**ECPA 10th European Congress of Community Psychology**

**Poster Abstracts**

**Alphabetical by presenter name**

**Efficacy evaluation of a project on the social and employment reinsertion of NEET-Not (engaged) in Education, Employment or Training**

Sara Alfieri presenting, Elena Marta, Lia Calloni, Daniela Marzana, Maura Pozzi  
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**Theme 3: Protection of the ‘most vulnerable’ - children, young people growing up in ‘austerity’ older people, migrants, etc.**

**Background:** After Greece, Italy is the second European country with the largest number of NEET (Istat, 2015), for a total of around 14 million young people aged between 15 and 19. A famous Italian association proposed a project with the aim of providing soft skills to the young NEET, exploitable within the labour market. This project lasted three months and was based on sport and job training (e.g. mock job interviews, editing CVs, etc.).

**Aims:** The aim of the present study is the assessment of the project's efficacy.

**Methods:** Participants are 11 male NEET (Age: 16-24 years). The evaluation was carried out with two different instruments:

- a) Semi-structured interviews developed at the end of the project in order to understand the young people's perception of the exploitability of acquired soft skills and the project's strengths and weaknesses;
- b) A self-report questionnaire given at both the beginning and the end of the project, in order to outline the differences between the participants' level of Quality of Life, Self-efficacy and Locus of Control.

**Results and Conclusions:** The interviews' analysis showed a body of very consistent verbalizations organized around 8 categories (e.g. Quality of the horizontal and vertical relations; Expectations and motivations towards the project; Perceptions of the project's efficacy, etc.). In summary, what emerged was the participants' general satisfaction, and their identification of project as a good way to obtain several soft skills. The participants reached different levels of social engagement, however. The questionnaire analysis showed a participant's awareness about the lack of auto-efficacy in problem solving.

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**Immigration**

Antonia Bellucci presenting, Aurora Martina Russo  
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**Theme 2: What contribution does European Community Psychology make to issues like - inequality, migration, violence and censure?**

Migration phenomena characterizes the structure of contemporary societies under well-defined institutional mandates. Currently, an inexplicable formative emptiness exists and official psychology has proven to be quite indifferent with respect to migration issues.

This work has considered more than 400 people from several African countries, looking for refuge and a better life, some of whom have received, during the research, diagnosis of HIV and TBC. Research has confirmed that people exposed to severe traumatic events, being both victims or witnesses, are more susceptible to the development of disabling psychotraumatic reactions.

The trauma becomes a “cause” which acts violently on an organism causing changes. Research also shows that people who are victims of a trauma resulting from violent “natural” events, beyond human nature, find themselves faced with “material” consequences, such as poverty, mourning, economic problems, but will still have a “trust”, a hope, that derives from the fundamental possibility of referring to "others". Instead, people who are victims of a trauma resulting from human violence show psychological harm to certainties and convictions that until then were considered indispensable and immediate and could have a long and substantial impact on the possibility of returning to "the first". This is found in refugees who are victims of torture, who easily develop a significant change in personality, so that it modifies the way in which the person perceives, thinks and makes relations with the environment as well as with himself.
Modern intimate relationships: are we going through an economization of feelings?
Flora Gatti presenting, Fortuna Procentese
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Theme 1: Community Psychology interventions in Europe - celebrate the diversity and reflect on interventions

Background: In the society 2.0, with the spread of new technologies and individualization and economization processes, intimate relationships - a primary aspect in human lives - often seem as interactions between consumers and commodities, due to the wider narcissistic boosts. Coherently, new relational configurations emerged (e.g. "friends with benefits"), as individuals mainly look for their own satisfaction. Moreover, nowadays people often look for new partners also through online dating sites, which look like markets where they can choose the best partner for them among those on display.

Aims: Because of these ongoing changes, it becomes critical to understand which forms and characteristics intimate relationships are assuming.

Some studies: Studies about online dating sites use in Italian samples show the creation of not necessarily durable relationships, coherently with the consumerist logic which however doesn't associate with low authenticity and support perceived in them. Despite of this, the levels of perceived authenticity and support are medium-low, suggesting that these relationships can't help in facing negative emotions and stressful events. These studies lead us to think about support and self-disclosure - key aspects of intimacy - in modern intimate relationships, as the quality of intimate relationships affects individual well-being.

Conclusions: The challenge is to discuss and understand how to help people in facing these new intimate relationships respecting what they desire and need but in the same time reducing the negative aspects that these new relational modes can imply (as objectification of others, loss of intimacy, etc.) for individuals and communities. Moreover, are these aspects the same also in other countries?

