in her Early Childhood Education programme substantially. She continues to advocate for children’s rights to be viewed as active agents of change in her local community.

**Kirsti Karila** is Professor of Early Childhood Education at Tampere University, Finland. Her research areas include professionalism, institutional cultures and policies in ECEC. Professor Karila works as a leader of the research group Early Childhood Education Institutions, Policies and Practices. Nowadays, Karila investigates the municipal-level ECEC policies, parents’ choices and children’s early childhood education trajectories in the CHILDCARE Consortium Finnish Childcare Policies: In/equality in Focus, funded by the Strategic Research Council (Academy of Finland). Karila holds an active position in developing the ECEC system in Finland.

**Helga Kelle** has been Professor of General Educational Science at Bielefeld University, Germany, since 2013. From 2004 to 2013 she was Professor of Educational Science at the Johann Wolfgang Goethe-University Frankfurt, Germany. Her main research interests are theories of childhood and generational order, methods and methodologies of qualitative research and (early) childhood studies, in particular ethnographic, practice-theoretical and cultural analysis of development observations and diagnostics. She has written

numerous articles on normalization and institutionalization in childhood and co-edited the 2015 special issue of *Children and Society* with Maarit Alasuutari on 'Documentation in Childhood'. Her current institutional ethnographic project focuses on prevention and intervention, in particular risk screenings in early support.

**Anu Kuukka** is a postdoctoral research fellow at the Department of Education, University of Jyväskylä, Finland. Her research interests lie in early childhood studies, social studies of children and childhood and bodilyness. She is currently working in the CHILDCARE research project, in which the aim is to examine the potential sources of inequality in Finnish childcare policies.

**Johanna Lammi-Taskula** is Research Manager at the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare, Finland. Her fields of expertise are family policy, gender-equality policy, reconciliation of work and family and wellbeing of children and families. She has led research projects and authored or co-authored several publications on work-family reconciliation, childcare policies, parental leave and fathers. Lammi-Taskula has worked as an expert in several governmental working groups on child wellbeing, family policy and gender-equality policy. She is a member of the International Network on Leave Policies and Research.

**Arianna Lazzari** is Research Fellow at the Department of Education Science, University of Bologna, Italy. Starting her professional career as a preschool teacher, she was awarded a PhD in pedagogy in 2011. She has since been involved in several research projects funded by the European Commission (CoRe, 2011; ECEC in promoting educational attainment of children from disadvantaged backgrounds and in fostering social inclusion, 2012; The current state of national ECEC quality frameworks, or equivalent strategic policy documents, governing ECEC quality in EU Member States, 2017) and by Eurofound (Working conditions, training and quality of early childhood services – A systematic review, 2014). She has also collaborated with the Thematic Working Group on ECEC chaired by Nora Milotay and coordinated by the European Commission for preparing the document 'Proposal for Principles of a Quality Framework for ECEC' (2014). Currently she is one of the editors of *Early Years: An International Research Journal*.

**Rianne Mahon** is Political Science Professor at Wilfrid Laurier University, Canada. She co-edited *The OECD and Transnational Governance* (with S. McBride), *Leviathan Undone?* (with R. Keil), *Feminist Ethics and Social Politics* (with F. Robinson), *After '08* (S. McBride and G. Boychuk) and *Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals: Global Governance Challenges* (S. Dalby and S. Horton, with D. Thomaz) and co-authored *Advanced Introduction to Social Policy* (with D. Béland). She has also written

numerous articles on the place of childcare in redesigning welfare regimes at the local, national and global scales. Her current work focuses on the role of international organizations vis-à-vis the growth of transnational care chains.

**Johanna Mierendorff** is Professor for Social Work and ECEC at the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg. Her research focuses on the interdependencies of welfare state and childhood, the change of the field of ECEC and the corresponding policies, the change of (early) childhood and social inequality in early childhood.

**Zsuzsa Millei** is Associate Professor at Tampere University, Finland. Her interdisciplinary research considers child politics, including policies for children, children as political agents and as subjects of ideology, politics and education. Her current projects are titled: 'Childhood and Nation' and 'Memories of Post/Socialist Childhood and Schooling'.

