



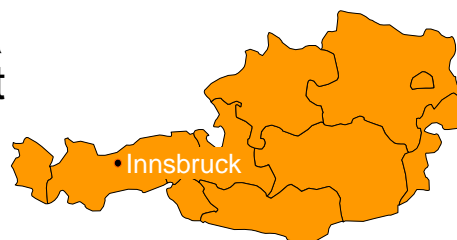
**Men's voices in
ECE in Austria**

Tim Rohrmann



**Men's voices in
ECE in Austria**

First results of a
research project



ECE in Austria: Background



Bundesarchiv, Bild 194-0883-25
Foto: Lachmann, Hans | 1954

ECE in Austria: Background

- profession associated to care & play, not to education
- low salaries and poor working conditions
- vocational training: secondary school level
- male students permitted only since 1980
- only 1 % male workers

Bundesarchiv, Bild 194-0883-25
Foto: Lachmann, Hans | 1954



ECE in Austria: recent developments

ongoing debates about

- new understanding of elementary education
- raising the level of vocational training
- keeping pre-school year free of charge



The research project

- What makes men become ECE workers?
- What do men experience in vocational training and when working in kindergarten?
- Is there a specific ‚male‘ way of working with children?

The research project: target groups

- Pupils prior to career decisions
- Adolescents and adults in vocational training
- Men and women working in ECE institutions

The research project: methods

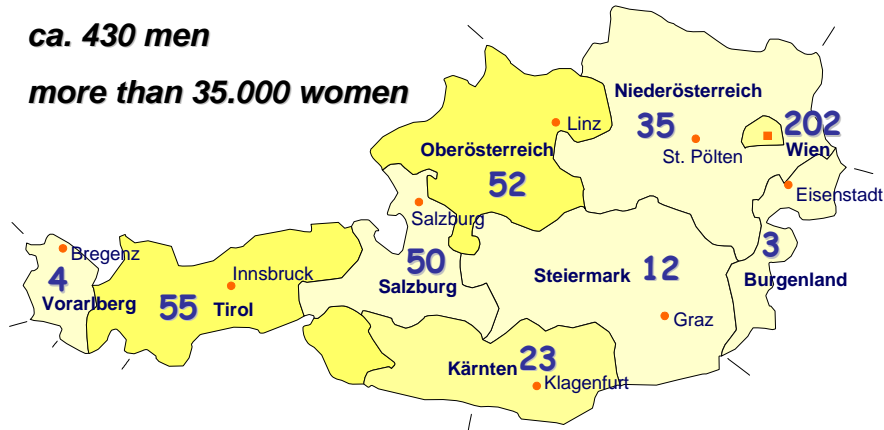
- Analysis of statistical data
- Group discussions
- Paper & pencil surveys
 - full survey of men in ECE*
- In-depth interviews
 - content analysis*
 - psychoanalytic approach*



Gender in ECE work force

ca. 430 men

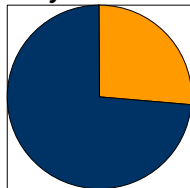
more than 35.000 women



Pupils prior to career decision

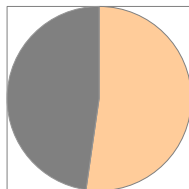
(n = 478)

Boys



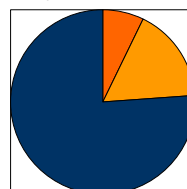
One of four boys shows interest for educational professions

