
Editors

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This electronic newsletter is a service to the members of ESERA provided by the Executive Board.

Earlier issues of this newsletter can be found on the [ESERA website](#).

Please submit information for inclusion in the next issue of the newsletter via the [eNews submission form](#) found in the Members' area of the [ESERA.org](#) website, or by sending an email to info@esera.org.

[A message from the president](#)

Dear ESERA members,

I am very honoured to take on the role of the ESERA president, following my four-year term as a Board member. I am proud of the work that we have done, especially during the challenging times of the Covid-19 pandemic, and I am grateful for Sibel Erduran's leadership, the past Board's hard work, and the continuous dedication and support of our community.

I am excited to welcome Digna Couso, Maria Evagorou, and Antti Laherto to the Board and I look forward to working closely with Regina Soobard for the organization of the ESERA 2024 summer school in Tartu, and Jesper Bruun for the organization of the ESERA 2025 conference in Copenhagen.

Amidst of current socioscientific challenges and with many lessons learned from how the pandemic has re-shaped our lives, we embark on the next four years with optimism and awareness of the urgency of re-thinking the role of science education in shaping the future and addressing diversity, access, and inclusion within our community.

ESERA provides various opportunities through publications, the bi-annual conference, the annual summer school, the Travel Awards program, webinars, and various forms of scholarships, for all members to actively shape our community and its impact on science education globally. I invite you to utilise these opportunities, get involved, and ensure that ESERA continues to provide an inspiring, critical, and inclusive space for research and professional growth.

I look forward to working closely with you towards enabling ESERA to fulfill its vision and ensuring that is truly serving its community and broader audience.

L. Avraamidou



Meet the ESERA Board

ESERA Board and portfolio distribution:

- President: Lucy Avraamidou
- Secretary: Lukáš Rokos
- Treasurer: Gjalt Prins
- Conference portfolio: Giulia Tasquier
- Summer School portfolio: Digna Couso
- Early Career Researchers portfolio: Antti Laherto & Emily MacLeod
- Special interest Groups: Maria Evagorou
- ESERA Summer School 2024 organizer: Regina Soobard
- ESERA Conference 2025 organizer: Jesper Bruun

Are you interested in finding out more about the newly elected Board Members? Read their responses to a set of questions:

1. Write 3 words that describe you as a person.
2. What is the ideal vacation for you?
3. Where did you complete your PhD and what did you love the most about it?
4. What is your one guilty pleasure?
5. What is your favourite book?
6. What was your first experience with ESERA?
7. What do you like most about ESERA?

You can find the responses at the end of the newsletter or you can use the links below to see them:

[Digna Couso](#)

[Maria Evagorou](#)

[Antti Laherto](#)

