

NEWSLETTER
SUMMER 2014

We wish all ERU members sunny and joyful summer!

This is the summer 2014 edition of the ERU newsletter in which we share many interesting events for our members most important of these is the **EADP-Jacobs Foundation Summer School in Greece. Enjoy!**



Summary of the Senior Lectures

by Stefanos Mastrotheodoros, University of Athens, Greece & Skerdi Zahaj, University of Tirana, Albania

The summer school Risk and Resilience: Multilevel Dynamics involved a great team of senior scholars in the field of risk and resilience. All of us, young scholars, were honored to learn from their knowledge and be presented with new perspectives on methodology and developmental

approaches. Senior lecturers gave us the brilliant example of being a mentor, researcher, lecturer and psychologists at once.

The scientific program started with a lecture by Prof. Ann Masten with the focus on “Resilience in Development: Dynamic, Multilevel Models”. Her presentation was really intriguing, very clear and engaged all of us in discussion. She focused on resilience in developing systems, multilevel dynamics, promotive and protective processes. The aim of the presentation was to emphasize that resilience must be studied at multilevel dynamics.



The second lecture was a conceptual predecessor of the first: Hierarchical Linear Modeling (HLM) by Prof. Jens Asendorpf. During this session, and in the afternoon workshop, he gave us a good overview of the rationale of conducting a multilevel analysis along with a step-by-step guide through the stages of conducting such an analysis: data preparation, data analysis, interpretation of results. At the end of the day, we already felt amazed by the richness of the sessions, and eager for the days to come.



On the second day, Prof. Froma Walsh gave a lecture on family resilience adding to the multilevel approach to understanding resilience. She introduced the “Walsh Family Resilience Framework”, broadening the spectrum of theoretical constructs we can use in our research. Her presentation was focused on key processes in family resilience and research challenges in the context.

The next lecture was a step-by-step tutorial by Prof. Manuel Voelke on “Static and Dynamic Models of Longitudinal Data Analysis. He managed to convert “a complicated set of mathematical and equation symbols” and make us understand better research methodologies. Prof. Voelke introduced continuous time modeling, named “the absolute future in longitudinal data analysis”. During the afternoon session we analyzed longitudinal data using R and Onyx.



Prof. Christine Heim made a presentation about psychobiological mechanisms of depression risk after childhood trauma. She focused on neuroplastic reorganization which is dependent on nature and timing and the interaction between genes and environment in developing depression after abuse in childhood. Her presentation was very important to understand the interaction between early environment, biology and expressions during development.

Prof. Michael Pluess made a presentation on variability in psychological reactivity: vulnerability, differential susceptibility, or vantage sensitivity? He presented vantage sensitivity as a new model for human differences in reactivity to positive influences. His presentation was modern, very well organized; the pictures, graphs and examples were placed perfectly on the slides. It was a perfect example how a presentation should be made.



The last day of Senior Lectures was opened by Prof. Frosso Motti with the topic immigrant youth adaptation in the school context: a multilevel, dynamic perspective on risks and resources. The presentation was really interesting for the theoretical and methodological approaches. The data were analyzed by Hierarchical Linear Modeling and gave to all of us a bright example that resilience is better understood by multilevel models.

The last presentation was from Prof. Katariina Salmela-Aro with the topic on promoting wellbeing during critical life transitions. Her presentation was focused on all critical life transitions of human development and emphasized the obstacles and resilience factors. Her presentation was the “sweet” after all the different tastes.



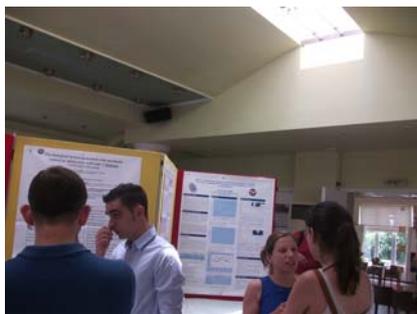
Summary of the Young Scholars' Presentations

by Rongqin Yu, Utrecht University, the Netherlands & Lara Ayala Nunes, University of Seville, Spain

