



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI  
STUDI DI NAPOLI  
FEDERICO II

## **Health as an idiographic process**

**Call for International Workshop in order to a New Volume in YIS  
Series – Yearbook of Idiographic Science**

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Dear all,

By this call, we want to invite you to contribute to the topic of **Health and Idiographic Science Perspective** by means of a chapter in the next volume of *Yearbook of Idiographic Science*.

Yearbook of Idiographic Science is an international value editorial project (Published by IAP), whose purpose is to increase the discussion, dialogue and publication of contributions about the development of idiographic perspective.

The Yearbook of Idiographic Science is an annual Series of volumes collecting contributions aimed at developing the integration of idiographic and nomothetic approaches in psychological and more in general social science.

You can visit following sites:

<https://sites.google.com/site/idiographicsscience/home>

<http://www.infoagepub.com/series/Yearbook-of-Idiographic-Science>

The Series addresses a quite large potential public – students and researchers interested to theoretical and methodological development of psychology and, more in general, social science. Persons engaged with qualitative, dynamic informed models of analysis will find YIS a precious tool as well as a context enabling to develop a worldwide network of practices and cultures of research.

In order to share ideas, stimulating inputs, to reflect on different perspectives, we also have planned an international meeting, organized in form of workshop to actively discuss the topic of this 8<sup>th</sup> new volume of Yearbook of Idiographic Science. The meeting will take place in University of Naples (Italy), Department of Humanistic Science, 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> October 2016

### **The topic of the forthcoming volume of Yearbook of Idiographic Science:**

#### ***Health and Idiography***

The concept of health is a challenge of great complexity in terms of theoretical, methodological and intervention within the idiographic frame.

The very notion of health generally accepted and defined by World Health Organization raises significant issues. Defining health as "a state of complete physical, mental and social wellness and not merely the absence of disease" (WHO, 1948), generates, in fact, a difference between the level of potentiality and of facticity. Moreover, even if the bio-psycho-social definition of Engel (1977) proposes the integration of different dimensions in the generative process of health, within his proposal there is neither an explicative connection system between different domains nor a formal relationship between theory and practice.

The use of the holistic model has found extensive forms of sharing in all areas, but, so far, it is characterized more in terms of strategic processes of research and intervention than as organic system of results and practices. The discourses that followed led the WHO to clarify (Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion. WHO, Geneva, 1986) that health cannot be defined as the goal of one's own life, but as resource of everyday life. Health is not considered an abstract condition, but a means, a resource aimed at achieving objectives that relate to the ability of people to lead their lives in a productive way- individually, socially, and

economically. Health is therefore not a state of wellbeing, but a process mediating the capacity of individuals and groups to realize aspirations, to change or to effectively address their living environments. In the same years, the WHO defines health promotion as the process of enabling people to exercise more control over their health and to improve it. Health promotion represents a comprehensive social and political process, which not only includes actions to strengthen the skills and abilities of individuals, but also actions aimed at changing social, environmental and economic systems, in order to harmonize their impact on the health of the individual and the community.

Health promotion is therefore a process that is not based on the definition of standards and categories on the basis of which typifying the states of health. Rather, it has to be considered a process, on a large scale, aimed at generating a culture of the health as a resource for individuals and communities and to promote skills needed to transform these resources into developmental goals.

The notion of health, indeed, defined and interpreted in terms of "state" and not of process, meets the immediate paradox of being an indicator of normativity by reason of which we risk a proliferation of new and potentially infinite forms of "deviation". The approach of the idiographic science (see previous volumes of the Yearbook Idiographic Science) considers that every psychological process (but in general every process, from organic to the social and cultural ones) is characterized by a contextual, situated and contingent dynamics. This dynamics is always characterized by a never-ending opening of its cycles and great variability. Conditions of stagnation and hypostatization are characteristic of all forms of disease (physical, mental and social) that sclerotize relational links between people and their environments. Health is therefore a process that presents oscillation in the same way of any developmental process that has moments of crisis and rupture in order to re-organize new forms of relationship with the environment.

This call is an invitation to participate in the conference/workshop and in a new volume of the series (by a full chapter), where according to an idiographic perspective, it is possible to discuss the concept of health, to define its possible meanings and polysemy (wellness, care, hygiene, resilience, prevention, healing, deviation/normality, subjective potentiality for development, etc.), its areas of pertinence and intervention (somatic, psychological, social) trying to offer possible solutions to the "normalization" of health and creating new incentives for reflection.

## **Time planning**

- 1) February 2016 - Sending call
- 2) 15<sup>st</sup> March 2016 - deadline to send a proposal of abstract
- 3) 30<sup>th</sup> April 2016 – accepting of proposal by editors
- 4) 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016 – deadline for drafts of chapters
- 5) 27<sup>th</sup> , 28<sup>th</sup> , 29<sup>th</sup> October 2016 – meeting in University of Naples (Italy) Federico II, Department of Humanistic Studies
- 6) February 2017 – sending of commentaries and suggestions of revisions to authors
- 7) 30<sup>th</sup> May 2017 – deadline to deliver revised and proofed chapters
- 8) December 2017 – publishing of the volume