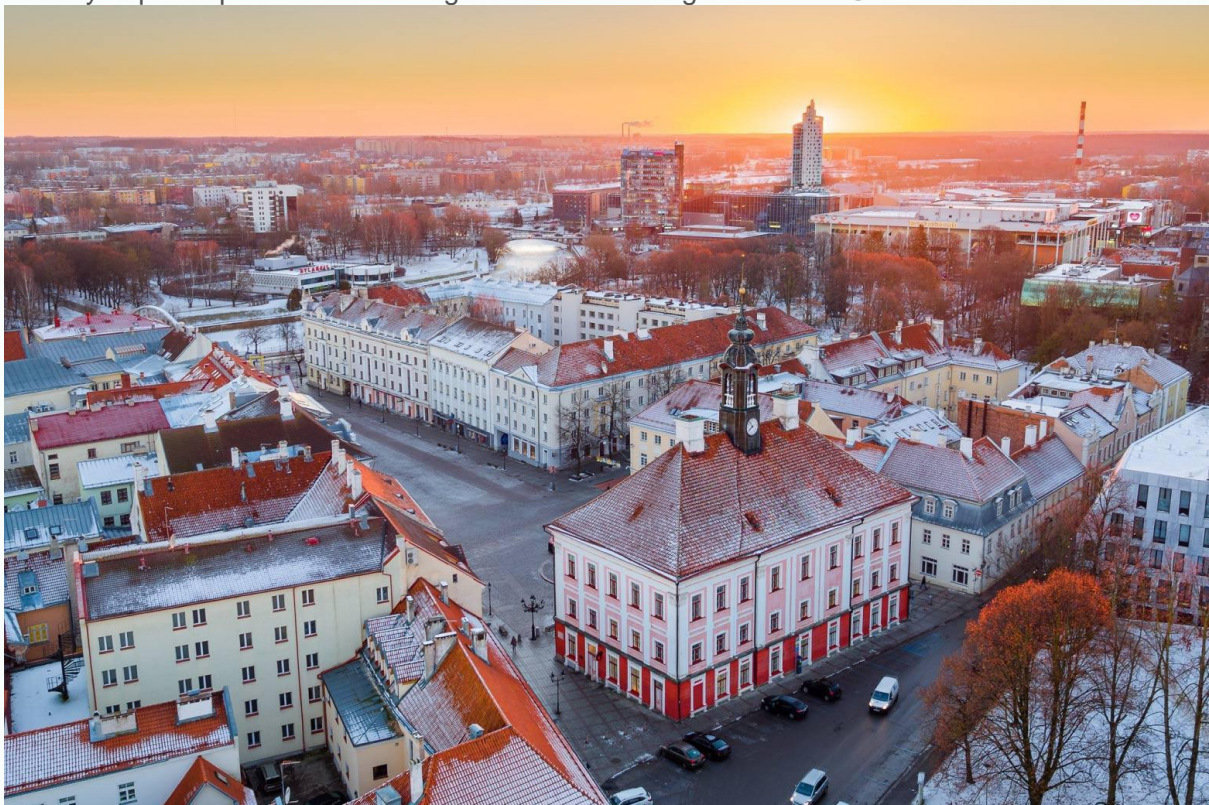
[Regina Soobard](#)

[Jesper Bruun](#)

ESERA Summer School 2024

The next ESERA Summerschool will take place in Tartu, Estonia from August 19 to August 24 2024. It will be hosted by the Institute of Center for Science Education Institute of Ecology and Earth Science in University of Tartu. All information about applications and costs will be available on the website in mid-November 2023.

For any inquiries please contact Regina Soobard at: regina.soobard@ut.ee



Tartu's Old Town, Tarmo Haud

ESERA Conference 2025

The next ESERA Conference will be held in Copenhagen, Denmark by a team led by Jesper Bruun. Save the dates: August 25 – August 29, 2025!



ESERA 2025 conference

ESERA Conference 2023 eProceedings

The ESERA Conference 2023 Organizing Committee invites all authors who presented symposia, oral presentations, and posters, or carried out workshops at ESERA 2023 to submit their papers for inclusion in ESERA 2023 eProceedings.

All authors are asked to produce updated versions of their papers while incorporating feedback received at the conference. The eProceedings will be published in the ESERA Conference Proceedings series. This will be the 9th publication in this series, entitled “Connecting Science Education with Cultural Heritage”, which was also the theme of the conference.

The deadline for submissions is: January 31, 2024.

For more information, visit the "Call for eProceedings" section on the web page:



ESERA Conference 2023 eProceedings

Call for nominations: ESERA Doctoral Student Executive Board member

ESERA is calling for nominations for a doctoral student Executive Board member. Further details about membership are specified in the ESERA Constitution which is available on the website (<https://www.esera.org/about/constitution-of-esera>).

Candidates for the ESERA Student Executive Board position are asked to provide up to 250 words in support of their candidature alongside a photograph.

All nominations must be supported by a proposer and a seconder who are both members of ESERA and who have their main professional affiliation in European countries. The proposer, the seconder and the candidate cannot have their main professional affiliation in the same country. Nominations should be addressed to the ESERA president, Lucy Avraamidou (e-mail: president@esera.org). Deadline for nominations: November 30th, 2023. After that date, the nominations will be displayed on the ESERA website, and ESERA members will be invited to cast their vote through a secure electronic voting system. The deadline for voting is December 30, 2023 and the duties start date is January 8, 2024.

In addition to what applies to all Executive Boards positions, the following apply:

- The student member of the Board has the right to one vote in any decision related to the Executive Board business;
- At the time of the nomination, the nominee is a full-time PhD student enrolled in a university in Europe;

- The duration of the appointment is 2 years starting in January (even years) and the student member does not necessarily have to be a PhD student throughout the duration of the appointment.

The nomination form can be found [here](#).