Throughout the Summer School, two student presentations followed the faculty members' presentations. This was an excellent opportunity for participants to become acquainted with each other's research work. It was greatly enriching to get a glimpse at our colleagues' studies made in such diverse cultures (7 countries) and covering a wide life-span (from infancy to adulthood) with different methodologies (from Structural Equation Modeling to qualitative analysis). More specifically, the juniors presented their research on various topics such as infant's self-regulation skills, resilience on the situations of ex-kidnapped and ex combatants, and preparedness against future setbacks. The audiences were some of the best researchers in the field of resilience and young scholars who share similar interests. The seniors were very friendly, approachable, and active. We benefited a lot from their helpful feedback, insightful thoughts, and suggestions for further steps in our research projects. Among junior scholars, we learned a lot from each other in designing studies, analyzing data, improving writing, and many other aspects of academic skills. We shared our experiences in dealing with challenges in the junior stage of scientific career. We chatted about our dreams in science. Finally, in this very stimulating environment, we were able to form follow up collaborations after the summer school.

Summary of the Poster Session

by Angie Paola Román Cárdenas, Catholic University, Italy



The scientific program of the summer school concluded with the poster session. Young researchers and faculty members shared their ideas and feedback around diverse research projects that were presented. As part of the general dynamic, participants and faculty members had the opportunity to read each poster before the formal presentation. Then, an oral presentation of five minutes for each participant was considered. Each participant introduced the general topic of the research project, the main research questions, the sample, the method that was used and some questions that considered significant to be discussed with faculty members and with the other colleagues. This is the list of the researches presented during the poster session:

- What works, for whom, and under what circumstances: Applying the differential susceptibility model to the evaluation of efficacy of an antibullying/cyberbullying program (*Benedetta Palladino*, University of Firenze, Italy)
- Impact of early life stress on structural brain development and affective problems -Berlin Longitudinal Children Study (*Judith Overfeld*, Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Germany)
- Antenatal depression effects on infants' psychobiological development (*Sarah Nazzari*, University College London, UK)
- Psychological factors associated with metabolic control in



adolescents with type 1 diabetes (*Andrada Cosma*, Babes-Bolyai University, Romania)

- Religiosity and adaptation of immigrant adolescents in the Greek school context: A multilevel, longitudinal study (*Aliki Dimopoulou*, University of Athens, Greece)
- Developmental tasks, income and agency during emerging adulthood: A longitudinal study (*Mette Ranta*, University of Helsinki, Finland)
- The role of basic need satisfaction and motivation in adolescent's resilience: A self determination theory perspective (*Arcan Tigrak*, Hacettepe University, Turkey)
- Are there optimal levels of parental control for adolescent adjustment? (*Loes Keijsers*, Utrecht University, The Netherlands)
- Risk and promotive factors in a small island community: A model of positive youth development in adolescence (*Pasquale Musso*, University of Palermo, Italy)
- Development of collective identity: A three-year longitudinal study of Turkish-Bulgarian, Muslim-Bulgarian and Bulgarian adolescents (*Radosveta Dimitrova*, Stockholm University, Sweden)
- Identity formation among Albanian adolescents: A cross-sectional comparison from middle adolescence to late adolescence (*Skerdi Zahaj*, University of Tirana, Albania)



The poster session was really appreciated by all participants of the Summers School. It was an important space in which faculty and young researchers shared experiences and discussed new ideas and feedback about the topics that were presented. According to the general evaluation made by participants about the dynamic of the poster session, one of the most enriching parts was the assignment of a moderator and a discussant of the faculty. This articulation between the general introduction of the poster and the feedback made by the discussant and other participants, has permitted to underline the strengths and to consider new possibilities to enrich each research project, especially on its methodological part. Participants made suggestions for future summer schools, to organize the presentation of the posters, divided in different sessions at the end of each day of the scientific program, in order to have each poster exposed during the entire summer school.

Summary of the Social Events

by Bendetta Palladino, Florence University, Italy

Just after we all arrived and we had the first little taste of Syros, the start of this experience was absolutely delicious (as expected from Greek cuisine) and the deliciousness for our senses continued throughout the summer school. It all began with a welcome dinner on the terrace of the meetings location that overlooks the sea, following a short introductory presentation. Besides, we had two other social events in the middle of the Summer School and for its conclusion, in which we managed to enjoy the breathtaking sunsets and a totally relaxing atmosphere, which certainly helped creating a truly friendly environment that was perfect for networking.