**Johanna Närvi** is Senior Researcher in the social policy research unit at the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare, Finland. Her research interests include work-family interface and childcare policies from a gender perspective, with particular emphasis on parental leave, parental practices and workplaces.

**Katja Repo** is Director of the Tampere Centre for Childhood, Youth and Family Research, Finland. Her main research interests include the reconciliation of work and family, family policy, social services, cash-for-care schemes, intra-household finances, poverty and time use of families. She is one of the editors of the following books: *Cash-for-Childcare: The Consequences for Caring Mothers* (Edward Elgar Publishing, 2010), *Women, Men and Children in Families: Private Troubles and Public Issues* (2013) and *Media, Family Interaction and the Digitalization of Childhood* (Edward Elgar Publishing, 2017).

**Minna Salmi** is Research Manager at the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare, Finland. Her research interests lie in the intersections of social policy, working life and structuring of gender from everyday life perspectives. She has led several research projects related to the balancing of work and family life, family policy outcomes, especially preconditions for and obstacles to parental leave use in Finland, as well as the wellbeing of families with children. Her recent projects include *Experiences of making a living and differences of well-being in families with children* (2018–20), *Family leaves, economic crisis and gender equality* (2013–17) and *Consequences of work insecurity on work-family relations and well-being* (2008–12). Salmi has authored and co-authored several books and other publications on work-family reconciliation, parental leave use, the wellbeing of families with children and child poverty. She has also worked as an expert in several governmental and other working groups in

the state administration which plans family policy and gender-equality policy. She is a member of the International Network on Leave Policies and Research and Nordic Gender Equality Network.

**Takayuki Sasaki** is Associate Professor in the Faculty of Public Affairs at the Osaka University of Commerce, Japan. His research interests include intergenerational relationships among families with small children, subjective wellbeing across lifespans and evaluation of family policies. He is on the steering committee of the Japanese General Social Survey Research Center by which a large-scale repeated survey with a nationally representative sample is conducted every two years. He served as a member of the Cabinet Office Research Council for the countermeasures of the declining birth rate in Japan.

**Anna Siippainen** is a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Jyväskylä, Finland. Her dissertation examined governing and intergenerational relations in a day care setting with extended opening hours. She is currently working in the CHILDCARE research project. Her research interest concerns for example childhood studies, childcare in families where parents work at atypical times and Finnish childcare policies. She is also currently working as a senior advisor at the Finnish Education Evaluation Center.

**Jorma Sipilä** is Professor Emeritus of Social Policy and Social Work at Tampere University, Finland. He is also a permanent member of the Institute for Advanced Social Research at the University of Tampere. Sipilä is an internationally recognized scholar in research on the welfare state, social policy, services for the elderly and children and cash-for-care arrangements. He is one of the editors of the following books: *The Young, the Old and the State: Social Care Systems in Five Industrial Countries* (Edward Elgar Publishing, 2003), *Overstretched: European Families up against the Demands of Work and Care* (2005) and *Cash-for-Childcare: The Consequences for Caring Mothers* (Edward Elgar Publishing, 2010). In addition, he is the author or editor of several books in Finnish, Japanese and Chinese.

**Katrien Van Laere** works at VBJK, the Centre for Innovation in the Early Years, affiliated with the Department of Social Work and Social Pedagogy, Ghent University, Belgium. She completed a PhD in social work on conceptualizations of care and education in relation to the accessibility of preschool education under the promotership of Michel Vandenbroeck. Her work was awarded 'highly commended' for the EECERA Student Awards in 2017.

**Michel Vandenbroeck** is Professor in Family Pedagogy and Head of the Department of Social Work and Social Pedagogy at Ghent University, Belgium. He teaches early childhood care and education and family pedagogy. His research focuses on early childhood policy and practice and parent support,

with a special interest in diversity and social inclusion. He chairs the Board of VBJK, the Centre for Innovation in Early Childhood in Belgium. He sits on the editorial board of the *EECERA Journal* and *Early Years*. Together with Liselott Olsson, he is Coordinating Editor of the groundbreaking *Contesting Early Childhood* book series. In 2018, he received an honorary doctorate from Tampere University, Finland for his work.