
EARA Newsletter

European Association for Research on Adolescence

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From the President

Once more, the EARA Congress looms on the horizon.

For EARA, it is the event of the year, in fact the event of the biennium. EARA lives for this congress, and every two years, each of us chooses the best of his or her work to present. Many have already proposed a presentation, a poster or a symposium, showing once again the productivity and the willingness of our members to communicate and to explain the work accomplished, ready for discussion, confrontation, critique, and suggestions in order to improve the methods, the concepts, and the hypotheses, all the ingredients of good research.

This congress will take place at a wonderful venue, an idyllic Greek island, with blue skies, emerald seas and a picturesque harbour; a paradise one could only dream of. When a dream becomes reality, it is an exceptional experience. There is something symbolic about having this congress in Greece. Greece is the birthplace of mythology, which has inspired not only Western civilization but also psychoanalytic theory, and to such an extent that even the most scientific behavioural psychologist cannot deny its heritage in the psychological culture, with its unrelenting

interrogation of the unconscious. Greece is also a symbol of the present, as the prototype of the financial crisis in Europe, a fitting analogy of the crisis of adolescence, a key focus of our association. Going to Spetses is partly a way of going back to our roots and, as in adolescence, a search for identity as well as hope for the future, our ambitions in adulthood and, as Europeans, our beliefs in Europe; Shared ideals of solidarity, and living together in harmony in the acceptance of diversity.

All the presentations and discussions during the congress will remind us that adolescence is the period of life where stability meets instability, where changes meet traditions, and where individuality meets collectivity. It is the same for Greece, for Europe, and for EARA: Life is a succession of changes, alternating between differentiation and integration, insecurity and security, crisis and growth, and socialization and individualization.

We are all wholeheartedly on board as our Greek colleagues fight against adversity to maintain good quality research, and give the very best of themselves in organising a high-level congress. Many thanks to them! And to emphasise our appreciation, I would like to add that we are proud to announce that organisation is well underway for the Summer School, which will also be held in Spetses, the week before the congress. Many thanks to the Jonathan Jacob Foundation and Lauree Tilton-Weaver for their tremendous energy. Once again, we can anticipate that this Summer School, "jewel" of the EARA, will be of an exceptional quality and fruitfulness.

As you can see, these exciting perspectives draw me to one simple conclusion: I look forward to seeing you all in Spetses.

Best wishes.
Michel Born,
University of Liège

Announcement: 13th EARA Biennial Conference

Georgios Georgouleas
University of Athens, Greece

The 13th EARA Conference is going to take place on the island of Spetses, Greece, August 29 to September 1, 2012. The general theme of the conference is Adolescence, i.e. studying adolescence from different perspectives. Thus, research on adolescence from different areas of Psychology - Developmental, Clinical, Social - as well as from other disciplines of psychosocial interest is most welcomed.

Researchers and practitioners from different disciplines across Europe and all over the world, who study adolescence, will have the opportunity to exchange ideas, discuss their research findings and pose new questions for research. At the same time, they can enjoy their stay on the beautiful Greek island of Spetses.

The Conference program will include keynote lectures by internationally recognised scholars and researchers, invited symposia on key issues in adolescent development, paper symposia, poster symposia, oral presentations and poster sessions.

More than 600 abstracts have already been submitted and notification of acceptance has already finished. For each paper at least one author is expected to register. The deadline for early registration is June 14, 2012. In the following table one can find detailed information on registration fees and dates.

TYPES	Up to	From	From
	14/06/2012	15/06/2012 up to 15/07/2012	16/07/2012 & on site registration
EARA members	€240.00	€290.00	€320.00
Non EARA members	€290.00	€340.00	€370.00
EARA student members	€180.00	€210.00	€240.00
Student non EARA members	€205.00	€245.00	€270.00
Accompanying Persons	€100.00	€120.00	€150.00

We welcome you to Spetses, to enjoy both a productive conference and a wonderful leisure time!

For more information and updates, please check/visit the conference website: www.eara2012.gr



Spetses island during the sunset

From the EARA Student & Early Career Network

Activities for students and postdocs in Spetses, Greece

Jenny Symonds
University of Helsinki, Finland

At every EARA conference, the Student and Early Career Network (SECNet) of EARA provides activities that are open for students and postdocs to attend, such as a dinner outing to a local restaurant, a dedicated area at drinks receptions, and conference sessions aimed at early career researchers.

