

International Workshop “*Child Well-Being in Formal and Informal Care and Education Contexts: New Perspective on Intervention*” – October 27, 2023.

On October 27, 2023, the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in Milan hosted an International Workshop entitled “*Child Well-Being in Formal and Informal Care and Education Contexts: New Perspectives for Intervention.*”

The event was organized by the Department of Psychology and the Faculty of Education of the University, in collaboration with national and international associations such as the International Network of Psychologists Associations (INPA), the International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development (ISSBD), the Italian Association of Psychologists (AIP), and the European Federation of Psychologists Associations (EFPA) within the Semester of scientific activities held in Italy.

Under the scientific direction of Professor Antonella Marchetti, Director of the Department of Psychology of the Catholic University, and Professor Davide Massaro, Professor of the Catholic University and Vice President of the AIP, the workshop served as a convergence point for professionals in the fields of psychology and education, offering the opportunity to explore new perspectives in the promotion of children’s well-being.

The presence of prominent figures in the field, including Professor Tina Malti, President of ISSBD, Professor Christoph Steinbach, President of EFPA, and Professor Davide Baventore, Vice President of the Lombardy Order of Psychologists, further enriched the event and highlighted the importance of collaborative efforts to understand the complex environmental and social factors that influence children’s development.

Professor Malti, the event’s keynote speaker, opened the day’s proceedings with a presentation on topical and relevant issues, providing an in-depth analysis of the challenges faced by children in complex social contexts and encouraging critical reflection on collective and cultural challenges related to education.

ISSBD’s participation contributed to the creation of an international network, actively promoting the participation of researchers from Italy, Europe, and Africa and funding the presence of ten academics. Researchers presented their work with a common focus on exploring innovative approaches, policies, and practices that promote children’s well-being in different formal and informal care and education contexts. This focus included effective practices in early childhood education, inclusive education, and support for children with special educational needs, promotion of mental health and well-being in educational settings, parental involvement in children’s education, and intercultural perspectives on care and education practices.

The presence of international researchers greatly enriched the debate and drew attention to the ever-relevant importance of an intercultural perspective. The researchers’ presentations were divided into two broad thematic areas that provided detailed insights into the complexities associated with youth development, education, and social issues.

The first theme, “*Youth Development, Education, and Social Issues,*” featured research that focused primarily on examining social issues that influence children’s well-being and care contexts. The second theme, “*Psychological and Educational Factors in Child Well-being,*” provided a space to explore in depth the psychological and educational factors that play a critical role in promoting well-being in formal and informal education and care settings. Researchers presented their work in the form of posters throughout the Workshop day, and at the end of the oral presentations, the event’s scientific committee recognized the value of three particularly meritorious contributions. This

recognition was awarded to Dr. Rebecca Kyazze Magera, Dr. Marvin Kapenda, and Dr. Shanu Shukla, and provided them with the opportunity to publish their outstanding research in a renowned scientific journal published by Erickson.

The day ended with a round table coordinated by representatives of the AIP Sections. This was the opportunity to discuss and reflect on the issues raised by the experts. Professors Guendalina Graffigna (Section on Organizational Psychology), Marco Brambilla (Section of Social Psychology), and Stefano Cacciamani (Section of Developmental and Educational Psychology), together with AIP President Prof. Santo Di Nuovo and Prof. Tina Malti, stimulated a critical reflection on the effective management of current challenges involving educational professionals.

The day came to an end with the closing remarks of the President of the Italian Association of Psychology. In addition to drawing together the many reflections that characterized the workshop, Prof. Di Nuovo emphasized the importance of a multidisciplinary and integrated approach to addressing challenges related to child development in diverse contexts. His presentation underscored the importance of a deep understanding of developmental issues, recognizing that coordinated and synergistic efforts from different disciplines are needed to address these challenges. In particular, Prof. Di Nuovo highlighted the role of new technologies as innovative tools to address the complexities of the modern world and encouraged their adoption. His emphasis effectively synthesized the day's insights, underscoring the importance of a multidisciplinary approach, a synergy between theory and practice, and a transcultural vision for developing effective strategies and approaches essential for addressing the diverse realities and daily challenges in the field of childcare and education.