Donald Edwin Super

Introduction

After the death of Donald Edwin Super in 1994, the International Association for Educational and Vocational Guidance set up a Super Memorial Fund in recognition of his leadership in the association and in the theory and practice of career development all over the world. The realisation of this volume of the *International Journal for Educational and Vocational Guidance* became possible with a major support from this fund. It was prepared by an international editorial committee involving José Ferreira Marques (Chair), Bernhard Jenschke and Edwin L. Herr, working in close co-operation with Raoul Van Esbroeck, the new editor of the journal of the association.

This special issue of the Journal is dedicated to the memory of Donald E. Super and to the international impact of his work. Several colleagues from different parts of the world, who were in direct contact with Super, together with some other colleagues who know his contributions well were asked to analyse how his ideas have influenced theory and practice in the field of career guidance and counselling. They were also asked to consider how his ideas are being addressed in the new millennium? A special priority was to consider some aspects of Donald Super's work and how they have "travelled" across national boundaries and have promoted international co-operation.

The papers included in this special issue reflect the diversity of Super's contributions and are evidence of how the international community is directly or indirectly affected by his work and by his efforts to promote international co-operation, particularly through the International Association for Educational and Vocational Guidance. The contributions in this volume were drawn from ten countries on four continents. The international cross-fertilisation of Super's ideas appears clearly in different papers and in the references cited. As Super himself was multilingual, the papers included are in one of the following three languages: English, French and German.

The first four papers provide an overview of the core of Super's contributions, emphasising his innovative ideas. José Ferreira Marques examines the interaction of theory, research, and applications in the work of Super and its implications for international co-operation. In the second article,

William C. Bingham presents a personal view of the man and his work, and considers particularly two relevant areas that remain as unfinished business for Super: the metadimensions of self-concepts and thematic extrapolation. The third article by Wendy Patton and Jan Lokan examines the evolution of the construct of career maturity (introduced as vocational maturity by Super and later renamed career adaptability) and several measures, emphasising the large amount of research in different countries directed to this construct and its correlates. Mark Savickas presents Super's theory about the general processes of career development focusing particularly on his ideas about career patterns, salience, and themes, and how they can be useful to counsellors nowadays in order to help their clients. Ludger Busshoff elaborates on the concept of career transition and its importance in explaining career development following Super's approach.

A second group of papers deals with special examples of the impact of Super's work in some countries from different parts of the world: the United Kingdom in the article by A. G. Watts, the Quebec province (Canada) by Pierrette Dupont, Japan in the contribution offered by Agnes Watanabe-Muraoka, Takeshi Senzaki, and Edwin L. Herr and Spain by Elvira Repetto and her co-workers.

The last two articles describe how Super's career development theory was implemented, during the last twenty years or so, in international research and in career assessment and counselling. Branimir Šverko provides an overview of the Work Importance Study (WIS), an international research project coordinated by Super. He summarises the methodological approaches and the development of the WIS international assessment instruments, and outlines the major results of the project, especially those relevant for career guidance and counselling. Spencer Niles highlights Super's Career Development Assessment and Counselling Model (C-DAC), including the WIS Values Scale and Salience Inventory, as well as the Career Development Inventory and the Adult Career Concerns Inventory developed by Super, and the use of other instruments. Niles discusses how to use this intervention model toward understanding the individual's career development experience in the post-modern era.

Finally, we would like to thank the authors of the articles for their contributions. We hope that the ideas presented here will give the readers new and useful insights into the work of Donald Super and its significance for practitioners and researchers in the twenty-first century.

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