



Resilience of parents in a changing world

**ZU
YD**



UC Leuven
Limburg
MOVING MINDS

**Online congress
International Parenting Program
24 -25- 26 November 2020**

"It takes a whole village to raise a child" is an old African saying.

Our world is subject to various changes. Corona, globalization, rapid advances in technology (ICT) and scientific insights (functioning of the brain, progress in the medical field, ...) offer unprecedented opportunities. However, they also present us with difficult challenges. It takes a lot of resilience on the part of parents to tackle all the challenges of today's life.

What does parenthood mean in this changing world, a world with changes that leave no one unmoved?

What does resilience of parents mean in this changing world?

What do parents need?

And what is the role played by professionals in the present circumstance?

Practical information

The IPP consortium consists of colleges and universities from Flanders (Belgium), the Netherlands, the UK, Malta, Lithuania and Finland.

This online conference is organised by UCLL (Hasselt, BE) and Zuyd (Sittard, NE).

Participation is free of charge, registration required.

Registration possible until 11 November (via www.ucll.be/onlinecongressIPP2020)

Questions? Please contact:

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09.00: Welcome and opening

*Ellen Leers (director department of Social Work, Zuyd University of Applied Sciences, NL)
& Joke Maes (programme director Welfare, University College Leuven-Limburg, BE)*

09.30 - 10.30: Keynote

Parents on a fast train to where? Random reflections on parenting in challenging times

Carmel Borg, Faculty of Education, University Malta, MT

As the world changes rapidly, so are the challenges faced by parents in various parts of the world. The keynote will provide the speaker with: an opportunity to empathise with some of the challenges parents, millions of them in transition and away from their emotional comfort zone, face on a daily basis; a prompt to reflect on the impact that such challenges may have on the dynamics of the family and on the families' relationship with the world; and a forum to underscore concrete initiatives in mitigating the impact that some challenges may have on the texture of the family.

10.45 - 11.45: Dialogue session with parents on the subject of resilience of parents.

In this dialogue session *Dr. Paul Blakeman* (Trent University Nottingham, department of Social Work, UK) together with *Hilde van Schaeren* (Zuyd University of Applied Sciences, department of Social Work, NL) will introduce parents coming from England, Belgium and the Netherlands. They will interview these parents about their experiences with professionals in care and with welfare services, when their children are in need. Central question is: "How can professionals increase or hinder resilience of parents?"

12.00 - 13.00: Lecture

Parenthood and neuroprofessionalisation: towards resilience or fear?

Joyce Leysen, connected to the research unit Education, Culture and Society KU Leuven, BE

According to some forms of neuro-discourse of parenthood, parents ought to learn about the development and functioning of the brain in order to be 'good parents': they ought to 'neuro-professionalise' themselves and give shape to their being a parent on the basis of brain based advice and information. During this presentation, Joyce Leysen takes the audience into the world of neuro-discourse of parenthood. She discerns several forms of neuro-professionalisation in relation to parenthood and relates this to a possible strengthening of resilience or inducing of fear.

(also have a look at: <https://blog.associatie.kuleuven.be/ecs/category/english/>)

14.00 - 15.00: Workshops with experts (only for students)

• **Influence of society and legislation on the resilience of parents**

Dr Goos Cardol, Zuyd university of applied sciences, NL.

IPP principles are important to be aware of and to bring into practice when working with parents. In the last meeting in Nottingham I explored with the attendants what this means when parents crossed borders which brings them in contact with criminal justice. How do we bring the IPP principles into practice in cases like this?

In this conference I would like to elaborate further on this, how we as social professionals have to relate to cases like this and at the same time respect parents in their role and honor their resilience.

The objective of this workshop is to generate more insights and food for thought on how a social worker can act with respect to the parents when they have crossed societal and/or legal borders.

Dr. Goos Cardol is an expert in Dutch and European Law and policy towards parents (= social discours).

- **Young mothers showing their resilience**

Dr. Marijke Sniekers, Zuyd university of applied sciences, NL.

Changes in welfare systems and in professional support to young parents have contributed to an increase of expectations for young mothers to become socioeconomically independent. In this workshop, participants will be first expected to describe expectations and norms related to (young) motherhood in their different international contexts. Then we continue with what these expectations and norms can mean for how young mothers show resilience in their everyday lives.

15.00 - 17.00: Peers to peers (students work online on their presentations):

Question:

How can parents' resilience be stimulated by professionals? (Social Discourse – organization development – theories and methods and research.)

WEDNESDAY 25 NOVEMBER

09.00: Welcome

09.30 - 10.30: Lecture

Parental resilience when partner relationships fail?

Ilse Janssen, Interaction-academy Antwerp, BE

Ilse Janssen shows, from a system-theoretical perspective, how parents can develop resilience in the event of a broken partner relationship/divorce in order to continue fulfilling their parental role.

10.45 - 11.45: Lecture

Let's talk about children

Merja Ahoismäki, Samk University, FI

Let's talk about children is a set of thematic discussions about children, carried out between parents and professionals to build a common understanding of child's life. It is a low threshold method that has been developed in Finland. It has been taken to use extensively in social- and health services, education and other services.

The aim is to combine private and professional knowledge and build understanding and co-operation between parents and professionals in the child's life. Parents are seen as active and equal experts of their own child.

12.00 - 13.00 : Lecture

Parent-oriented organizations

Wim Goossens, Zuyd university of applied sciences, NL.

Organizations and professionals can contribute to the resilience of parents, through their organizational policy, procedures, protocols and method of workin because they might provoke obstacles for the parents to express their resilience. Honoring resilience of parents requires organizations and professionals with a parent-oriented attitude, they must be parent-sensitive and parent friendly.

For this reason Wim Goossens developed a tool for organizations to map out the degree to which they apply a parent-centered approach. He will give us his opinion on the parent-orientation of organizations and he will explain the tool that he has developed.

14.00 - 15.00: Workshops with experts (only for students)

- **Intercultural methods and theories: what works?**

Hilde van Schaeren, Zuyd university of applied sciences, NL.

Question is: what really matters in a methodical sense in professional interaction with refugees? In this workshop we will explain which intercultural methods and questionnaires are successful to combine with the psychology of parents, to establish a collaborative cooperation and meaningful contact with refugee parents. Key question remains how to stimulate resilience of refugee parents.

- **Communication with vulnerable parents to stimulate resilience: the case of Roma parents and refugees.**

Ausra Simoniuskstyte, faculty of Pedagogy Vilnius, LT

The situation of Roma and refugees in Lithuania is characterized by financial difficulties, low economic activity and low level of education achievements. Therefore, Roma and refugees in Lithuania are at greater risk of poverty and are more dependent on the social security system than most of the Lithuanian population. Moreover, both, refugee and Roma students need more assistance at school in order to break vicious circle of exclusion and poverty reproduction. The quality and even the accessibility of social and educational services depend a lot on competencies of teachers, social workers, other professionals providing those services.

In the interactive lecture the Roma and refugee experience of communication and collaboration with professionals will be explored. The interviews with the Roma and refugee parents made by the tutor, will allow to bring parents' perspective on interactions with professionals, to examine Roma and refugee parents' expectations and evaluations of this interaction.

15.00 - 17.00: Peers to peers (students work online on their presentations)

Questions:

What are markers of reliance of these parents?

How can parents' resilience be stimulated by professionals? (Social Discourse – organization development – theories and methods and research)

THURSDAY 26 NOVEMBER

09.00: Welcome

09.30 - 10.30: Parallel student presentations

10.45 - 11.45: Parallel student presentations

12.00 - 13.00: Completion and impressions