

**COST ACTION IS1410**  
**The Digital and Multimodal Literacy Practices of Young Children**

**Working Group Update for Quarters 1 and 2, Year 1**

**Please comment on the work of the working group since the launch of the Action, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 –November 30<sup>th</sup> 2015. What activities have been undertaken (e.g. meetings/ Skype/ email discussion etc) and what have been the outcomes?**

The focus of our work in this first review period has been to scope the range of methodologies used to date by COST members in their research across Europe. This process began in earnest at the October 2015 COST meeting in Tallinn, Estonia, where approximately 20 COST Action members attended the WG5 working group sessions. During the Tallinn meeting, Professor David Poveda made a short presentation to each of WGs 1-4, with a view to a) enabling us to get a clearer idea of each group's activities and endeavours b) establishing close liaison between WG5 and all other WGs, and c) answering any queries with regards to the work of WG5. Dr Rosie Flewitt presented a plenary paper to conference attendees, focussing on the core COST Action premise of multimodality and multimodal research methods.

Work completed during the first quarter includes:

1. In preparation for the Tallinn meeting, we set up and invited colleagues to deposit papers focussing on methodology to a Google Drive repository. During the Tallinn WG5 meetings, attended by 20+ COST Action members, we reviewed the range of methodologies currently in use by members and areas of methodological expertise.
2. We agreed with colleagues the ideal criteria for producing a searchable research methods database, and drafted a Research Methods Database framework.
3. We established a 'Methodology Agent' in each Cost Action WG, that is, a named person with whom WG5 can co-ordinate. Each 'Methodology Agent' is responsible for collating research papers and reports being used by the Working Group they represent, and has been asked to deposit them all in the relevant folder in the repository. The co-ordinators of each WG, or the 'Methodology Agent' (if that is a different person), has also been asked to send us brief answers to the questions below, with the request to simply list different approaches supported by a reference for each approach, and identify any new, innovative approaches:
  - a. What range of methodologies are being used in your field?
  - b. What strategies are being used to have impact on

- practice, policy, broader public discourse?
- c. Does there appear to be a link between the methodologies used and the intended impacts? Please give a few specific examples if possible, with references.
  - d. What ethical issues are emerging as salient?

**Please comment on the plans for the Working Group for Quarters 3 and 4, Year 1 (December 1<sup>st</sup> 2015 – April 30<sup>th</sup> 2016), including what the plans for the meeting in Cyprus are.**

### **Focus for Quarter 3**

**Research Database:** We have set up an online Research Database repository (See <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Fd7jKPO5JGdWZM0vty-j7IMbobzI3DUOLmBuqZSicXA/viewform>)

As a first phase of development of this resource, all COST Action members have been invited to enter details of their work in this system, and this process has begun.

We are currently working to establish a feasible means of making this database searchable and openly accessible. This is presenting technical challenges, but we have enlisted the voluntary support of an IT colleague at UCL IOE to advise on how best to proceed to develop a robust system.

### **Focus for Quarter 4**

Key aims for this period are:

- (1) AIM: To continue to develop the online database  
ACTION: Encourage all COST Action members to deposit details of their own work; Develop the system search facilities.
- (2) AIM: Summarize/Review methodological aspects in current research.  
ACTION: Use the information and outputs from the database to produce a summary report identifying research trends and preferences in terms of methodological issues.
- (3) AIM: To identify innovative methodologies that could inform future research in this field, including participatory methods with young children as agentive and valued researchers.  
ACTION: Invite each COST Action WG Methodology Agent to deposit details of emerging innovatory methods approaches in their specialist field of interest, both from within and beyond the Action.

The WG5 meeting in Cyprus will focus on key aims 1 and 3. These will be the main points for discussion at the general working group meeting planned for day 1 (17<sup>th</sup> March) and for the smaller meetings we will plan between WG5 co-coordinators and

the methodology agents who volunteered in Tallin. Work on the key aims will continue after the meeting via e-mail and skype conversations and will materialize during 2016 in, at least, two outputs:

- (a) A written report/working paper on research trends regarding digital technologies and young children (0-8), which will primarily draw from information available in the database.
- (b) An on-line event (i.e. a live streaming event/conversation such as google hang-out) that will allow us to showcase and discuss an innovative research and/or work experience regarding young children's digital multimodal literacies.

**Names of Working Group Leaders**

**Dr Rosie Flewitt**  
**Professor David Poveda**

**Date: 22.02.2016**