

Research Conference 10 to 12 October 2013 at Hildesheim University

**‘Kindergarten and preschool developments in Europe and North America –
a historical and comparative approach to institutional change’**

There are considerable international differences in the timing of the historical development of kindergartens and preschools as well as in the ways such systems of public child care for the three- to six-year-olds have been conceptualised and organised. Why is this so? The theme of this conference is an analysis of the spread of kindergartens and preschools in Western Europe and the USA from an historical-institutional and comparative perspective, with the purpose of discovering commonalities and differences in paths of development and of explaining why some countries came to be pioneers and others remained laggards in this field.

This undertaking is based on former research in which the theoretical framework for the research was developed and a number of national reports were presented. The present project differs from the bulk of the scholarly literature on kindergartens/preschools in three respects. It is : first, interdisciplinary, bringing together sociologists, historians, pedagogists, experts in social policy, lawyers and economists; second, comparative, in that each contribution compares between developments in different countries or between developmental differences within the same country; and third, focused on the *longue durée*, taking account of developments since the nineteenth century.

Outline of the conference programme

Thursday, 10 October 2013

13.00 Arrival and welcome

13.30 *Kirsten Scheiwe* and *Harry Willekens*, Introduction to the purposes and main questions of the conference

Part 1: Comparative country studies

14.00 *Harry Willekens*, Comparing the “pioneers” Belgium and France and a supposed laggard, the Netherlands

14.25 *Marc Depaepe*, Comment on Willekens

14.35 Discussion

15.00-15.20 Break

15.20 *Angelo Gaudio*, Preschool in Italy: a national tradition of institutional and ideological pluralism

15.45 *Carmen Sanchidrian Blanco*, Early childhood education, the State and the Church in Spain: a history of different goals, paths and models

16.10 *Eva Hohnerlein*, Comment on Gaudio and Sanchidrian Blanco

16.20 Discussion

17.05-17.20 Break

17.20-18.00 Discussion of the publication project

Friday, 11 October 2013

Part 1: Comparative country studies (continued)

9.00 *Susanne Wiborg*, Different paths of late development in the Scandinavian countries

9.25 *Arnlaug Leira*, The child care transition in Scandinavia – the changing focus of policy reform: Children, families, care, education and employment

9.50 *Annette Borchorst*, Comment on Wiborg and Leira

10.00 Discussion

10.45 Break

11.00 *Kristen Nawrotzki*, Two countries, one movement? Intermediaries, experts and change in early childhood education in England and the USA, 1850-1920

11.25 *Larry Prochner*, Kindergarten and the New Education Movement in Canada and the United States: a cross-national perspective

11.50 *Adrienne Chambon*, Canadian early childhood education debates about citizenship education and social work, and transnational influences from the US and the UK (1900-1935)

12.15 Discussion

13.15 Lunch

Part 2: Movements and ideas and their influence upon the kindergarten institution over time

14.15 *Jean-Noël Luc*, The spread of kindergarten models in Europe in the course of the nineteenth century

14.40 *Franz-Michael Konrad*, Theories of preschool education and their realisation: the examples of Friedrich Fröbel and Maria Montessori in Germany and Switzerland

15.05 Discussion

15.45 Break

16.00 *Meike Baader*, The intersection between the German women's and kindergarten movements in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries

16.25 *Chiara Bertone*, The claims of the women's movement on preschools in Italy and Denmark

16.50 *Arianna Lazzari*, Comment on Baader and Bertone

17.00-17.45 Discussion

19.30 Conference dinner

Saturday, 12 October 2013

Part 3: Kindergarten/preschool as part of the welfare state and/or the school system

9.00 *Thomas Bahle*, The relation between kindergarten development and the development of welfare regimes

9.25 *Annette Henninger*, Comment on Bahle

9.35 Discussion

10.00 *Karen Hagemann*, The time policy of child care and schooling in Eastern and Western Europe, 1945-1989

10.25 Discussion

10.45 Break

11.00 *Janneke Plantenga*, A welfare economist's view on differential preschool developments

11.25 Discussion

11.45 *Helen Penn*, How the private market has been constructed in early education and child care: a comparative perspective

12.10 Discussion

12.30 Break

12.40 Concluding discussions