



SAPIENZA
UNIVERSITÀ EDITRICE

Work published in open access mode
and licensed under Creative Commons
Attribution – NonCommercial
NoDerivatives 3.0 Italy (CC BY-NC-ND 3.0 IT)

Psychology Hub (2021)
XXXVIII, 3, 5-6
DOI: 10.13133/2724-2943/17663

Special Issue Effect of Covid-19 pandemic: vulnerability and resources

Francesco Gazzillo^a, Stefano Livi^b, Fiorenzo Laghi^c, Santo Di Nuovo^d

^a *Scientific Editor. Department of Dynamic and Clinical Psychology, and Health Studies, Sapienza University of Rome, Rome, Italy*

^b *Scientific Co-Editor. Department of Developmental and Social Psychology, Sapienza University of Rome, Rome, Italy*

^c *Past Scientific Editor. Department of Developmental and Social Psychology, Sapienza University of Rome, Rome, Italy*

^d *President of Italian Association of Psychology (AIP), Italy*

This issue of Psychology hub is in large part the result of the collaboration between the Journal and the Italian Association of Psychology (AIP) with a special issue titled “Effect of Covid-19 pandemic: vulnerability and resources”. This issue represents a deep reflection about a pandemic that had changed our life, and a collective attempt to learn from it and to find psychological knowledge and tools for dealing with it. The first paper titled “Temperament profiles to differentiate between stress-resilient and stress-affected children during Covid-19 pandemic”, written by Scaini, Caputi, Giani and Forresi, investigates “temperament profiles that might constitute a potential risk factor for the development of psychopathology and low levels of resilience in children experiencing Covid-19 quarantine” and suggests that “resilient children displayed high levels of persistence and reward dependence, and low levels of novelty seeking”, while “behavioral difficulties were associated with low levels of persistence and reward dependence, and high levels of novelty seeking. Internalizing symptoms were more likely among children with high harm avoidance and low persistence.” The second paper, titled “Working at home during the Covid-19 pandemic: impact on quality of working and quality of life”, written by Zarbo, Rosas, Ferrero and Magnano explores: “(a) the psychological impact of the restrictions on work activity and on the perceived quality of life; (b) the way in which people using their psychological resources, adapted or changed their daily habits and behaviours according to the limitations imposed by the pandemic”. Results show the different impact of the restrictions on the quality of life, the quality of work and the perceived work performance according to the different psychological resources deployed by participants and to their perception of social distancing, time at home, and life-work balance”. The authors explore also how gender differences affect these dimensions. The third paper, titled “From the inside. How the feelings of the closeness and the remoteness from others changed during lockdown”, written by Pediconi, Brunori and Romani, explores how the perception and processing of the presence of others in adolescents’ relational experience has changed and how closeness and remoteness were experienced during the period of limitation of social relations. The results of this study “show that the closest affectional bonds during lockdown were with both family and friends. Pre-adolescents still rely on family ties, while adolescents are working on the construction of the social world outside the home, despite enforced confinement”. Moreover, they suggest that “the return to school was strongly oriented by the most significant relationships perceived during lockdown that supported to come back to normality”. The fourth paper, titled “Career planning during the COVID-19 pandemic. Training for strengthening courage and career adaptability and lowering fear levels of COVID-19”, written by Zammitti, proposes a training aimed at lowering the levels fear of COVID-19 and raising the levels of courage and career adaptability in adolescents and the data about its efficacy. The results show that “the experimental group, after training, had lowered the levels of fear of COVID-19 and raised personal resource levels, while the control group showed higher levels of fear of COVID-19 in the second administration”.

*Corresponding author.
Francesco Gazzillo
Department of Dynamic and
Clinical Psychology, and Health studies
Sapienza University of Rome
Via degli Apuli, 1, 00185, Rome, Italy
Phone: +39 06 49917754
Fax +39 06 49917910
Email: francesco.gazzillo@uniroma1.it
(F. Gazzillo)

The fifth paper, titled “Effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in ECEC centers: social and psychological impact on children and teachers”, written by Berti, Cigala and Severgnini investigates “the social and psychological impact of the pandemic on children and teachers and the strategies implemented to cope with it in the context of ECEC centers” showing changes in behavior, play and conversations between children, the emergence of concerns in teachers, children’s fragilities and resilience, and several strategies implemented to cope with negative effects observed after the lockdown.

Other studies about the psychological effects of pandemics will be included in the next issue of the Journal.

It is worth noting, in our opinion, how these papers show that Italian academic psychology has been able to investigate the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and the consequent lockdown on different populations (children, pre-adolescents, adolescents, teachers and adults), from different perspective (developmental psychology, dynamic psychology, work psychology etc.) and with different methods, qualitative and quantitative, experimental, or descriptive. And it is worth stressing also how each of these contributions was inspired by the attempt not only to better understand our present conditions, but also to ameliorate our future. Studying psychology as a mean to understand social reality and as a tool to modify it, represents the main objective of the Association of Italian researchers in this discipline, which has promoted - together with the scientific editors of the Journal - the issues hosting the contributions on this topic.

The last paper of this issue of Psychology hub, written by Dawe, Hawkins and Pezzuti, does not investigate a COVID related topic, but it is a proposal for a new brief version of the Holtzman Inkblot Technique. The authors developed a version of this test which “overcome two criticisms that were addressed to the test: the excessive time of the administration (and scoring) and the limitation of one response to each inkblot” relying on an empirically based, sophisticated set of criteria for selecting the Holtzman blots.

It is our hope that our readers can find in the content of this issue a source of inspiration for future research studies and interventions.