

# WERA-IRN Conference

## Extended Education from an International Comparative Point of View

### 1<sup>st</sup> WERA-IRN EXTENDED EDUCATION Conference

November 30 – December 2, 2017,  
University of Bamberg, Germany

From November 30 to December 2, 2017 the first WERA-IRN EXTENDED EDUCATION Conference, *Extended Education from an International Comparative Point of View*, took place at the University of Bamberg. WERA is short for World Education Research Association, and it is an organization of major national, regional, and specialty education research associations, among other things dedicated to developing networks. The purpose of International Research Networks (IRNs) is to advance education research worldwide on specific scholarly topics. The WERA-IRN EXTENDED EDUCATION is a collaborative group of scholars working on this research topic. The aim of the research network is to bring together the different research perspectives in this new field from all over the world to learn from each other and to initiate international comparative research in this emerging field of educational research.

To our great pleasure, more than 100 delegates from about 16 countries took part on the conference: From Europe we had guests from Germany, Switzerland, Serbia, Russia, England, Denmark, Iceland, Sweden, and Finland. There are participants from the United States and from Australia. From Asia we welcome guests from Taiwan, Japan, South Korea, and Hong Kong in China. In all of these continents and countries, you can find activities and programs focusing on the social, emotional, and academic development of children and young people, which are educationally structured to make it easier for the participants to learn specific contents. In recent years, to an increasing degree the term EXTENDED EDUCATION has been established internationally for this field of education.

In these three days we have heard many enriching and interesting keynote speeches, symposia, papers, posters, and a concluding panel discussion. We hope this conference can be a starting point for future international comparative research in the field of extended education.

A special thank goes out to our partners at the Mercator Foundation and the German Research Foundation for their support of this conference. Without their support, it would not have been possible to hold the conference in this form.

Prof. Dr. Marianne Schüpbach

Chair of Primary Education,  
University of Bamberg and

Organizer of the WERA-IRN EXTENDED  
EDUCATION