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Editors' Note

The issue of *Studia Poradownicze / Journal of Counsellogy* that we now offer our Readers is indeed special. It is, in its entirety, devoted to the development of broadly understood vocational guidance and life design, which we celebrate on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of collaboration between Professor Jean Guichard of the INETOP-CNAM in Paris and scholars in Wrocław, especially at the University of Wrocław and the Scientific Association of Counsellogy. In 2017, the Rector of the University of Wrocław, professor Adam Jezierski, by the decision of the Senate of the 22nd of February 2017, awarded professor Guichard with the Medal of the University of Wrocław. This exceptional recognition is awarded to people who have made significant contributions towards the development of the University and its good fame.

In this introduction, we would thus like to present professor Guichard, who is one of the few contemporary scientists having such a great impact on the progress made in contemporary Applied Psychology and, in particular, in Guidance and Counseling Psychology. There are very few scholars who can match his achievements, his experience, his excellent and vast publishing record. We cannot imagine contemporary Counsellogy without Him. Professor has clearly left a permanent mark, not only on science, but also on our understanding of the sources of our knowledge. By the same token, he contributed to the enrichment of our cultural scientific heritage.

Jean Guichard likes opera and painting, he adores reading philosophers and other scientific work. Jean Guichard also constructs theory. The theory that he has designed and developed enables a better understanding of individuals in the process of self-making. It also allows us to capture the way in which individuals try to create and integrate themselves within the society of uncertainty. In other words, as Professor himself emphasized, it allows us to understand main factors

and processes of self-construction manifesting throughout life (Guichard, 2009). In order to further these theories, Professor Guichard has been tirelessly engaged in research, seeking common ground and elements that unify and bring coherence to his academic life and life in general – that of a scholar, that of a thinker, etc.

Jean Guichard was born and grew up in France, in a small village in the Ardennes. He obtained his BSc and MA degrees at the University of Lille III, in 1968 and 1972, respectively, and in 1975 he received the diploma of the Career Counsellor (*Certificat d’Aptitude aux Fonctions de Conseiller d’Orientation*). In 1982 he finished his PhD, submitting the dissertation *L’Université éclatée: Approche des différentes populations s’inscrivant pour la première fois à l’Université dans la Région Nord-Pas-de-Calais (An Exploded University: Views from Different Groups Starting Their University Education in Nord-Pas-de-Calais Region)*. In 1991, Guichard received the highest academic degree available in France – the ‘habilitation’ enabling him to manage independent research (*Habilitation à diriger des recherches*), based on the habilitation thesis entitled: *Identité, scolarité, projet: L’école et la formation des intentions d’avenir (Identity, Schooling, Project: The School and the Formation of Future Intentions)*.

During the speech delivered on the occasion of receiving an award from the European Society of Vocational Designing and Career Counseling (ESVDC) in 2012, he said:

I cannot speak about Lille without mentioning my friend Vincent Thiel, who was a student from Charleville, just like me. He was much better educated than I was, but most of all, he knew how to work. In fact, it was due to him that I discovered I can work efficiently. He helped me understand, for example, that in order to read a book, we need to ask it some questions, to increase its persuasiveness (Guichard, 2012).

We are persuaded that this is, indeed, still his way of thinking.

After several years at Lille III, Guichard moved to Paris, to become a researcher and an intern at the *Institut National d’Etudes du Travail et d’Orientation Professionnelle (INETOP)* of the *Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers (CNAM)*. Then, in his own words:

After five years of working at INETOP I returned to Lille as a senior lecturer in Psychology. I was not affiliated with the Department of Psychology, but rather with Sociology, where my colleagues worked mainly on the issues related to the exclusion that made people drop out of education, on the unemployed, on social inclusion, etc. Their main points of reference were Herbert Mead, Erving Goffman, Howard Becker, the Chicago School, Palo Alto, etc. Working in a new group of colleagues, I discovered an entirely new way of approaching phenomena (Guichard, 2012).

These words are very important for understanding of Professor’s way of thinking, leading and constructing reflection – his main concern in life oscillates around the social context in which people live and influence each other.

Several years later, Guichard moved back to Paris, where he took the position of Professor of Psychology (1992–1996) at Sorbonne (Paris III). Once again, he found himself working outside the Psychology Department, in the Department of Information and Communication. Once again, this provided an opportunity to discover new areas of knowledge: pragmatics and the central role of dialogue in thinking, which opened a new, different intellectual universe. His ability to assimilate and integrate knowledge led Professor to develop a highly differentiated theoretical system, which he has been elaborating throughout his life. In 1996, he became a professor at INETOP-CNAM (*Universités de psychologie de classe exceptionnelle depuis 2009*), the important and renowned French educational establishment which he led from 1996 till 2002.

