



EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR RESEARCH ON ADOLESCENCE



Call for Abstracts

Journal of Adolescence: Special Issue

“Resilience in Adolescence: Definitions, theory, and challenges”

GUEST EDITORS

Ingrid Schoon and Frosso Motti-Stefanidi (content editors)

Wim Beyers (conference and process editor)

The guest editors of the Journal of Adolescence invite contributors to the 16th Conference of the European Association for Research on Adolescence (EARA) in Ghent, Belgium, to submit an extended abstract for a special issue on adolescent resilience. This topic was a major theme at the conference, with a number of excellent contributions that are very relevant also for counselors and practitioners working with adolescents.

Interest in the study of human resilience has surged since the 1970s, following pioneering research on children at risk for psychopathology and related problems, providing evidence for the human capacity to adapt and flourish even in the face for severe hardship and adversity. There has been a convergence in findings regarding the multiple factors and processes enabling resilience, including biological, psychological, social and cultural influences (Masten, 2015). Systematic reviews and meta-analyses of the literature has however been difficult, given inconsistencies and variations in how resilience concepts are defined and operationalized (Masten & Cicchetti, 2016). Thus the increasing attention to the field has been paralleled by concerns regarding the rigor of theory and research. These concerns are ongoing. Already in 2000 a seminal paper by Luthar, Cicchetti and Becker raised issues such as ambiguities in definitions and terminology, variations in risk experiences, instability of the phenomenon, and questions regarding the utility of resilience as a scientific construct (Luthar, Cicchetti, & Becker, 2000; see also Schoon, 2006). For example, resilience is defined as a trait, a process, or an outcome, with approaches varying across laboratories and researchers choosing a

variety of measures corresponding to their conceptual definition of resilience. Likewise, there is an ongoing discussion about the definition of key constructs such as promotive versus protective effects, which are used in varied and inconsistent ways.

The aim of this call is to bring together research on adolescent resilience and to ask contributors to clearly specify the assumptions and theoretical orientations informing their definition of resilience and operationalization of key indicators. We witnessed a number of stimulating debates based on papers presented at the 2018 EARA conference in Ghent. Therefore we call for papers based on presentations given at the 2018 EARA conference, helping us to advance the field by striving towards a consensus regarding definitions and terminology in defining and operationalizing key constructs relevant for the study of resilience in adolescents across multiple domains and systems. Self-scrutiny and rigor in research are key building blocks in advancing science. Aiming to consolidate and reflect on what we have learned about the construct of resilience in the two decades since the publication of the paper by Luthar, Cicchetti and Becker will ease the path towards a more integrated and comprehensive understanding of what matters in the lives of adolescents facing often severe hardship and upheaval.

Eligibility criteria for being considered for the special issue are the following:

- Only contributions based on presentations at the EARA 2018 conference will be considered for this special issue.
- First authors of submitted abstracts should currently be EARA members. If not yet, please check out www.earaonline.org to become a member right now.
- Empirical studies are preferred but also theoretical/review papers can be submitted.
- Both quantitative (cross-sectional and/or longitudinal) and qualitative papers as well as studies using mixed methods are welcomed.
- The paper has clear theoretical and possibly also clinical implications proving new insights in adolescent resilience.

Two-page **abstracts** (approximately 700 words) should be submitted by **March 15th, 2019**, to the process editor of this special issue, by sending the abstract in a Word-format attached to an e-mail to i.schoon@ucl.ac.uk. Abstracts should contain a clear description of research goals, questions and hypotheses, the sample(s) used, the methods and analyses performed, and the main results and conclusions. Maximum two figures and/or tables can be added to the abstract on an extra page.

Don't forget to add your e-mail and other contact information. The Guest Editors will select from the submitted abstracts to end up with a shortlist of papers that fit in with the demands of this special issue. Selected authors will be contacted and provided with further instructions for writing the paper, by e-mail no later than April 15th, 2019. These further instructions will include the JoA regular 'instructions for authors', and a short explanation on the peer review process that all selected papers will go through. If your abstract is selected, you will have time to submit the full paper till September 15th, 2019. After that we go to a (possible) period of reviewing and revising.

Planned final publication (but note JOA publishes article-by-article & day-by-day) of the complete issue is planned in spring 2020.

For more information, please contact the guest editors:

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