ESERA Early Career Researcher Travel Awards 2024

Submission deadline: Jan 12, 2024 (5pm Central European Time)

ESERA is offering travel awards of up to 1.000 euros for early career researchers to visit other countries to meet science education researchers with expertise relevant to applicants' project. The awards can be granted to ESERA members who are currently enrolled in doctoral studies, or who were awarded their doctorate no more than 3 years before the submission deadline. Applicants with career breaks are also welcome to apply even if they were awarded their doctorate more than 3 years before the submission deadline.

For 2024, ten awards will be funded. Awardees can either be:

1. affiliated with an institution in Europe* and use the award to visit any institution worldwide, or
2. affiliated with an institution outside of Europe and use the award to visit an institution in Europe.

Applicants should plan the visit in collaboration with their host researcher. The awards are for researchers to share expertise, address an issue of concern in the applicant's work, or to otherwise advance the applicant's research. Awards can be used to pay for travel, accommodation and/or subsistence. Awards are not intended to support attendance at conferences or summer schools, nor visits that are part of an established collaboration. Reports from previous awards can be viewed on [the ESERA website](#).

Applicants are expected to discuss their applications with their supervisor before submission. Applications will be assessed by a three-person panel, including at least one ESERA Executive Board member, based on the following criteria:

- potential value of the visit for the professional development of the awardee, and
- feasibility of the anticipated outcomes of the visit.

The assessment process will ensure a spread of geographic representation and priority will be given to applicants who have not previously received an ESERA travel award. Awardees will be expected to ensure that they are adequately insured and must write a report of 2-3 pages for publication on the ESERA website following their visit. The awardees are also asked to acknowledge this support from ESERA in related publications or conference presentations.

Timeline:

- Submission of applications by Jan 12th 2024 (5pm CET)
- Awardees notified by the end of Jan 2024
- Awardees should carry out the planned visits during Feb 1st 2024 – Jan 31th 2025

PLEASE APPLY BY COMPLETING THIS ONLINE FORM

If you have questions or want support in preparing your application, please contact Antti Laherto (ecr@esera.org).

* Europe is defined according to UN regional groups.

ESERA Summer School 2025: Call for proposals

ESERA invites proposals from science education research groups to host the ESERA 2025 Summer School. Proposals should be submitted by January 31st 2024 through email in a word format to Digna Couso.

Proposals should include the following:

- the names of the local organizing committee members
- the applicants' names, institutions and a 2-page CV for each
- the proposed location of the conference, with a description of how the venue aligns with the summer school needs (see below).
- details of previous involvement of the organizers in ESERA events and a rationale (500-1000 words) indicating why their proposal should be chosen

Things to know

- Plans for the summer school must still include three possible formats:
 - full participant in-person attendance (traditional arrangements)
 - full virtual participation
 - a hybrid summer school where there is a mixture of in-person and virtual attendees.
- Since a full virtual or hybrid summer school will require additional planning beyond traditional arrangements, the organizing group needs to have the personnel resources and additional time as a part of their proposal.
- The Board is interested in locations accessible (both geographically and financially) to a large number of PhD students.
- Countries where the Summer School has not previously been held are strongly encouraged to apply.

- The main organiser expected to attend the summer school prior to the summer for which they are bidding. This person will participate in the summer school as a staff member and be financially supported by the Board.
- The Summer School is paid for through student contributions (500 euros or less each) as well as an ESERA Board contribution (near 15,000 euros). These funds suffice for food and accommodation for all students and staff, and venue costs if not donated by the sponsoring university and a social function during the summer school week. Depending on the country and location of the summer school, additional funds donated from a local agency may be needed. The total maximum that students should have to pay is 500 euros. Forty-nine students will be selected to attend. A venue at or near university facilities is preferred since it helps with planning and organization and saves costs.
- The Summer School needs a lecture hall for 80 persons (for a daily plenary, but this is not required for the full duration of each day); seven group rooms with projection (nine persons in each room) and three or four workshop rooms (25 persons in each room).
- Meeting rooms and participant residences close to each other are highly desirable.
- At least 2/3rds of the residence rooms should be single rooms with some doubles for students who prefer to share. Staff should be accommodated in single residence rooms in the same or a nearby facility.
- Digital capabilities among the organizing group need to be able to handle, if needed, a hybrid or virtual summer school. Some elements of even a fully site-based summer school will also require digital skills, such as digital presentation and review of posters. The local organizing group will want to post a unique web-site for their summer school, either locally or/and on the ESERA site, using their own university expertise.
- The number of student and staff applicants varies from year to year. Recent ranges have been from 60 to 100 PhD students and from 25 to 40 staff.
- The organising committee is responsible for the evaluation of the student applications through reviews carried out by ESERA members the organising committee and the ESERA Board are responsible for the evaluation of the staff applications.

