

**An intercultural
career counseling
proposal for
dealing with
psychosocial
vulnerability**

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Career and Life Design
interventions
for sustainable development
and decent work**

**The laborers
Tarsila do Amaral
(1886-1973)
Modernism**

Theoretical Positions

SUSTAINABILITY

DECENT WORK

VULNERABILITY

Theoretical Positions

Sustainability, decent work or
vulnerability

None of them are substantive definitions
(Ribeiro, Silva & Figueiredo, 2016)

They are relational issues, as David
Blustein (2011) stated, or psychosocial
concepts

Blustein, D. L. (2011). A relational theory of working. *Journal of Vocational Behavior*, 79, 1-17.

Ribeiro M. A., Silva, F. F. & Figueiredo, P. M. (2016). Discussing the notion of decent work: Senses of working for a group of Brazilian workers without college education. *Frontiers Psychology*, 7(207).

Psychosocial Approach (Ribeiro, 2015)

The psychosocial is a continued and shared process of construction and signification made by practices, discourses and narratives inside the psychosocial reality

The structure is always procedural and narrative, but never substantive

The psychosocial is understood as a process that is neither “psychological” nor “social”, but transcends the separation of these elements to create something new - the psychosocial (p. 20).

Psychological and social *continuum*

PSYCHOLOGICAL
DIMENSION



SOCIAL
DIMENSION

Main Issue and Main Goal

Mark Savickas (2015) has highlighted that the career guidance and counseling theories and interventions must be contextualized practices,

How does the psychosocial assumption presented help to rebuild the field of career guidance and counseling in order to propose contextualized theories and practices?

Main Assumptions

Understand career life constructions or working life constructions as psychosocial processes or relational construction

Co-construct concepts with the contexts by a diatopical hermeneutics (Santos, 2002).

Assume that all kind of produced knowledge is always incomplete

Main Assumptions

In that sense, the only way to produce contextualized theories, concepts and practices is recognizing that world is epistemologically diverse and this diversity provides intelligibility and intentionality to social experiences – including to career guidance and counseling interventions and their outcomes

Main Assumptions

Boaventura de Sousa Santos (2014)

Sometimes interventions in the global South requires epistemologies from the global South

Ecology of knowledge

All knowledge has limits and that their production should be accomplished by means of dialogue between different knowledge embodied in distinct social practices

Interculturality or intercultural dialogue

Sustainability in Career Counseling

Boaventura de Sousa Santos (2014)

A deep sense of incompleteness, in other words, we always need the others to make our own ideas and practices valid

Co-construction and mutuality highlight the importance of conceptualising knowledge as relational - 'inter-knowledge'

In that sense, we can bring the **principle of sustainability** to the field of career guidance and counseling by the rationale of an ecology of knowledge(s) and of intercultural dialogue.

Sustainability in Career Counseling

HOW CAN WE DO THAT?

Proposing theories and practices without imposing hegemonic ways of being or constructing, or inflicting the values and the dominant discourses upon everyone

Social relations are always both intercultural (produced 'in between') and political (representing unequal distributions of power)

Valid knowledge is therefore contextualised knowledge; it is valid when it considers cultural differences and political differences

Sustainability in Career Counseling

HOW CAN WE DO THAT?

Key point: knowledge is produced in relation with, and from within, the context, without the supremacy of any form of knowledge over another

It should be oriented toward reality, which is taken both as a starting and an arrival point

“Global social injustice is, therefore, intimately linked to global cognitive injustice. The struggle for global justice must be therefore a struggle for global cognitive justice as well”

(Santos, 2014, 31-32)

Sustainability in Career Counseling

HOW CAN WE DO THAT?

Sustainability in the career guidance and counseling field claims for an ecology of knowledge co-construct by an intercultural dialogue between the dominant logics from the global North and the emergent logics from the global South, in order, for example, to be able for dealing with situations of psychosocial vulnerability

Conclusion

Intercultural career guidance and counseling

It is based on a productive exchange with both Northern and Southern epistemologies, and especially between Life Design paradigm, social constructionism and critical Latin American theories, as critical pedagogy, critical psychoanalysis and vulnerability and human rights framework

An aerial photograph of a city, likely São Paulo, Brazil, featuring a prominent white monument in the center. The city is surrounded by greenery and modern buildings. The sky is blue with some clouds. The text is overlaid on the image in a bold, teal font.

**THANK YOU
VERY MUCH**

**DZIĘKUJĘ
BARDZO**

**MUITO
OBRIGADO**

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