European Society for Research in Adult Development
Annual General Meeting Minutes
27th June 2025

Attending: Oliver Robinson (President), Teresa Sgaramella (Vice-President), Nick Shannon (Treasurer), Iva Vurdelja (Secretary), Erin Collins (Secretarial Assistant), Saba Sajjad (Communications Manager), Salla Ahola, Natalia Waechter, Marc Lucas, Clare Mehta, Katja Hleb, Hazal Güçlü, Deeya Mitra, Jonathan Reams, Megan Wright, Igor Shiyan, Deborah Bailey-Rodriguez, Ana Frichand, Olga Hypponen, Gözde Aciker, Georgios Vleioras, Valentina Lucia La Rosa.

1. Announcement by the Chairman: legality of meeting, working order of the meeting

a) Oliver will share the annual report and plan.
b) Nick will present ESRAD's finances as the treasurer.
c) Deeya will comment on the annual report and plan, as the auditor.

2. Introductions

a) All attending members introduced themselves.

3. Annual report and plan

a) ESRAD membership is free of charge. As of May 2025, there are 794 members.
b) Board members whose 2-year tenures end in 2025 are Oliver (President), Teresa (Vice-president), Nick (Treasurer), Iva (Secretary), Natalia, Garry, Marc, Clare and Katja. Salla is the only current board member whose tenure is not ending in 2025.
c) Oliver stated he will be stepping down as the ESRAD president but plans on continuing as Honorary President (not on the Executive Board). This role was previously held by Eeva Kallio and worked well to ease the new president into the role.
d) Erin has been the Secretarial Assistant since 2022 and will be continuing in this role for 2025-2026.
e) Saba is the current Communications Officer and Webmaster. This role will be readvertised shortly after the AGM. Saba can reapply for this role.
f) ESRAD's postal address was changed to a commercial address rental service Business Address on the 24th of June 2024. The change in address has been filed with the Finnish PRH. Furthermore, on the 15th of May 2025, ESRAD received the tax decision regarding the year 2024 and there was no tax to be paid or refunded.
g) ESRAD hosted multiple events between 2024-2025 including:
    - Webinars by Clare Mehta and Guy Buchan.
    - A summer symposium with Monika Ardelt, Marc Lucas, Kristijan Kristjansson, Eeva Kallio and Judith Gluck.
    - An online conference with a preconference workshop hosted by Dr. Oliver Robinson as well as keynotes by Dr. Theo Dawson and Prof. Jeffrey Arnett.
h) ESRAD have two new national representatives: Hazal Guclu for Turkey, and Ana Fritzhand for the Republic of North Macedonia.
i) In 2024, ESRAD ran their first small grants scheme and offered three grants of €1000 to Deborah Bailey-Rodriguez, Natalia Waechter and Elena Stuhlpfarrer, and Sanjukta Das and Nabamita Chakraborty. Overall, there were 17 applications received for this scheme. Deborah and Natalia's research was presented at the 2025 online conference. Sanjukta and Chakraborty's research project is ongoing. ESRAD will be staying

updated with the progress of this research and are hoping Sanjukta and Chakraborty will present their research at an ESRAD event soon.

j) It is ESRAD's current intention to run another small grant scheme by the end of the year.

k) ESRAD has two special interest groups: the wisdom SIG and the dialectical thinking SIG.
    a. Marc stated the Wisdom SIG had a successful summer symposium in 2024 and there was a wisdom related stream in the 2025 online conference. He stated two members of the wisdom SIG, Dr. Eeva Kallio and Prof. Dr. Wendelin Küpers have recently authored books in the field. He shared that the wisdom SIG has just started an international research project with Prof. Dr. Wendelin Küpers, Prof. Dr. Monika Ardelt, and himself, and expects the project to last around three years.
    b. Nick stated dialectical thinking SIG's main activity ended last year after publication of the international handbook of dialectical thinking. The authors of the book have continued to meet to discuss chapters and their integration on a monthly basis. Nick and Bernhard Possert have been holding almost monthly salons under the banner of the Centre for Applied Dialectical Thinking (CAD). Nick has decided to bring the activities together and has invited ESRAD members to join up with the CAD to participate in salons and take the work forward.

l) Action plan for June 2025-June 2026: The main aim is to be the leading adult development research organization in the world in terms of (a) membership numbers/international reach/diversity of membership (b) event quality, and (c) opportunities for networking and research dissemination.

m) This aim will be pursued by way of the following proximal aims:
- Reviewing how many members are active members by sending a brief questionnaire to respond to
- ESRAD's MailChimp database will be audited to remove duplicate subscriptions
- There will be a change in presidency, however the current president will support the change acting as honorary president for approximately six months.
- ESRAD plans to host three webinars with world-renowned speakers, the decision on whether to charge a small fee for future webinars is to be discussed by the board. Oliver stated that as ESRAD now has a corporate Eventbrite account charging webinar attendees would be possible.
- ESRAD will begin to plan an in-person conference which will likely be hosted in summer 2027.
- ESRAD will be reviewing communications with members including when new members join and plans to develop the website and social media.
- Following the success of the 2024 small grants scheme ESRAD is hoping to run a scheme in 2025 using revenue from our online conference. ESRAD will also be reviewing whether it may be possible to fundraise to help pay for this scheme in the future
- In terms of advertising, ESRAD will be discussing a budget for adverts on Facebook or GoogleAds and/or whether to market ESRAD through affiliate organisations and events.

