

The expectations of a group of students: how the influence of the environment and of the parents can modify the students' ideas about their future.



Chiara Annovazzi - c.annovazzi4@campus.unimib.it

Department of Psychology, Milano-Bicocca University

Career Psychologist at "The Psychosocial Career Counselling Service", Milano-Bicocca



INTRODUCTION

From the last ten years the society is considered risky, uncertain and with rapid changes (Savickas, 2014). Now young people and their parents have to learn how to relate themselves with an unpredictable, unstable, uncertain and complex future (Beck, 2000). All of this change has had a negative impact on the most vulnerable populations, including people with disabilities, modifying their perception of the role in society and the process of finding a job. As a consequence, nowadays in Italy and in some other Latin countries, the university is no longer the place where the parents sent their children (with or without disabilities) ready to abdicate from their control (Daniel, Evans, & Scott, 2001; Howe & Strauss, 2003; Coburn, 2006), but the parents tend to replace their children in career choices, pushing them toward only a supposed safer path, that guarantee them a secure future.

AIMS OF THE STUDY

1. To investigate the career counselling in a social and relational point of view
2. To study the role of parents (of different category of students) in the career choices
3. To analyze how students with a disability face the crisis and represent their future possibilities

ANALYTIC FRAMEWORK: THE ROLE OF PARENTS

POSITIVE INFLUENCE:

- Concern and support
- Expectations
- Interests
- Promotion academic achievement and positive vocational path

NEGATIVE INFLUENCE:

- Pressing demands of success
- Only few alternatives are considered "acceptable", building "barriers" to achieve the aspirations of their offspring
- Helicopter Parents



(Camussi E., Gritti A., Annovazzi C., et al. 2015)

METHODOLOGY

Quantitative Part:

Participants:

- 360 questionnaires of the parents (of high school students)
- 498 questionnaires of the high school students (16-19 years old)

Instruments:

- International Hope Research Team Protocol

Qualitative Part:

Participants:

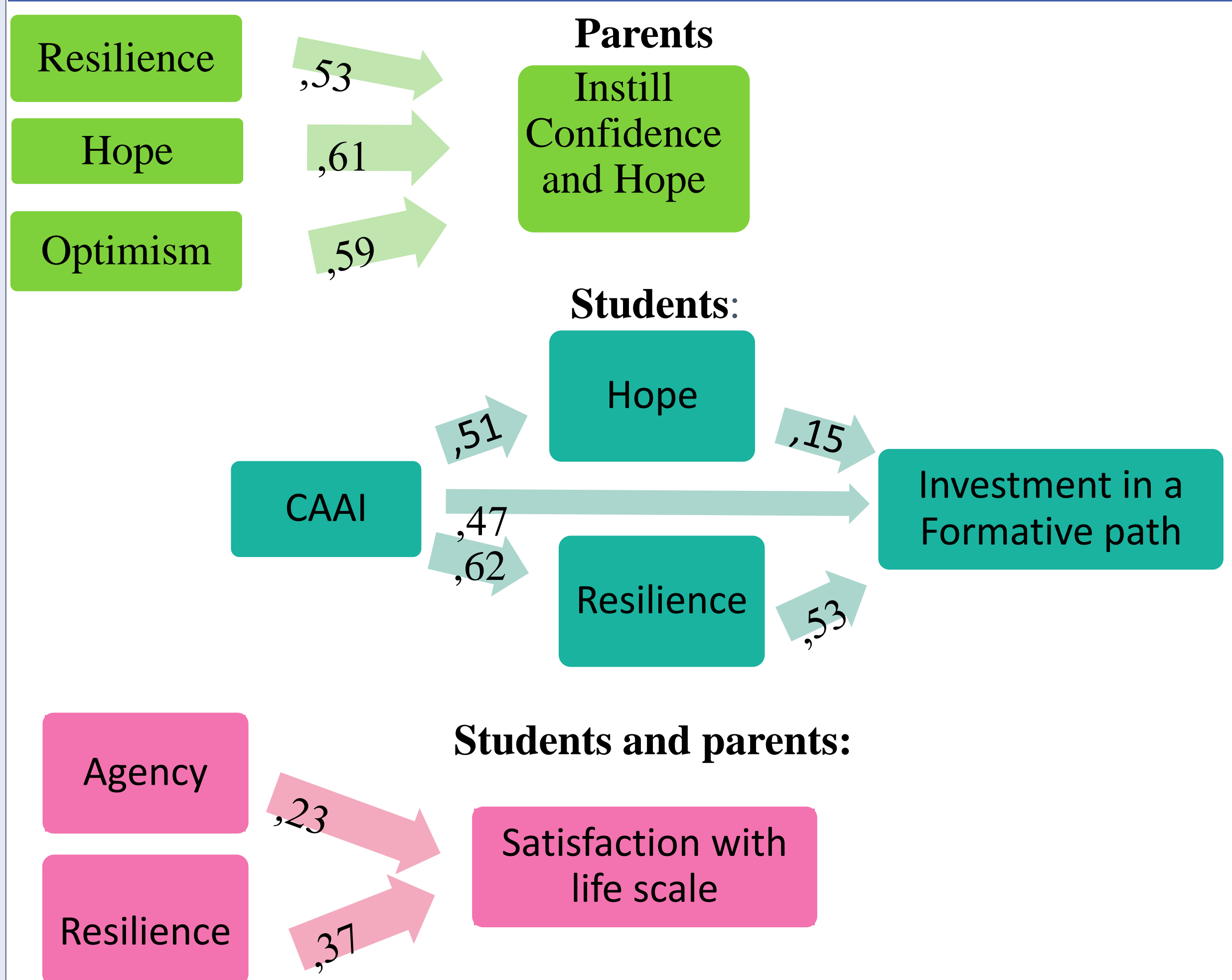
- 146 mails of the parents to the Career Counselling Service (for students) in Milano Bicocca University
- 49 questionnaires (with open questions) of high school students

