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BOOK REVIEW: Handbook of Positive Youth Development: Advancing Research, Policy, and Practice in Global Contexts

Radosveta Dimitrova and Nora Wiium (Eds)
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The *Handbook of Positive Youth Development: Advancing the Next Generation of Research, Policy and Practice in Global Contexts* (2021), edited by Radosveta Dimitrova and Nora Wiium, encompasses a unique collection of theoretical and empirical studies on positive youth development (PYD) across wide range of contexts and countries from Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, Latin America, Middle East, New Zealand to North America. Multiple research methods, practical applications, policy interventions on PYD mechanisms in specific environments are presented in this newly released collective contribution, designed to scientifically advance the study of young people and emerging adults' positive development.

The present volume advances our understanding on the entire ecology of development in national, regional and international settings, significantly enhancing the existing PYD trajectories, research tools and interventions methods, through a transformative undertaking, focusing on youth potentiality and the importance of an appropriate developmental context in adolescence and emerging adulthood (individual, peer, familial, societal). This *Handbook* finds its origins in *Positive Youth Development across Cultures Project*³ initiated by Nora Wiium, from University of Bergen, and constantly developed within a rich research network in over 40 countries, across large and even hard to access samples (N = 22,083).

The 37 chapters of the book are organized along two sections. The first one, entitled *Positive Youth Development in Global Context*, focuses on putting forth empirical evidence from often neglected samples from Asia (India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Malaysia), Africa (Ghana), Latin America, and Eastern Europe, as well as Southern and Northern Europe, Australia, New Zealand, and two additional chapters on multi-country comparisons (Wiium and Kozina, 2021; Dimitrova et al, 2021a) This geographic representation is in line with the book's ethos of advancing PYD beyond its WEIRD-centric bias.

From a theoretical standpoint, the section provides an introduction to the principal models employed in PYD research: the developmental assets model (Scales, Roehlkepartain, and Shramko, 2017), the 5Cs (Confidence, Competence, Character, Caring and Connection) and 6Cs models of PYD (Competence, Confidence, Character, Caring, Connection, and Contribution) (Burkhard et al., 2019; Geldhof et al., 2015) and the newly developed 7Cs

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³ More details about The Positive Youth Development cross-national project are available at <https://www.uib.no/en/rg/sipa/pydcrossnational>

model of PYD among young people in a variety of cultural contexts (Dimitrova et al., 2021a). In line with the academic tradition of building upon the “Cs model”, the volume goes beyond the 5Cs and 6Cs through the addition of Creativity as a new indicator. This new theoretic model is outlined by the leading editor and collaborators in the first chapter of Part I and further tested not only in this chapter, but in others from the section as well. For example, Chapter 3 highlights how the model including Creativity can be used to explain reduced risk behaviour in youth from Colombia and Peru (Manrique-Millones et al., 2021), while Chapter 4 provides additional validation of the 7Cs model by relating it to mindfulness (Abdul Kadir, Mohd, and Dimitrova, 2021).

The chapters in part one use quantitative and qualitative methods alike to investigate how PYD models apply to adolescents and emerging adults in a variety of global contexts, challenging the balance of universality and relativity. Methodologically, it advances scholarship on PYD by tackling cultural adaptation and measurement invariance issues (Dimitrova et al., 2021a; Dimitrova et al., 2021b). The large and diverse samples collected provide an excellent occasion for developing psychometrically strong and cross-culturally applicable measures of PYD.

The second section, entitled *PYD Applications and Interventions*, provides practical insights and policy implications from diverse contexts in China, Colombia, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, the Philippines, Sweden, Thailand, Jamaica, South Africa, Slovenia, Lithuania, Finland, Norway, Canada and the United States. Special attention is given to the large-sized networking in the field of international PYD research with examples of outstanding projects (Lansford et al., 2021). Methodological issues and innovative perspectives in studying latent growth models (Hull et al., 2021), leadership across cultures (Bremner and Schwartz 2021), Social Emotional Learning (Kozina 2021), community intervention (Kaniušonytė and Truskauskaitė-Kunevičienė 2021), Student Engagement and well-being (Upadyaya and Salmela-Aro 2021), the role of Classroom Climate in PYD, (Ginner Hau, Ferrer-Wreder, and Allodi Westling 2021), applications of the logic model of PYD to the school programs (Bogsnes Larsen and Holsen 2021), along with The Planned Intervention Adaptation (PIA) protocol adaptation (Ferrer-Wreder et al., 2021) and parenting knowledge with implications for Positive Youth Development (PYD) are being debated. The Romanian PYD context is assessed in two chapters, one approaching inter-generational transmission of vocational competence within family in national context (Negru Subtirica and Badescu 2021) and the other examining the 5Cs model of PYD through factorial structure and measurement invariance, within a cross-cultural analysis (Radosveta et al., 2021b)

A special focus is given in the *Handbook* to empowering new a generation of PYD scholarship in less represented countries, to establishing reliable measurements in assessing PYD cross-culturally, and to enforcing the PYD field with pertinent research, policy, and practice, worldwide. The book sets itself apart as pioneering in PYD research, nowadays, as acknowledged by Daniel Shek, one of the leading scholars in PYD research and intervention especially in Asia, who sets the tone for the contributions in this volume. Besides summarizing a number of unique features and relevant conceptual and methodological contributions of the book at hand, the foreword written by Shek stands itself as a testament to the book’s ethos of increasing visibility of non-WEIRD PYD research and scholars. The *Handbook* is a tremendous ambitious collective product that raises the voice and advances the research in PYD in both WEIRD and non-WEIRD societies.

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