The locations of the social events, Ermoupolis, San Michali and the Kini bay (Allou Gialou restaurant), were marvellous and had been chosen appositely so that we could experience all the richness of the island, from the peak to the sea and its' stunning coast. Both from the top and from the bank, the view of the archipelago of Cyclades in front of us was absolutely astonishing and this made the background of all of our evenings even more pleasant and remarkable. This way, it became much easier to communicate informally, share and shape experiences and future plans and establish positive relationships, professionally and personally. All of these moments complemented perfectly all of the days of hard work in which we could surely interact with professors and other participants, maybe, in a more "educational-related" context. During our stay, we were really able to get to know each other. The diversity of participants and their different countries of origin along

with the varied research topics brought to inspiring conversations and helped us come up with creative suggestions and the possibility of future international collaborations. We believe we owe a lot to the organizers of these events, who made possible this delightful opportunity of sharing and the marvellous experience that came with it.



A large amount of gratefulness goes also to our Greek “summer school mates” who really took care of us (and especially of our palate..) during the informal evenings they organized the other days: we really appreciate all of their efforts to show us Greek habits and their ability of sharing which made our stay even more comfortable and pleasant. All of these interactions came through a perfect melting pot in which a relaxing context, the most delicious dishes, an enormous variety of people, knowledge and experiences along with a great company, created the best of moods for new relationships to grow.

Final thoughts, feedback and acknowledgments!!!!

The last day of the summer school, we dedicated a morning session to discuss with our colleagues and seniors what we have learned and how we see the future and also EADP can do for young scholars. We all agreed that we gained knowledge on three different statistical packages, on integration of statistical techniques and different definitions about resilience. We developed a lot of contacts and friendships, while also learning the work of others from different international perspective. We very much appreciated the individual consultation sessions, parallel sessions and thematic sessions and informal and professional setting for work and discussion.

For the future, we all agreed that we definitely need more training and capacity building events e.g. workshops, seminars and the continuation of the ERU writing week, which is one of its kind. We also would like to see more opportunities for visiting senior scholars and work together on a similar topic. Ideas on developing special topic groups have been discussed, along with the opportunity to plan events for the EADP biennial meeting in Braga.

We are all extremely grateful to EADP and Jacobs foundation for such an important training event for our careers!

Feedback by the Summer School Participants

“This summer school was a great experience for me, as I had the chance to meet with young, as well as senior, scholars from many different countries, and spend with them 5 wonderful days. With the young scholars we shared ideas, interests and had lots of fun. I also feel lucky to get to meet with the senior scholars, as I got plenty of useful directions from them, regarding how to continue or to improve my PhD research. The program was skill oriented which I found really helpful. The spot was great, as it was so easy after long sessions to go for a refreshing swim in the sea in front of the hotel. All in all, this summer school was a great experience that I think should be repeated and be looked for by any young researcher.”

Stefanos Mastrotheodoros, University of Athens, Greece

“Being part of summer school “Risk and Resilience: Multilevel dynamics” has been a very important experience for my professional career. During the summer school I learnt what I have to study for being a good researcher in developmental psychology. The Senior Lectures were a brilliant example of being a mentor, researcher, lecturer and psychologists in one person. Also, I met very inspiring young scholars, with whom I will collaborate in the near and long future.”

Skerdi Zahaj, University of Tirana, Albania

“The summer school was an excellent opportunity to meet other early career developmental psychology researchers, as well as present my research and consult with experts in the field. I am sure my research and professional development will benefit from the experience of the summer school.”

Lucy Markson, Cambridge Univeristy, UK

“Proud being scholar where my understanding grows - Comprehension.” All in all, I was very pleased with the experience.”

Eliina Marttinen, University of Helsinki, Finland

“It has been a very fruitful summer school for me. I met several leading scholars in my research field. I was very happy that I could get very precious advice from them for my projects. I also have met a lot of wonderful junior researchers. I learned so much from them in doing better research.”