Data Analysis:

- T-Lab Analysis

PRELIMINARY RESULTS:

Quantitative



Qualitative: Why do the parents substitute their children?

Don't perceive their children autonomous

"I am the mother of student. He makes effort to manage by himself, I would like to know the exact timetable of the lessons." (Mail N 37)

"Can we go to the student office to have more information about how many exams our son has really done?" (Mail 5)

No trust

Imagine the children as too busy

"For us who work and for our son who comes home from school at 14.30, it is difficult to come to your service, can we find a day in line with our work and with our son school" (Mail 12)

CONCLUSION

- Parents have an important role about career choices;
- Regardless of socio-demographic factors, the level of hope and resilience in parents and students can influence the capacity to invest in a future path and the life satisfaction
- For the parents, with the support of a career counsellor, it is necessary to reflect about the importance to find a right distance
- **Next steps:**
 - To analyze parents and children data together
 - To investigate parents of children with a disabilities

REFERENCES

- Beck, U. (2000). Risk society revised: Theory, politics and research programs. In B. Adam, U. Beck e J. Van Loon, *The risk society and beyond: Critical issues for social theory* (pp. 211-229). Sage Publications, London.
- Camussi E., Gritti A., Annovazzi C., et al. (2015), "Da Grande Farò il Pompiere: il ruolo dei genitori nelle scelte di formazione Universitaria", in "La speranza e l'ottimismo: Strumenti per fronteggiare i tempi di crisi" a cura di Nota L. & Soresi S. Hogrefe Editore.
- Coburn, K.L. (2006). Organizing a ground crew for today's helicopter parents. *About Campus*, 11(3), 9-16.
- Daniel, B.V., Evans, S.G. e Scott, B.R. (2001). Understanding family involvement in the college experience today. *New Directions for Student Services*, 94, 3-13.
- Savickas, M.L. (2014). Work values: A career construction elaboration. In M. Pope, L.Y. Flores e P.J. Rottinghaus (a cura di), *The Role of Values in Careers* (pp. 3-297). Information Age Publishing Inc., Charlotte, NC.