

Editorial

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This issue of our journal contains a selection of papers that were presented at the Career Development Association of Australia (CDAA) Conference in Cairns this spring in conjunction with the International Association for Educational and Vocational Guidance (IAEVG). The Conference was truly an international event with a panel of outstanding contributors from a diverse range of nations. A companion issue featuring papers by other conference presenters will appear in the *Australian Journal of Career Development (AJCD)*. Papers were submitted to the guest editors, Mary McMahon and Col McCowan, and then followed the usual editorial course with the two journals' respective editors, Jerome Rossier (*IJEVG*) and Peter McIlveen (*AJCD*).

In “Between a rock and a hard place: Resistance and the construction of professional identity,” Fiona Douglas presented the results of a qualitative study based on interviews conducted with career development practitioners about their professional identity and analyzed using a constructivist Foucauldian perspective. Although the relationship between power and knowledge is complex, professionals must maintain a long-term perspective when considering their clients and be cognizant of more than their short-term outcomes.

In “The role of school websites in career development practice,” Val O'Reilly presented an analysis of the use by career counselor of school websites in

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New Zealand. As expected, Internet based information is crucial nowadays in the work of career counselors. Professionals' level of satisfaction varies according to the type of information (general school vs. career-related information). The training of counselors in using this enormous amount of information available is, of course, crucial in this context.

In "Looking back to look forward: Māori cultural values and the impact on career," Lynette Reid presented the results of a qualitative study about how Māori people make sense of their career stories, and how these stories relate to their cultural values. In this study, she identified three types of narratives characterized by cultural and career features. It would be interesting to further study this typology in relation with changes in the social context and also to evaluate if this typology might be relevant for other populations.

In "The influence of self-concept, parenting style, and individualism–collectivism on career maturity in Australia and Thailand," Catherine Hughes presented the results of a study conducted on a large sample of students. This contribution illustrated that some constructs might be more relevant for specific cultural settings or that the meaning of a construct might vary across cultures. In this study, the author observed that career maturity correlated quite differently with parenting style across the two studied countries. More precisely, career planning did not correlate with any measure considered in this study in Thailand. Once again, this study emphasizes the importance of the cultural setting for educational and vocational guidance.

In "Programme evaluation toolbox: Effective evaluation principles and considerations in career practice," Sylvia Nassar-McMillan and Abigail Holland Conley reviewed the main components of an adequate programme evaluation. This type of assessment is crucial in order to demonstrate that interventions in the field of educational and vocational guidance are evidence-based. The authors of this contribution suggested in their re-visioned model of programme evaluation that evaluation is an on-going process where the counselor should be between the client and the policy makers.

Finally, in "Career development influences of international students who pursue permanent immigration to Canada," Nancy Arthur and Sarah Flynn presented the results of a study about the career planning of international students in Canada. Most international students consider pursuing their career in their host country. Language and the administrative procedures that they have to undertake in order to become permanent residents are certainly the main barriers they have to face. Questions about immigration and integration are of prime importance in our post-modern society and certainly deserve more research attention.

The guest editors of this issue and the editors of the *IJVEG* and of the *AJCD* hope you will find a number of new and interesting insights in this issue and that it will contribute to your own professional development. We wish you pleasant reading in the hope that this issue will stimulate your own thoughts and lead to other contributions to our *Journal*.