Timeline for bids:

- Deadline for proposals: January 31, 2024
- Deadline for results by the ESERA Board: mid-March 2024

[Call for the Science|Environment|Health mini-conference in Valencia, Spain, from 23 to 25 May 2024](#)

Dear colleagues,

We are pleased to invite you to the next mini-conference of the ESERA Special Interest Group Science|Environment|Health, which will take place in Valencia, Spain, from 23 to 25 May 2024. Our mini-conference aims to promote personal contact between colleagues and support research

and development in science education related to environment and health issues, especially in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and climate change. The conference will include keynote speakers, oral and poster presentations, workshops and roundtable discussions.

The venue is the Botanical Garden of the Universitat de València. We hope that this will stimulate debates on the importance of preserving plant biodiversity, especially in a context of climate emergency. The conference offers reduced fees and travel support for early career researchers, who are particularly encouraged to apply for a grant and present their work at an early stage.

To apply, participants must complete a form and submit it by email by 15 December 2023 with a title and format of their paper. The conference is organised by local and international institutions with financial support from ESERA.

For detailed information, please see the ESERA website. We look forward to pleasant encounters, stimulating discussions and a vibrant atmosphere of new ideas and emerging projects in the Botanical Garden of UV.

The Local Organising Committee of the University of Valencia, Spain: Olga Mayoral; Tatiana Pina; Maria Calero; Raquel Rivas

The ESERA SIG 4 Science|Environment|Health Coordinators: Julia Arnold, Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz FHNW, Switzerland; Albert Zeyer, Pädagogische Hochschule Luzern, Switzerland

Answers by Digna Couso

1. Write 3 words that describe you as a person.

- optimist, perseverant, team-player

2. What is the ideal vacation for you?

- Anywhere green, I love nature and particularly forests. I really think trees are the greatest creatures in the world! I like places where I can walk sometimes in silence, sometimes in cheerful conversation, with family and friends.

3. Where did you complete your PhD and what did you love the most about it?

- I studied in the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, where I am working now. I also benefited from a short academic visit at Kings' College London and a one-year pre-doc academic stay at the University of Leeds. I loved all these places, and I am particularly thankful to the great researchers and teachers I meet in them, as they deeply shaped my way of thinking and doing in Science Education. There were, however, enormous differences in the working and nurturing culture of PhDs, and things were not always easy. When doing a PhD, you embark in a challenging journey that is both hard and exciting, like climbing a challenging peak. You do not know exactly why have you put

yourself in such a hard situation (there is actually no need for it) but you enjoy the climbing most of the time, learn a lot from more experts climbers, realise you get expertise day after day, and feel incredible when you get to the top and look back to all you have overcome!

4. *What is your one guilty pleasure?*

- I am not very sophisticated neither original: cinnamon hot chocolate. In fact, any chocolate!

5. *What is your favourite book?*

- The "Typescript of the Second Origin" (Mecanoscrit del segon origen, in Catalan) from Manuel de Pedrolo. It is not a very well-known book internationally, as it has been translated into English just very recently, but it is a great science fiction piece from a Catalan author that had a deep impact in me when I read it for the first time in my teens. I also loved "Cat's eye" from Margaret Atwood.

6. *What was your first experience with ESERA?*

- My first ESERA was ages ago! 2001 Thessaloniki... I have wonderful memories of that conference, it was smaller than today, actually cosy, and I could put a face on most of the people I was reading and citing... Our Greek hosts and the staff did their best and we could enjoy professional discussions and Greek culture both at the same time. Coming from a working class family, it was also nice to be able to travel.

7. *What do you like most about ESERA?*

- The fact that it is a community that challenges my knowledge and beliefs. I always learn something new and meet interesting people, both personally and professionally. And in general, and this is very important to me and not a minor issue at all, it is a critical but also friendly community.

