

Division 52 Participates in International Conference...Italian Style

By

Laura Nota, Ph.D.
Dipartimento di Psicologia dello Sviluppo
e della Socializzazione
Università di Padova

and

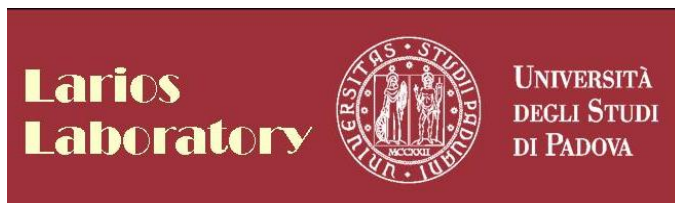
Bernardo J. Carducci, Ph.D.
Shyness Research Institute
Indiana University Southeast

International Conference
LIFE DESIGN AND CAREER COUNSELING
BUILDING HOPE AND RESILIENCE
June 20-21-22, 2013
University of Padova, Italy



The International Conference 'Life Design and Career Counseling: Building Hope and Resilience' was held at the University of Padua from June 20 to 22. The conference, organized by *Larios*

Laboratory, saw the participation of more than 600 delegates, of which more than 60% were from outside of Italy.



Representatives of 34 countries from all continents had the opportunity to discuss

theoretical and applied aspects focusing on how to deal with the difficult times we are going through. The international and multidisciplinary of this event was evident in the plenary sessions that were attended by psychologists, philosophers, economists, which included debating such issues such as hope, self-determination, work, and career adaptability.

As the first of three speakers in the opening plenary session, **Shane J. Lopez**, of the Clifton Strengths Institute in the USA, presented a lecture titled "Hope for Tomorrow Pays Off Today." The second speaker, **Jean Guichard**, of Cnam-INETOP in France, discussed "Forms of Reflexivity and Transformations of Systems of Subjective Identity Forms During Life Designing Dialogues." In the third presentation, **Salvatore Soresi**, of the University of Padova in Italy, invited participants to reflect on the importance of "Helping People Build Their Future."

The second day of the conference was devoted to presenting different perspectives about the future. **Annelies van Vianen**, of the University of Amsterdam in The Netherlands, discussed how to “Creating and Conserving Resources for Career Self-Regulation.” **Stefano Zamagni**, of the University of Bologna in Italy, discussed “What Makes the Young Unemployable and Why Businesses Continue to Believe in Taylorism?” **Michael L. Wehmeyer**, of the Kansas University in the USA, presented “Beyond Pathology: Positive Psychology and Disability.” The last presentation by **Luciano L’Abate**, of Georgia State University in the USA, underscored “The Future is Now: Online Interventions are Here to Stay and to Grow.”



Prof. Luciano L’Abate (extreme left) and Michael L. Wehmeyer (extreme right)

Also on the second day, **Bernardo J. Carducci**, President of the *Italian American Psychology Assembly* and Fellow of Division 52, **Bradley T. Erford**, President of the *American Counseling Association*, and **Mercedes A. McCormick**, President of *Division 52: International Psychology Division of the American Psychological Association*, **Christiane Schiersmann**, Coordinator of the *Network for Innovation in Career Guidance & Counselling in Europe*, and **Susan Whiston**, Chair of the *Society of Vocational Psychology*, brought greetings to all the attendees. In remembering his Italian origin and his family history during his remarks, Bernardo Carducci discussed the cycle of life design and career choice as experienced through the process of loss of ethnic identification through cultural assimilation, the role of education and vocational aspirations, and the desire to reconnect with one’s ethnic heritage through his involvement with the Italian American Psychology Assembly and APA’s Division 52. Although based on his own cycle of life design and career choice, Carducci’s presentation resonated with many members of the audience who, along with their students and clients, are now facing their own ethnic identity-vs.-assimilation career dilemma.



Prof. Bernardo J. Carducci presents the Italian American Psychology Assembly, scientific partner of the Conference.

The plenary session of the last day was dedicated to career adaptability and life designing. Maria E. Duarte, of the University of Lisbon in Portugal coordinated an international symposium in which **Mary McMahan**, of the University of Queensland in Australia, **Guðbjörg Vilhjálmsdóttir**, of the University of Iceland, **Marcelo A. Ribeiro**, of the University of San Paulo in Brasil, **Frederick T.L. Leong & Catherine Ott-Holland**, of Michigan State University in the USA and **Laura Nota**, of the University of Padova, discussed the issue of “Adaptability and Personal Promotion.” Finally, in his presentation, **Mark L. Savickas**, of the Northeast Ohio Medical University in the USA, encourage the participants to reflect on “Life Designing: Balancing Work and Love.”

Both in plenary sessions and in the parallel and posters sessions, which saw the presentation of more than 300 contributions, there was a great deal of interest in the topics addressed and a lively desire to participate by all delegates. Throughout the presentations and the debates, it was agreed that in times of high uncertainty, such as those we are experiencing, even the theoretical models

and the professional practices of those involved in choice and life designing must radically change and deal with the promotion of well-being and quality of life of those more exposed to the deleterious effects that the crisis is causing in different parts of the world.

