

ICEC Conference

Reducing access barriers in Early Childhood Education and Care: International perspectives on local governance

22nd – 23rd October 2019

Hotel Aquino, Berlin

Abstract & CVs

Inequalities in access to Early Childhood Education and Care at local level – Results of the Equal Access Study from Canada, Germany and Sweden

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This contribution presents first results of the *Equal Access Study*. The study comparatively examines inequalities in access to early childhood education and care (ECEC) in Canada, Germany and Sweden. It investigates the role of institutional contexts and governance processes in explaining (in)equal access to ECEC. One key aspect of the study is the local governance level and how access is organised locally, especially for disadvantaged families. To this purpose, qualitative expert interviews (n=63) were conducted in 2018 and 2019 with ECEC stakeholders in two municipalities per country.

The presentation focusses on varying access barriers and discusses municipal discretion with regard to organising ECEC access, based on three local case studies in Germany, Canada and Sweden. The challenges local authorities face will be analysed, as well as the approaches they choose in order to improve access conditions for disadvantaged families. Both their options to act and their limits — will be investigated, based on the respective welfare state tradition.

Dr Antonia Scholz is a research associate at the International Centre Early Childhood, Education and Care (ICEC) at the German Youth Institute (DJI) in Munich. Currently, her research focusses on inequalities in access to Early Childhood Education and Care in international comparison (*Equal Access Study*). Before that, she was a research associate at the Research Department of the Federal Office of Migration and Integration in Nuremberg. She holds a diploma in Languages, Cultural and Business Studies and a PhD in Political Science.

Britta Menzel is a research associate at the International Centre Early Childhood, Education and Care (ICEC) at the German Youth Institute (DJI) and currently examines conditions of unequal access in international comparison (*Equal Access Study*). Previously she worked as research associated in a cooperation project between Bertelsmann Stiftung and Goethe University in Frankfurt/Main (*Kinder zwischen Chancen und Barrieren*). In her PhD project, she investigates the children's perspective on home-ECEC-relations using an ethnographic approach.

Sabrina Mannebach is a sociologist (M.A.) and research associate at the International Centre of Early Childhood Education and Care at the German Youth Institute (DJI) in Munich.

As part of the *Equal Access Study*, she currently examines conditions of unequal access in international comparison. She previously worked as an officer of education and care at the Department of Education and Integration of the city of Frankfurt/Main.