In addition, if you are interested in having your voice heard please join us at the biennial meeting of the SECNet committee where we gather your suggestions, conveying them directly to the EARA executive committee, as well as encouraging you to join our committee for 2012.

Interested? There is more information on our website:

<https://sites.google.com/site/earasecnet/>

News from Across Europe

Cyprus Collected by Olga Solomontos-Kountouri

Neapolis University, Pafos

The research on adolescence at the Cypriot universities is in a good stage of development. An area that is attracting considerable research attention is bullying. Two reasons make bullying a salient topic to Cypriot researchers: Firstly, bullying is a hot international research topic. In many countries, a large number of young people experience bullying and victimisation in schools, which damages their psychological health, their relations, and even their motivation to learn. Secondly, Cyprus has not yet developed an official anti-bullying program to tackle violent school incidences that are growing each year. The results of evaluations of successful intervention programs in other countries provide the encouraging news that bullying can be reduced.

At the *University of Cyprus*, a strong research group is investigating and publishing on the topic of bullying. Stelios Georgiou, Panagiotis Stavrinidis and Kostas Fanti have conducted important research on several topics relating to the bullying issue, such as parental style and child bullying and victimisation experiences at school, the role of mothers in bullying and victimisation at school, the psychosocial profiles and attribution styles of bullies, victims and bully-victims, the relationship between bullying and psychosocial adjustment, the relationship between bullying and empathy, the role of conduct problems and psychopathic traits in bullying and victimisation, and the examination of risk and protective factors of Cyber-bullying. The group is expanding the circle of research on the topic.

At the *University of Neapolis*, Pafos, which is a new Cypriot university, we are approaching bullying from an applied site. From December 2011, an official research collaboration between Dr. Dagmar Strohmeier (Linz University, Upper Austria) and Dr Olga Solomontos-Kountouri (Neapolis University, Pafos) was established. Within this collaboration a proposal to the Ministry of Education and Culture of Cyprus to pilot and implement VISC (the Viennese Social Competence Program) in Cypriot secondary schools is in the process of approval. From February 2012, our research collaboration was further strengthened by the addition of Dr Popa Simona from the University of Oradea, Romania, and Eva-Maria Schiller from the University of Muenster, Germany. The team has applied to Dahnpe III to fund the advanced anti-bullying school program, "Empowering schools to prevent bullying", which is going to be implemented and evaluated in all four countries.

At the *European University*, the Center for the Study of Childhood and Adolescence is focusing on another hot issue: the students' views and experiences of racism and ethnic-minority groups in Cyprus. Dr. Peter Stevens and Dr. Spyros Spyrou and their team is using a case study approach to explore how a school and broader social contexts influence young people's expressions of and experiences with racism, their strategies in response to racism, and the influence of racism on their wellbeing. A key outcome of this project is the development of an informative booklet that will summarise the main findings of this research to professionals working in the field of education, and offer general guidelines and examples of 'good practice' that can assist secondary schools in addressing racism and ethnic stereotyping.



Dott. Olga Solomontos-Kountouri, Cyprus representative and former EARA student union representative

Report about EARA workshop in Torino

**"To get in touch with
international research: scholars,
methods and peers"**

Workshop in Turin, Italy – 17 – 21 July, 2011
*Michaela Sokoliová, Masaryk University, Brno,
Czech Republic*



Piazza Castello, Torino

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To be one of the “workshoppers“ (participants in the workshop) in Turin was absolutely worth the effort! As presented by one of our lecturers on the last day, doing statistics is like travelling. It can be very costly and tiring but If you have the right motivation, you will enjoy the beauty of getting to know new things. But let’s go back to the beginning. We started our time in Turin at the welcome dinner on the evening of the 17th, just after we had all arrived. The welcome dinner was absolutely delicious (as would be expected of Italian cuisine), and the deliciousness continued during the workshop too because we had lunch every day at the same place (thanks to Lori and Alberto from the 8porte Restaurant). We were welcomed by prof. Silvia Ciairano who organised the workshop at her home university (PhD Course in Psychological, Anthropological and Educational Sciences: <http://dott-spae.campusnet.unito.it/do/home.pl>). Prof. Michel Born, the president of EARA, also gave a welcome speech.

