

I was very fortunate to be one of the recipients of the 2024 APH Mental Health Travel Award. In April 2024, I attended the Society Research on Adolescence (SRA) Conference in Chicago, USA. SRA Conference is one of the most prestigious scientific conferences in the world dedicated to understanding adolescence, their mental health and development.

Attending SRA was a truly inspiring experience. With around 1500 attendees across diverse disciplines and regions of the world, the SRA conference provided great learning and networking opportunities for me. My research centers around understanding the effects of socioeconomic inequality in child development. During the conference I had the opportunity to present my research on socioeconomic status, classroom peer norms and aggressive behavior development. I did this via a poster presentation. I enjoyed this type of presentation because it not only allowed me to practice my presentation skills but also allowed me to have lengthy two-way dialogues with researchers about the topic of socioeconomic inequality. Discussing my research with researchers across disciplines and regions was a highly beneficial and valuable experience for me. My research is conducted in the Netherlands, which is considered a high income country. Yet the sociocultural and socioeconomic context varies across countries and regions. Thus, these discussions advanced my knowledge and understanding of the diverse socioeconomic contexts of different regions. Considering different perspectives and interpretations have been very beneficial in my personal development but also in further developing my research goals.



The SRA conference hosted many interesting sessions focusing on various topics. At times, there were more than 10 simultaneous sessions. I especially enjoyed the Invited Program “*Don't skip class: Advances in Research on Social Class and Adolescent Development.*” This invited program consisted of several presentations that focused on social class and socioeconomic inequality. For instance, there were presentations about social class and classism, children’s understanding of social class, social class discrimination and about employing a strength based perspective when studying social class. Moreover, I also particularly enjoyed the session on school-based interventions to promote adolescent well-being. These sessions furthered motivated and inspired me.

In addition to the interesting sessions, SRA conference offered opportunities to network with other researchers. I had the opportunity to meet and share insights with researchers

across the globe including USA, Canada, the UK and Australia. I highly recommend the SRA conference to all researchers studying adolescence.

Thank you APH for making this wonderful learning experience possible!

Nil Horoz