Girls

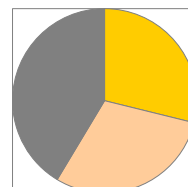


One of four boys can imagine working in kindergarten or after-school-care

Boys

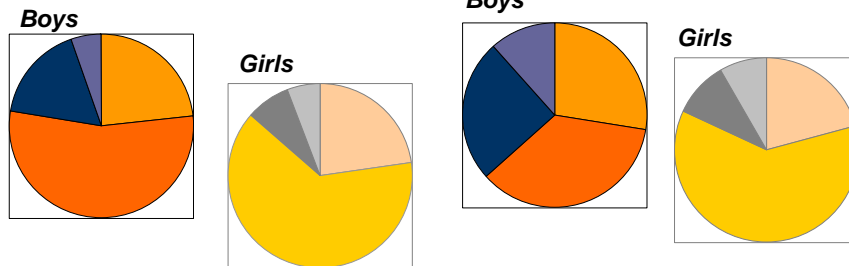


Girls



Prejudices against male ECE workers among pupils

„Men in kindergartens
ain't no „real“ men“



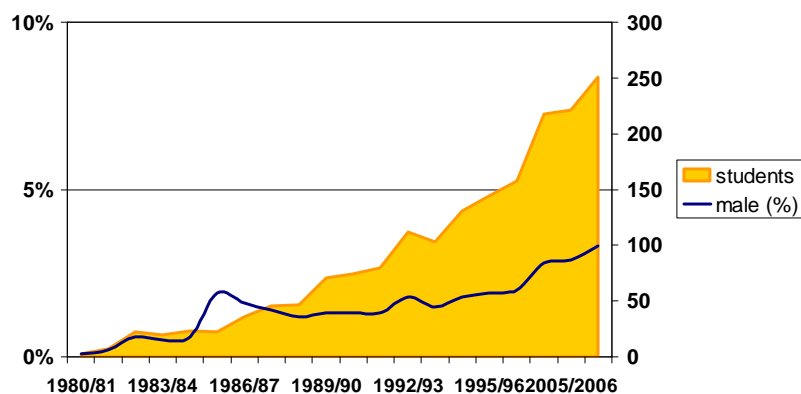
„Men working in kindergarten are
perverts / abuse children“

Vocational training

- Secondary schools („BAKIP“) → „Kindergarten pedagogue“
- Special forms for adults
- Short-time-trainings → „assistants“
- Alternative trainings for groups run by parents' initiatives



Vocational training for ECE (BAKIP): number of males is increasing





BAKIP survey: main results (n = 465)

- Many boys report negative reactions of peers (boys) on their vocational decision
- „Male“ themes and interests fall short at school
- Boys/men interests: more nature & outdoor, sports & physical interactions with children
- Boys report subtle discrimination (35 %) and accusations as „abusers“ (12 %) in kindergarten
- Most boys feel comfortable at school, but many don't intend to work in ECE after training.



BAKIP survey: main results

*Boys in ECE vocational training are
“modern” males:*

- Men can raise children as well as women (94 %)
- Men and women shall equally share work and family time (78 %)
- Fathers should work less to have more time with their family (65 %)

Interviews with ECE workers: first results

- Most men like their job and feel good at work
- Clear support for more men in ECE, but...
- ... many male professionals were trying hard to explain *why* men are important
- Men need „having their own way“
- Better general conditions are basic for motivating men – and women!

Conclusions: School

- Better information about profession
- Visits of male ECE workers in schools
- Practical training for boys in kindergartens
- Making gender an issue at school:
e.g. „What is a ‚real‘ man?“

Conclusions: Vocational training

- More „male“ themes and interests in ECE vocational training
- Qualification on tertiary level (high school/university)
- Low-threshold programs and on-the-job training for job changers

Conclusions: ECE institutions

*Yes, more money would be good, but...
it's not the only thing.*

- Better working conditions in general
- More male colleagues
- Better career options
- More appreciation of ECE work from parents and politicians

elementar

men in early childhood education and care



elementar research project
Innsbruck University, Faculty of Education, Austria

email: tim.rohrmann@uibk.ac.at
web: <http://www.uibk.ac.at/ezwi/elementar>

director Univ. Prof. Dr. J.C. Aigner

team Dr. Tim Rohrmann, Mag. Bernhard Koch
Mag. Gabriele Schauer, Mag. Barbara Strubreither,
Mag. Tessa Zeis

expert advice Univ. Ass. Dr. Anton Percy,
Univ. Ass. Dr. Gerald Poscheschnik

term 2008 – 2010

funding Austrian Science Research Fund (FWF)

FWF Der Wissenschaftsfonds.