On Monday, the first day working together, we presented our own research in two subgroups. We received useful feedback from the senior researchers and college students. We then briefly brought together our research to present to the group as a whole. Senior researchers gave us recommendations on which methodological workshop to choose from the four available (1. SEM – Structural equation models for beginners and intermediates, lecturer: Vilmante Pakalniskiene, Vilnius University; 2. Mixed models (multilevel), lecturer: Enrique Ortega, University of Torino; 3. Latent growth models, lecturer: Metin Özdemir, Örebro University, and 4. Qualitative text analysis, lecturer: Luigia Simona Sica, Naples University). The president of EARA Michel Born and EARA secretary Susan Branje as well as Alida Lo Coco and Elena Marta from AIP (Italian Association of Psychology) participated in the workshop on Monday. On the second and third days we were divided into 4 groups and did a lot of hard work. During this time, we spoke about our own research, we worked on our own data and we got feedback, some hints and some advice from our lecturers. The fourth day was the last and concluded with a wonderful lunch.

During our stay in Torino, we were able to know one another. The diversity of participants and their different countries of origin, along with the varied research topics, resulted in inspiring conversations and helped us to come up with creative suggestions, and the possibility of future international cooperation (our final goodbye went something like: “Goodbye, let’s write some article together!”).

Our gratitude goes to the organisational team (of post-docs, PhD students, technicians and administrators) who all took care of us during the entire workshop (and particularly to Delia Latina, Fabrizia Giannotta, Michele Settanni, Paolo Leoni, Werner Gaiotto, Marco Accossato, Adriana Orlandini, and Alessandro Argan).

Many thanks go to EARA association (European Association of Research on Adolescence) and also to AIP (Italian Association of Psychology) and CRT Foundation for sponsoring the methodological workshop we participated in, and giving us the

opportunity to GET IN TOUCH WITH INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH (and also researchers, colleagues, and friends). Many thanks also go to the Department and the Faculty of Psychology at the University of Torino, for hosting the Workshop in their facilities.

So last but not least, thanks also to our college students for the excellent time we had together! We enjoyed spending time together and look forward to seeing one another again at the conference or workshop that will be organised by our lovely EARA team. Grazie mille!



First part of a working day in Torino: The first and the most important statistical rule – no fishing!!! ☺



Second part of a working day in Torino: *Participants of the EARA – AIP workshop in Turin during a night walk.*

From left to right: José Egidio Oliveira (Portugal), Mohammad Azizi (Iran), Gloria Nogueiras Redondo (Spain), Kirsten Bevelander (the Netherlands), Leman Korkmaz (Turkey), Ettore De Angeli (Italy), Ümit Morsünbül (Turkey), Benedetta Emanuela Palladino (Italy); in the foreground from left to right: Irene Barbieri (Italy), Michaela Sokoliová (myself), Marcella Caputi (Italy), Tiziana Di Palma (Italy).

Other valuable participants not included in the photo: Luisa Cherubini (Italy), Rasa Pilkauskaitė Valickiene (Lithuania), Milda Astrauskaite (Lithuania), Gabriela Christoph (Germany), Kathrin

Schuck (the Netherlands), Anna Agnieszka Filus (Poland).

Other participants from the guest university: Nives Sala, Erica Salomone, Marta Casonato, Francesca Gianotti, Filippo Candela, Giulia Zucchetti, Giulia Bardaglio, Francesca Magno, Danilo Marasso, Daniele Magistro, Antonella Roggero, Emanuela Rabaglietti, Mattia Roppolo, Anna Mulasso, Francesca Ponci.

Final words by

Silvia Ciairano, University of Torino, Italy

I am very happy that, in spite of the limited resources available, we were able to organise this successful event. I think that involvement of young scholars from very different countries in effective and up-to-date methodological courses, especially when these courses are theory-driven, is probably the most important thing we can do to promote and to spread high levels of scientific research throughout Europe and even further afield.

Conference and Summer school Announcements

SPR 20th Annual Meeting

"Promoting Healthy Living through Prevention Science"

May 29 - June 1, 2012, Hyatt Regency Washington, Washington, DC.

6th Congress of the European Society on Family Relations (ESFR)

"Families in Changing Europe: Challenges, Conflicts and Intervention"

26-29 September, 2012
Lillehammer, Norway.

3rd International Conference of the EUSPR (European Society for Prevention Research)

6/7 December 2012, Cracow, Poland.

European Summer School 2012

"Illicit drugs in Europe: supply, demand and public policies"

2-13 July, Lisbon, Portugal.

10th Annual Summer Institutes: "Stats Camps"

June 2012, The Center for Research Methods and Data Analysis and the Quantitative Training Program at the University of Kansas, see for info http://web.ku.edu/~quant/StatsCamps/StatsCampAnnounceInclusive_2012.pdf

EARA Publications

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