



**Invited Symposium:
Vocational designing & prevention**

Chair: Laura Nota

Symposium Abstract

Our society is characterized by an increasing of poverty, unemployment, precariousness and underemployment even in the richest countries. An increasing number of people may find it hard to plan for the future, particularly those who are experiencing underemployment, unemployment, chronic illnesses and disability. More often families are experiencing economic hardships and difficulties. These times characterized by marked uncertainty require promoting individuals' strengths against adversities, to accept a delay in reinforcements and satisfactions, and to transform indecision and uncertainty into opportunities. At this regards prevention is very important. Prevention in the Life Design framework means placing focus on people's future much earlier than any transitions or difficulties appearing on the horizon. Career counseling, career education and career coaching efficacy could be measured in terms of its capacity for "change the endings" of the many people's life stories by fostering their adaptability, a broader activity base, hope, resilience and optimism. On the basis of this, the symposium wants to emphasize the role of prevention, and examines what can be done at this regard with children, adolescents, and adults. Research data and diverse types of intervention will be discussed. Prof. Nota introduces the symposium, synthesizing the most recent considerations about prevention in the field of vocational designing. Prof. Schultheiss presents ecological and intersectional perspectives of childhood career development within economic and cultural contexts and prevention efforts associate to these perspectives. Prof. Savickas focuses on adaptability and on intergenerational self as a site of co-construction of life and career stories in adolescences. Prof. Soresi and dr. Sgaramella focus on a program developed to prevent markedly negative visions of the future in adolescents who are inclined to consider unnecessary to take care of the future and engage in their own life design. Prof. Duarte, the discussant, brings her vast expertise on vocational designing in discussion of the presentations.

Childhood Career Development: Broadening the lens to include Intersectional Perspectives to inform Prevention

Donna E. Schultheiss

Cleveland State University, Cleveland, USA

Renewed interest in childhood career development has produced important contributions to our knowledge of childhood interests and perceived competence (Sodano, 2011; Tracey & Sodano, 2008), occupational and educational aspirations and expectations (Howard et al., 2011; Rojewski, 2007), career exploration (Patton &

Porfeli, 2007), and relational contexts (Schultheiss, 2007; Whiston & Keller, 2004). These recent developments in theory and research acknowledge and support the view that essential antecedents to adolescent and adult career development emerge during childhood and serve as the foundation for future progress (cf., Porfeli, Hartung, & Vondracek, 2008). Despite these great strides, our understanding of childhood career development remains circumscribed by a constricted focus on the child within proximal contexts. This presentation will broaden the lens by presenting ecological (cf., Bronfenbrenner, 1979) and intersectional perspectives of childhood career development within economic and cultural contexts. The consequences of parental unemployment on childhood career development will be used to illustrate these perspectives and inform prevention efforts.

Developing Adaptability and Life Story Construction in Young Adolescents

Mark Savickas

Northeast Ohio Medical University, Rootstown, USA

Career education and coaching have the goal of teaching people about normative developmental tasks and preparing them to master these tasks. Historically, these efforts at prevention concentrate on fostering attitudes and teaching competencies that support readiness and adaptability for coping with change and transitions. With the narrative turn in career psychology, attention now focuses on the power of crafting life stories that support for prevention and for resilience. This presentation will discuss life designing techniques that families and psychologists can use to help young people construct and narrate family stories and personal autobiographies that empower individuals to deal with the uncertainties of today's risk societies.

A prevention program for adolescents with a negative view of their future

Salvatore Soresi & Teresa Maria Sgaramella

University of Padova, Italy

Professional choice and career planning ask for aspirations, desires, perspectives, positive orientation and willingness of caring about future. The actual economic crisis has dramatically increased the NEET generation, consisting of youths who are Not in Education nor in Employment and are even not actively involved in Training.

In this presentation authors focus on a program developed by LaRIOS Laboratory to prevent markedly negative visions of the future in adolescents who are inclined to consider unnecessary to take care of the future and engage in their own life design.

Discussant: Maria Eduarda Duarte

University of Lisbon, Lisbon, Portugal

Poverty, unemployment, precariousness, underemployment, are strong words both in concept, or when transformed into realities. How change the endings of life stories embodied with the meanings of those words? Giving personal meaning to words like prevention; pay attention to childhood career development; put in context adaptability as a site of co-construction of life; develop programs to take care of the future; reframe career intervention and fit coaching between education and counseling. At the end, rebuilt...rebuilt... rebuilt vocational approaches and turn it them into life design co-construction.