Psicosocial ergonomy of collaborative virtual environment
Andrea Guazzini presenting
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Theme 1: Community Psychology interventions in Europe - celebrate the diversity and reflect on interventions

The important effect of Internet and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) on the daily life of people drove psychological research to explore effects on society. Therefore it is necessary to examine the effect of interaction between characteristics of virtual environments, the kind of the task and the inherent trait of the person on the group's efficacy. The literature doesn't show any evidence of the actual value of the Ringelmann effect in collaborative virtual environments. The purpose of this contribution is to deepen this aspect and it is important to be able to increase the psychosocial ergonomics of these virtual environments, in order to promise the individual well-being and the goals achievement with the little cognitive effort and necessary time. The purpose of this work is to investigate the size effect on the potential collective intelligence of the small groups. This was investigated in the virtual environment with a sample of 84 university students through computer-mediated communication. From the analysis of available literature, we looked for the size effect on virtual group's dynamics, on efficacy and quality of social interactions. The outcomes confirm the influence and the negative effects by size group on productivity and quality of social interactions in virtual environments, as well as the positive effect on the collective intelligence; but show also a complex relationship between psychological and sociodemographic factors, the characteristics of the task on group's efficacy. The scientific literature should explain this results in the future for increase the practical implications as e-learning and e-democracy.

'It’s only a pain, nowt wrong with me': challenging the stereotypes of men and health
Michael Richards presenting, Paul Simpson
Edge Hill University

Theme 4: Poverty & Inequality - Feminist responses to ‘austerity’ and neo-liberalism, critiques and interventions

This qualitative research aimed to provide a contextualised account of working class men in relation to their health and well-being. Using photography, semi-structured interviews and focus groups, the research asked what health knowledges and practices have been reproduced across the generations and why by men. Participants included men over the age of 18 up to 70 years of age, who participated in local men’s groups, including at Everton FC in Liverpool, a fathers group in Salford, male students at a local university and a mental health charity in Chester. The men were asked to take photographs of a stand-out image about health within their life world and say a little about why this was chosen at the focus group, and what it means to the individual before asking other group members for their thoughts. The findings suggest that participants generally acknowledge persistence of traditional pressures on men to be strong and resilient. However, many of these men have faced challenges relating to their mental health, and have developed ways of reflecting, knowing and questioning health seeking behaviours that challenge stereotypes of working-class/disadvantaged men as lacking vigilance, ignorance about their bodies and being emotionally inept. In conclusion, the health and well-being of working class men is not a pathological, individualised issue, but instead it relates to a complex, multifaceted set of problems that manifest in wider society.
Psychological issues in exceptional environments: adaptation and sense of community in Spacecraft. A new horizon for research about human in contexts
Aurora Martina Russo presenting, Immacolata Di Napoli
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Theme 1: Community Psychology interventions in Europe - celebrate the diversity and reflect on interventions

Background: Some environments or situations can be considered as “exceptional” and “extreme”, marked by more intense environmental stimuli (e.g., polar base, space station, submarine, prison, etc.). The present knowledge of human adaptation in such conditions is quite restricted: this represents the new challenge for future Community Psychology research and interventions.

Aims: Starting from the considerations above, the current study aims at exploring the psychological and community factors and their sequelae on spacecraft as well as analogue environments.

Method: Methodology applied to the present research consists of thorough analyses of several document, such as diaries, interviews, reports from people who have lived in such extreme conditions.

Results: Following main categories of psychological factors have been found as points of major interest in the relationship “Human Being/Environment” in the Space context as well as in analogue “extreme” environments: psychophysiological (e.g., circadian rhythms, sensory deprivation), psychoenvironmental (confinement; thermic, visual and acoustic comfort), psychosocial (privacy and socialization) and Community Psychology factors (sense of community, place identification, etc.).

Conclusions: On the basis of the results of this research, it should be noted how important is the contribution expressed by Community Psychology for studying and making interventions on extreme environments. An example of that, highlighted in the present research, are the guidelines suggested by Community Psychology in designing environments taking into account architectural requirements and sociorelational issues aimed at psychological wellness.

Women in group: a comparison between different experiences of women activation in community
Benedetta Talon presenting, Claudia Ceccarello, Valentina Zambon, Claudia Stefani, Laura Sartori, Nadia Paccagnan, Silvia Marton
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Theme 3: Protection of the ‘most vulnerable’ - children, young people growing up in ‘austerity’ older people, migrants, etc.

Background: The condition of women's need in relation to some problems (unemployment, reconciling life-job, separation, gender violence, psychological vulnerability) is often aggravated by a lack of network that affects the possibility of coping the problems. This work describes some projects in which the group acts as a setting of relationship, emotional connection and collaboration to help women to activate and to increase their proximity network, in a perspective of empowerment. We consider groups of women that use different methodologies (encounter group, self-narrative, action-research, informal socialization, active training) in some territorial projects.

Aims: The objective is to compare the different experiences of groups of women, in particular about methodologies, to identify which factors could be important for women's coping and activation in relation to the group, to their own needs and to their life contexts.

Methods: The research uses a qualitative descriptive method: the projects are compared retrospectively, through the analysis of the documentation produced during the work of the groups, in particular about evaluation processing of the group and the memories of the operators.

Results: Some elements come out from the group's analysis: the perception of not feeling alone and to share with peer-people, feeling of reciprocal responsibility, gender dimension, group identity, initiation of friend's relationships or help-relations outside the group. A critical element is to assess how much the group is able to affect the relationship between person and context.

Conclusions: Building new relationships through group experience is a strategy that can promote women's activation in relation to their own needs. Some effective methodological precautions will be explained by comparison.