Locus of control and alcohol consumption in Spanish adolescents
Ramos F., Mayoral P., Vega J.L., Bueno B., Buz J. and Navarro A.B.
Faculty of Psychology, University of Salamanca, Spain.

Aims: Describing the role of General Expectancies in alcohol use among Spanish adolescents
Methodology: 500 adolescents aged between 14 and 17, from the city of Salamanca (Spain) and its province, took part.
Application was made of the Generalized Expectancies of Control Battery (BEAC in Spanish), the Alcohol Expectancy
Questionnaire – AEQ - and the AUDIT alcohol consumption questions. Socio-demographic data were collated.
Results: Four factors describing general expectancies were forthcoming: Expectation of Contingency (Internal Control),
Expectation of Non-contingency (Helplessness), Belief in Luck, and mixed factor Self-Efficacy - Expectancy of Success.
Results of the study showed that both Expectation of Non-contingency (Helplessness) and Belief in Luck may indirectly
increase the risk of alcohol and substance use.
Conclusions:
General Expectancies may mediate drinking onset. Regarding adolescents, the Expectations of Non-contingency
(Helplessness) and the Belief in Luck help to create a Pessimistic Explanatory Style. Within the context of a stress-
coping model of addiction, this style may be seen as a cognitive vulnerability factor that favours the use of inadequate
cooping strategies (emotion-focused coping) and alcohol and substance abuse.

*Financed by the National Plan and the Comisionado para la Droga of the Regional Government of Castilla y León (2002).

---

Key-note
Theoretical and empirical evolutions concerning the nature of adolescent and youth career development tasks

Coimbra J.L.
Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences, University of Porto, Portugal

Theoretical and empirical evolutions in adolescents and youngsters career development will be the proposed object
of reflection of this paper. From a critical perspective, emergent needs, problems and challenges will be identified
considering both: (a) recent dramatic changes at the macro-social context and their implications in the structure of
opportunities and constraints in which life projects find the conditions to be constructed; (b) the heuristic features
of some of the main models of psychological career development. Secondly, assuming the conception of the primacy
of meaning (in different levels) in psychological functioning, organization and development, the conditions under
which adolescents find the ways of constructing a sense of coherence for the self and its projects will be analyzed
taking as reference a world that tends to be perceived and felt as incoherent. Some features of contemporary societies
will be addressed from the perspective of its implications in career development (e.g., individualism, socialization
deficit, the ideology of scientism). Recent psychological constructs and concepts (e.g., adaptive diffusion) will be
advanced as examples of trying to capture new ways of dealing with present career challenges. Finally, implications
for future research and intervention in this area will be presented.