

Report of SIRG on Families
IASSID Council Meeting
AT E-IASSID, Maastricht, August 2006

Summary of Past Year Activities

The Families Research group of IASSID remains active and involved with IASSID. Highlights of activities of the last year or so include:

- (1) Two meetings of the Families Research group, at the Gatlinburg Conference 2005 and 2006. Members in attendance represented most regions of the U.S.; there was representation from Wales and the U.K. as well.

The goal of the 2005 meeting was to discuss the number of symposia to submit to the Maastricht meeting, since we had been told that presentations would be limited. We considered invited symposia, as well as a more general call for papers. At the 2006 meeting, we discussed the upcoming Special Issue of JIDR (see below), and confirmed plans for Maastricht. Laraine Masters Glidden provided a report of the first Asia Pacific IASSID Conference.

- (2) In response to the overwhelming interest in families research, among IASSID members and the field of ID at large, the JIDR Editors (Tony Holland, Editor; Jan Blacher & Chris Oliver, Associate Editors) and Editorial Board approved a second Special Issue on the topic. As in the first issue, the call for papers for the current one (co-edited by Richard Hastings, Ann Turnbull, & Bruce Tonge) has resulted in a large number of submissions – too many for one issue. Accepted papers that do not make it into the Special Issue will appear in regular issues of JIDR.
- (3) Membership of the Families SIRG continues to be strong, and we have maintained a mailing list of 110.

Plans for the Upcoming Year

Families SIRG plans include:

- a) maintenance of an active membership with ongoing and active email communication
- b) continue to solicit papers on families for JIDR and other journals associated with IASSID
- c) a feature on families research highlights from Maastricht in Jan Blacher's "Research Reflections" column for *Exceptional Parent* magazine
- d) plans to attract even more cross-cultural research on families, and more cross-country collaboration

- e) plans to assure families research representation and highlights at the IASSID meeting in Cape Town

Issues or Action Items for Council

The Families SIRG would be delighted with more communication and involvement with the Executive body of IASSID. Conversely, the Families SIRG would like to better inform the IASSID Council and Executive of the SIRG's active research agenda. While the Families SIRG has prominence in the JIDR arena, it might be well to include Special Issues on Families in JARID and/or JPPID.

This summary of Families SIRG activities is respectfully submitted by Jan Blacher, C-Chair, Families SIRG.

Families SIRG:

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