4. Announcement by Treasurer

a) Nick reiterated that the financial aim for the past few years was to put ESRAD on a firm financial footing and reminded all AGM attendees that all of the assets in the company are held in cash.

b) At the end of 2024 ESRAD had just over €11,000 in net assets. Gross assets: €12,144. Liabilities: €980.
c) This year ESRAD has increased their net asset by just over €2000. Current gross assets: €14,253 and liabilities: €880, €500 of this has been pledged as part of the small grants scheme.
d) In 2024 ESRAD's revenue was €5006. €3368 was returned to ESRAD by way of an invoice which was not fully charged by the University of Greenwich from the 2023 in-person conference, €1215 from seminar receipts and €238 in interest and currency variation.
e) In 2024 ESRAD's expenditure was €4683. €3071 for the small grants scheme, €600 for webinar speakers, €400 for webmaster, €175 for office expenses and €175 for internet.
f) The 2025 online conference's revenue amounted to £3396 : £1500 from early bird tickets, £1200 from full price tickets, £456 from student tickets and £240 from the pre-conference workshop tickets. The conference had an expenditure of £866, with £410 in IT support, £256 for keynote Theo Dawson and £200 for the pre-conference workshop hosted by Oliver Robinson. Net revenue came to £2,530
g) Oliver clarified that Jeffrey Arnett waved his keynote fee and kindly donated it back to ESRAD.

Auditor's report and comments
a) Deeya stated that in her view ESRAD has maintained a healthy financial position.
b) Deeya stated there are adequate financial reserves to support the ongoing activities that Oliver listed in the action plan.
c) Oliver stated that he considered the society to be good financial shape, without significant running overheads.
d) Oliver thanked Deeya for auditing the annual report and plan as well as the finances.

5. Proposed change in ESRAD rules to increase maximum number on executive board
a) The proposed changes were as follows: An increase in the maximum number of Executive Board members from seven (7) to nine (9) and an increase of maximum member of vice members to four (4) to allow flexibility in the future composition of the board.
b) Proposed new wording for rule 6: Association's Executive Board: The president and a minimum of two (2) and maximum of eight (8) other numbers and zero (0) to four (4) vice-members of the executive board, are elected in the General Meeting. At-least one of the Executive Board members, must have Finnish citizenship.
c) All AGM attendees approved the proposed rule change, transcripts of this have been saved. The rule change will be implemented, and Oliver will work with Salla to log the change with the Finnish PRH.

6. Board appointments/re-appointments/resignations
a) President – Oliver is stepping down as president at the end of July/August. Clare Mehta was voted as the new ESRAD president by all attending members. Oliver will be acting as honorary president whilst Clare settles into the new role.
b) Vice-president – Teresa was reelected by all attending members as the ESRAD vice-president.
c) Treasurer – Nick was reelected by all attending members as the ESRAD treasurer.
d) Secretary – Iva will step down as ESRAD's secretary. Megan Wright volunteered to become ESRAD's secretary, and was elected by all attending members. Iva offered to meet with Megan virtually to explain the duties of the role.

e) Finnish Board member – Salla Ahola will be continuing as the Finnish Board member.
f) Board member for webinars – Olga Hypponen volunteered for this role and was elected by all attending members as a board member.
g) Board members for marketing – Marc Lucas and Hazal Guclu volunteered to share the role of marketing and were elected by all attending members as board members. Marc will take control of social media and Hazal will be responsible for professional connections. Marc stated he will be involved in any German speaking professional connections.
h) Katja Hleb was elected by all attending members as a full board-member without a specific assigned role. Katja stated she would also be happy to support Olga in her role of board member for webinars.
i) Salla reminded new board members that the Finnish PRH registration authority requires their ID information in the form of their birthdate, citizenship, home address, passport or identification document, and requested them to pass this information on to her.
j) Natalia Waechter has decided to step down from board-member to vice-member.
k) Clare stated Jeffrey Arnett is interested in becoming a vice-member. Ana Fritzhand and Deborah Bailey-Rodriguez also volunteered for the role
l) Vice-members - Natalia Waechter, Jeffrey Arnett, Ana Fritzhand and Deborah Bailey-Rodriguez were elected as the four ESRAD vice-members by all attending members.
m) ESRAD will be re-advertising the role of communications manager very soon after the AGM.
n) In summary, as of June 2025, the ESRAD board members are:
    a. Full members; Clare Mehta, Teresa Sgaramella, Nick Shannon, Megan Wright, Marc Lucas, Hazal Guclu, Olga Hypponen, Katja Hleb, Salla Ahola
    b. Vice members: Natalia Waechter, Jeffrey Arnett, Ana Fritzhand and Deborah Bailey-Rodriguez

7. Elect examiners of the minutes and auditors for 2026
a) Gözde Aciker and Jonathan Reams volunteered to examine the minutes for accuracy.
b) Valentina Lucia La Rosa and Titus Mars volunteered to act as auditors for next years accounts and annual report.
c) The proposed date for the 2026 AGM is Thursday 25th June 2026.

8. Any other business
a) Oliver stated Georgios would like ESRAD to set up a BlueSky account. This will be discussed at a future board meeting.