Rongqin Yu, Utrecht University, the Netherlands

“I enjoyed the summer school and hope to have an opportunity to attend similar happenings again. It was inspiring to hear lectures of the different topics on the field of developmental psychology from the wide variety of experts and I enjoyed the statistical workshops, although the time was sometimes too limited. Also meeting other young scholars was interesting and fun, and I think summer schools like this are good ways to broaden your networks and views of the field of study.”

Päivi Merjonen, University of Helsinki, Finland

“The summer school was a rich experience and an opportunity to get acquainted with new methodology and different approaches. Also, the possibility to consult with the faculty in small groups but also on a more personal basis, as well as meeting peers that face or have recently faced similar challenges was an amazing motivation.”

Nancy Papathanasiou, University of Athens, Greece

“The summer school offered a great opportunity for young researchers to enjoy science, and specifically the developmental resilience science, in a beautiful environment like the Syros Island. It actually enriched my scientific background thanks to senior lectures, junior talks and poster session, and especially the mutual exchange of perspectives and opinions among participants. I had a European breath of a young research community. We need some kind of air!”

Pasquale Musso, Univeristy of Palermo, Italy

ERU is very pleased to welcome new national representatives for Italy: Benedetta Palladino and Pasquale Musso. Their short bio and research interests are presented below.

Benedetta E. Palladino



Benedetta obtained in 2014 her doctorate in Psychology and Neuroscience – Cognitive Science, Developmental Psychology - at the University of Florence, Italy, with a dissertation about an evidence based program against bullying and cyberbullying. She evaluated a program developed by her research group with a specific focus on measurement of the constructs, evaluation of efficacy and moderation and mediation processes involved. She is currently working as post-doctoral researcher at Department of Educational Sciences and Psychology, University of Florence. Her main research interests are on bullying, cyberbullying, the impact of new technologies and evidence based intervention, specifically on designing and evaluation of school-based programs. Since 2010 she is also involved as a teaching assistant at the Faculty of Psychology at the University of Florence. She is a member of the scientific group -Laboratory on Longitudinal studies on Developmental Psychology at Florence University-responsible for delivering and evaluating intervention programs against bullying and cyberbullying.

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Pasquale Musso

Pasquale Musso obtained his master degree in Developmental and Educational Psychology in 2005 and his PhD in Public Relations in 2011 at Palermo University, Italy. His doctoral dissertation focused on development of European identity in childhood and adolescence and its implication in terms of European policy and governance. During the PhD course, he was a visiting student at UCLA working with the group of Prof. P. Bentler on multivariate analysis with latent variables and structural equation modeling, took part in the research group of the European project “Training Citizenship and Intercultural Education: methods and resources for adult learning (Tra.C.I.E.)” funded by European Commission (Lifelong Learning Program, Grundtvig, Multilateral Project) and started his participation in the international research program MIRIPS (Mutual Intercultural Relations in Plural Societies), promoted by Prof. J. Berry. From 2005 to 2012 he also worked as psychologist and coordinator of civic youth centres in Palermo. Currently, he is working at the Psychological and Educational Sciences Department at Palermo University and his research interests focus on development of European identity, mutual intercultural relations in a developmental perspective, citizenship and intercultural education and the role of community characteristics in the risk and promotive processes during adolescence.



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ERU/SECC EVENT AT THE SRCD MEETING IN PRAGUE

The ERU at the EADP and SECC (Student and Early Career Council at the SRCD) are collaborating on the planning of special lunchtime sessions which will give students and early career scholars the opportunity to network with senior scholars in the field. Students and early career attendees will be contacted before the meeting in order to sign up for these events by Radosveta. More information at <http://www.srcd.org/meetings/2014-special-topic-meetings/3-positive-youth-development>

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Call for papers Child Development, for a Special Section on *"Discrimination, Social Exclusion, and Intergroup Attitudes: Equity and Justice in Developmental Science"*. More at <http://www.srcd.org/publications/child-development/calls-special-issues-sections>
- The 14th Biennial Conference of the European Association for Research on Adolescence, September 3-6, Cesme, Turkey <http://www.eara2014.org/welcome>
- SRCD Meeting in Prague, October 22-26th 2014. More at <http://www.srcd.org/meetings/2014-special-topic-meetings/3-positive-youth-development>
- 14th European Congress of Psychology, Milan on 7-10 July 2015. More at <http://www.ecp2015.it/>