

SCIENTIFIC EVENT

12th Conference of the European Academy of Occupational Health Psychology, 11-13 April, Athens

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The 12th EAOHP conference took place from 11th to 13th of April in the “Historical Capital of the World”, Athens. This year’s conference was organized by the European Academy of Occupational Health Psychology in collaboration with Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and ALBA Graduate Business School and had the title “OHP in Times of Change: Society and the workplace”. The theme drew attention on the important role of the organizational health psychology during the changes that are constantly occurring in the workplace. Factors like financial and humanitarian crises could affect the workforce and expose it to new risks. This year’s conference tried to emphasize the potential risks triggered by these constant changes and to identify possible solutions. Also finding the resilience and resources needed to build thriving employees in such environment represents a challenge that was addressed.

The participants to the conference had the opportunity to take part to 3 keynote presentations, 38 symposiums, 183 oral presentations and 84 poster presentations. The approached subjects were very diverse: the crisis effect on well-being, work intensification, job insecurity, burnout, stress, mistreatment, job crafting, leadership and many others.

The keynote presentations provided detailed information regarding three subjects related to the conference theme, the

continuously changing workplace environment. In the first presentation, Professor Joan Benach approached the subject of employment precariousness and presented the theoretical models, the factors that lead to it and the key challenges for research. In the second presentation, Christina Maslach drew attention on the evolution of burnout antecedents over time, concluding that nowadays the policies and practices of various workplaces lead to increased burnout incidence. In this context, Dr. Maslach emphasizes the role of occupational health researches and practitioners in alleviating these effects. In the third presentation, Karina Nielsen offered information on how organizational health interventions should be designed, implemented and evaluated.

Romanians had a contribution in multiple fields of research. Two of their presentations paid a special attention to the measurement issues of different concepts. The symposium “Interpersonal Mistreatment at Work: Measurement Issues” chaired by Coralia Sulea tried to shed some light on the differentiation between mistreatment constructs and their respective measures. One of the presentations of the symposium introduced a new scale that could be used to measure mistreatment, encompassing multiple facets of the concept. In another section, Alexandra Tuser presented a paper on the longitudinal perspective of the effects of interpersonal mistreatment at work

on employee health. Dragos Iliescu proposed in his presentation an adjectival approach in the measurement of antecedents and outcomes of well-being. Two other presentations focused on the relationship between job insecurity and performance. While Gabriel Fischmann went into details of the relationship between the two variables by analyzing what types of job insecurity relate to different types of performance, Delia Virga identified need satisfaction as work as mediator and self-efficacy as moderator of the relationship. The presentation of Laurentiu Maricutoiu showed the results of a randomized control trial using evaluative conditioning and identified its

effect on student well-being during exam period. Darius Turc and Eugen Valentin Androsiac presented two posters related to stress management tools and policies applied on Romanian law enforcement employees.

This year's conference was a good opportunity for researchers and practitioners from Europe and other parts of the world to share their current research ideas and exchange opinions regarding the topics that organizational health psychology is currently facing with. As a result, we are looking forward to the 13th edition of the conference will take place from 5th to 7th of September 2018 in Lisbon.