At the end of the conference **Jean-Pierre Dauwalder**, of the Lausanne University and President of the European Society for Vocational Designing and Career Counseling, presented awards to Dr. Aysenur Buyukgoze-Kavas, of Ondokuz Mayıs University in Turkey, and Maria Chiara Pizzorno, of the University of Valle d'Aosta. The awards were presented to "... these two young researchers who have distinguished themselves with their research projects so early in their careers."

The conference concluded with a special awarded on be half of the ESVDC being presented by



Prof. Jean-Pierre Dauwalder
presents an award to
Prof. Salvatore Soresi

Prof. Jean-Pierre Dauwalder to **Salvatore Soresi** "for his scientific and human contribution to our field." In his remarks, Prof. Dauwalder listed the "Top-Ten Reasons" why Salvatore is receiving the award. Most importantly, he recalled that Salvatore Soresi, during the 1970s, actively took part in the struggles of scholars and researchers to support the inclusion of children with disabilities in regular schools and inclusion of adults with disability in competitive work settings, by carrying out demonstrations and hunger strikes, actively promoting the deinstitutionalization of the disabled persons in Italy. He also said that Salvatore Soresi, at the beginning of the 1990s, created the *LaRIOS* (Laboratory for Research and Intervention in Vocational Designing and Career Counseling) and the *Center*

for Research and Services on Disability, Rehabilitation and Inclusion at the University of Padova, with the aim of stimulating and developing research on these difficult but important topics. Salvatore Soresi participated in the birth of *International Life Design Research Group* and of the *International Collaborative Group on Adaptability Research*. For his efforts, he received the Award for Distinguished Contributions from the Society of Counseling Psychology (Division 17 APA). He recently founded the *International Hope Research Team* (IHRT) that involves Italian and foreign scholars interested in studying hope.



With great satisfaction to the organizers of the conference, they received more than 100 e-mails of thanks sent by conference participants from different parts of the world expressing their gratitude to the conference organizers for their tremendous efforts and wonderful contribution to the success of the conference!

For those who are interested in contacting members of the Larios Team, visit the Larios website at <http://larios.psy.unipd.it/ze-index.php> to find out more about their ongoing activities and learn about what the *International Hope Research Team* is doing to trigger international cross-cultural research with several countries.

the motto of the conference ...

“hope has two beautiful offspring: disdain and courage. The former confronted by how things are going, the latter to change them”; ***“die Hoffnung hat zwei schöne Töchter: Wut und Mut - Wut darüber, wie die Verhältnisse sind, und Mut, sie zu bekämpfen”***; *“la esperanza tiene dos hijas hermosas: la displicencia y la valentía. La displicencia ante el estado de las cosas y la valentía para cambiarlas”*; *“l'espoir a deux beaux enfants: le dédain et le courage. Le premier face à l'état des choses, le second pour les changer”*; ***“la speranza ha due bellissimi figli: la rabbia e il coraggio. La prima per come vanno le cose, il secondo per cambiarle”***; *“nadzieje ma dwie piękne córki - pogardę i odwagę; pogarda spojłada na stan rzeczy, a ”*; *«ارد زلال: الامچ لای فة یاع نانب اهل لمل ا»*; *«هری یغت لچأ نم ی ناث لاول ع قاولا رم لالا ةهچ اوم یف لو الال ةع اچ ش لاول»*; ***“espero havas du belegajn filojn: indigno kaj kuraĝo. La unua konsideras kiel iras la aĵoj, la dua kiel ŝanĝi ilin”***.
Sant'Agostino (354-430)

A Photographic Post Script

Some Scenes from the Last Day of the Conference



On the last day of the conference, Bernie Carducci congratulates Laura Norta, of the University of Padov and one of the primary organizers of the conference, on a job well done and to thank her for allowing Division 52 to be part of this highly successful international conference.



Bernie Carducci spends time during a break on the last day of the conference to chat about Division 52 with (left photo) René Angeramo, an Italian psychologist –psychotherapist from Rome, and (right photo) Gloria Marsay, an educational psychologist in Johannesburg with special interests in career development and neuropsychology.

A Post-Conference Celebration in the Italian Countryside

To celebrate the success of the conference, as well as to take some time to relax, Division 52 members Mercedes A. McCormick and Bernie Carducci were invited by the organizers of the conference to a special Italian-family style Sunday dinner in the countryside at the home of Savatore Soresi. Mercedes and Bernie spent the next six hours feasting on a multiple-course dinner featuring a variety of nuts, homegrown vegetables, a traditional meat course, seafood course, a few pasta dishes, a salad, a fresh fruit course, multiple homemade desserts, and, of course, many different wines throughout the afternoon.



Mercedes begins to enjoy a day in the Italian countryside with fellow presenters from the conference.



Bernie takes a short break in between one of the many courses being served throughout the afternoon.



As the food, wine, and conversation continue to flow, Mercedes has the look of pure relaxation that only an afternoon in the Italian countryside can provide.



Bernie unwinds late in the afternoon with one of his favorite cigars and some new friends.