Answers by Maria Evagorou

1. *Write 3 words that describe you as a person.*

- thoughtful, motivated, clumsy

2. *What is the ideal vacation for you?*

- snorkelling in clear waters

3. *Where did you complete your PhD and what did you love the most about it?*

- I completed my PhD at Kings College London and what I enjoyed the most was being part of a research group with other PhD students at different stages of their study, and expert researchers. This experience shaped me as a researcher and as a PhD supervisor and made me appreciate the importance of collaboration and support groups.

4. *What is your one guilty pleasure?*

- Listening to specific songs on repeat after I drop off the kids to school.

5. *What is your favourite book?*

- The most recent reading is Invisible Women. Exposing data bias in a world designed for men by Caroline Criado Perez

6. *What was your first experience with ESERA?*

- I attended ESERA 2005 in Barcelona just after I finished my master degree.

7. *What do you like most about ESERA?*

- The highlight of ESERA for me is making new friends and meeting with old friends. I was fortunate to make a lot of friends through ESERA activities such as the summer school in Braga 2006, Travel Awards that I received or that other researchers received to visit me.

Answers by Antti Laherto

1. *Write 3 words that describe you as a person.*

- father, dreamer, gnome

2. *What is the ideal vacation for you?*

- An ideal vacation includes some work. And an ideal workday includes some vacation.

3. *Where did you complete your PhD and what did you love the most about it?*

- 2012. I loved the independence and the adventure.

4. *What is your one guilty pleasure?*

- Watching football.

5. *What is your favourite book?*

- Les Misérables.

6. What was your first experience with ESERA?

- Summer school in York in 2008, paving the way for the Istanbul Experience 2009.

7. What do you like most about ESERA?

- The communality.

Answers by Regina Soobard

1. Write 3 words that describe you as a person.

- goal-oriented, consistent, thankful

2. What is the ideal vacation for you?

- An ideal vacation is the opportunity to hike in nature and the opportunity to enjoy city life. It's a possibility to enjoy the moment and the people in that moment without having to deal with work responsibilities or worry about activities that have not been done before.

3. Where did you complete your PhD and what did you love the most about it?

- I completed my thesis "*A study of gymnasium students' scientific literacy development based on determinants of cognitive learning outcomes and self-perception*" in University of Tartu 2015. Looking back, I loved most the possibility to grow as a person and as a professional in science education. This was an interesting period, because at that time I didn't even understand how much I was learning about myself and that I was actually becoming a member of science education research community. I am always thankful for all people I met during my PhD studies in Estonia and abroad and all these people have taught me something about myself and shared the wisdom needed in becoming a researcher.

4. What is your one guilty pleasure?

- I love chocolate.

5. What is your favourite book?

- I love reading and it is a challenge to choose just one book. I would say that "*Mindset. Changing the way, you think to fulfil your potential.*" by Carol S. Dweck based on my recent book reading experience. At the same time, I also like book "*A Natural History of the Future. What the Laws of Biology Tell Us About the Destiny of the Human Species.*" By Rob. R. Dunn.

6. What was your first experience with ESERA?

- First experience was ESERA 2011 conference in Lyon. At this time, I was a second year PhD student and this conference was my first conference experience.

7. What do you like most about ESERA?

- For me, ESERA is about the exchange of ideas and research traditions between researchers from different countries. ESERA promotes mutual enrichment and provides valuable career and personal development opportunities for young and experienced researchers in the field of science education.

Answers by Jesper Bruun

1. Write 3 words that describe you as a person.

- curious, busy, informal

2. What is the ideal vacation for you?

- Vacations are best with good friends, where someone in the group knows the city or location you are visiting. It shouldn't be too planned out – but involve possibilities for spontaneous activities.

3. Where did you complete your PhD and what did you love the most about it?

- At the Dpt. of Science Education at University of Copenhagen. I loved that I had the freedom to define my own project and develop my own methods of analyses.

4. What is your one guilty pleasure?

- I don't have guilty pleasures.

5. What is your favourite book?

- Tough question! Academic: Complexity and Education (Davis & Sumara 2006). Fiction: The Illuminatus Trilogy (Wilson and Shea)

6. What was your first experience with ESERA?

- 2009 Istanbul: Investigating scientific literacy documents with linguistic network analysis (with Jens Dolin and Bob Evans)

7. What do you like most about ESERA?

- That the conference balances serious academic discussion with a good party (and dance!) culture.