

Mental Health and Resilience in children in the time of COVID-19: The role of Executive functioning, individual, familial, and genetic factors

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Summary of the Project Proposal (max 1 page)

This research project explores work precariousness in (10)(2a) in the times of COVID-19 economic crisis. In general, work precariousness refers to all forms of poor to modestly paid work that is uncertain and risky from the worker's point of view - e.g. non-standard forms of employment and bogus self-employment. Based on the data from the recently finished global economic crisis and preliminary observations about the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, it seems reasonable to assume that this, in anyway vulnerable population of precarious workers is increasing and / or becoming even more vulnerable nowadays, faced with the pandemic and related socio-economic measures. Within the (10)(2a) context, despite the overall "attractiveness" of the phenomenon, public policies have provided a rather modest safety net to protect / empower the group, and, to the best of our knowledge, a comprehensive empirical study on the work precariousness has not yet been published.

Therefore, to benefit precarious workers, the (national) research field, policy makers in charge, trade unions and employers the project aims to achieve the following:

- a) Develop two questionnaires to comprehensively estimate work precariousness among both people involved in non-standard forms of employment and those involved in vulnerable forms of self-employment (e.g. bogus and solo self-employment) as well as identify basic risk and protective factors of the work precariousness. These objectives will be achieved by conducting a systematic (literature) review, and, to deepen such "generic" findings, by conducting a focus group with national experts recently involved in similar investigations.
- b) Estimate the level of precariousness in (10)(2a) explore the relationships among the risk and protective factors and dimensions of the work precariousness (e.g. vulnerability), and establish and create profiles of precarious workers. The objectives will be achieved by administering the questionnaires and analysing the resulting quantitative data. To identify and explore precarious workers, the survey targets the population of workers most prone to precariousness: a) the subpopulation of workers involved in non-standard forms of employment, and b) the subpopulation of bogus and other vulnerable forms of self-employed people. The sample will embrace 900 respondents in total (450 each group).
- c) Gain a first-hand comprehension of certain aspects of the questionnaire findings, investigate major needs of precarious workers, and understand their coping strategies before and during the COVID-19 emergency, as well as foreseen strategies for the future. The objectives will be achieved by conducting six internally homogeneous focus groups with: public authorities in charge, employers, trade unions, precarious employees-professionals, precarious employees-non-professionals, and precarious self-employed people.

The research community will benefit from 3 - 5 peer review open-access journal articles (Q1/Q2 SCImago ranked) and 3 - 5 accompanying high impact conferences. The public authorities, employers, and trade unions could benefit from a solid foundation (the main research findings) necessary to develop / implement more effective and targeted measures against precarious

working conditions. Precarious workers themselves could benefit from the psycho-educational workshops that will provide them with enhanced understanding of the scope of work precariousness and profiles of precarious workers in (10)(2a) as well as target the (beneficial) coping mechanisms.