Professor has been deeply involved in many diverse activities: as an editor in one of the most important French Counselogy journals *L'Orientation Scolaire et Professionnelle* (1997–2006, since 2007 as co-editor). He also served as a member of the editorial board of two other French journals: *Recherche et Formation* (until December 2009) and *La Nouvelle Revue de l'AIS*. Additionally, due to his academic *aquis*, scientific standing and renown in Counseling Psychology Professor Guichard served as co-editor and member of editorial boards of leading scientific journals in Europe and the US, such as: *The International Journal for the Advancement of Counseling*; *The International Journal for Educational and Vocational Guidance*; *European Journal of Psychological Assessment* (till 2005); *European Review of Applied Psychology*; *Journal of Career Development*; and *Journal of Vocational Behavior*; *Studia Poradoznawcze / Journal of Counselogy*.

Jean Guichard published over 200 research papers, book chapters, scientific reports and books, and many of his publications have been translated into English, Spanish, Polish, Russian, Italian and Portuguese. The first research paper that he published in 1985: *Sélection, auto-sélection et représentations sociales des lycéens* (*Selection, self-selection and school representations of high school students*), even though written more than 30 years ago, remains relevant and valid. The topic that professor Guichard chose to address, i.e. social representations, still constitutes a key category for a better understanding of relationships that exist between the macrostructure of a society and a system of individual identities (Guichard, 2009, p. 257). Since 1982, Guichard has been critically assessing models and concepts, structures and systems. He has revealed the role of educational structures, their dominant rules and interactions. He has asked in what way education influences the structuring of social representations. At each stage of research Guichard takes time to pause, reflect on and critically analyse the previous findings. To further this academic work, Professor has been delving deeper and deeper. Just reaching the goal is not enough - professor Guichard has been considering and reconsidering questions he asked over the years.

We cannot even attempt to mention all his activities and research projects, all the positions and functions, or all the organisations that professor Guichard

has served in the course of his career. We should, however, mention, if only briefly, his key role in the International Research Group *Life Design*, his students and awards, and, finally, his involvement in the work of the UNESCO Chair at the Institute of Pedagogy of the University of Wrocław.

In the last decade, Jean Guichard and Mark Savickas, acting as co-directors of the international research team focusing on the issues related to professional career and its development, established an innovative line of both scientific inquiry and practice, which – in the global context – redefined professional development as *Life Design*. The concept of life design offers a third paradigm in the Counseling Psychology of the 21st century, which grew up on the vocational guidance paradigm founded by Frank Parsons at the beginning of the 20th century, and the updated career counseling paradigm, articulated and shaped by Donald Super in the middle of 20th century.

The work of Professor Guichard has been recognized worldwide. France, Finland, Portugal, Argentina, Tunisia, Poland and three leading international Associations awarded him numerous prizes and recognitions. In 2003 he received the highest academic prize in France, becoming the *Chevalier des palmes académiques*. In 2004 he received doctoral degree *Honoris causa* from the Joensuu University in Finland. In 2008 he became the recipient of the Award of the American Society of Counseling Psychology. In 2011 he received an honorary PhD title from the University of Lisbon (Portugal). 2012 brought him an award for an excellent contribution towards the elaboration of Life Design from the *European Society for Vocational Designing and Career Counseling*, and an honorary PhD title from the University of Buenos Aires in Argentina. In 2013 he received an honorary medal in Tunis; in 2014 – a special mention as a Fellow of International Association of Applied Psychology; and, last but not least, in 2017 – the honorary medal from the University of Wrocław.

All of these recognitions and prizes are expressions of appreciation for Professor's contribution into Career Guidance Psychology and Counseling Psychology. His work on the theory and practice of self-construction represents cutting-edge science on the international level, and Professor himself has been recognized as an excellent scholar, practitioner and leader in his field, which, of course, does not account for all his achievements. We should also mention gratitude expressed by his former students, who unconsider him to be an authority and an amazing teacher and mentor.

An important dimension of professor Guichard's work manifested in collaboration with Counseling scholars from Wrocław, especially within the University of Wrocław, which resulted in the creation, in 2013, of an international UNESCO Chair on Lifelong Guidance and Counseling within the University's Institute of Pedagogy. This was possible due to previous long-term exchange of ideas and experience, initiated back in 1997 between the Institute of Pedagogy and INETOP-CNAM, then led by Guichard. Professor oversaw the

implementation of a research project related to the cross-cultural transfer of the conceptual framework of guidance and counselling, which yielded relevant academic publications (Podgórný, 2000; Drabik-Podgórná, 2005). Within the next few years, professor Guichard participated in several conferences organized by the Institute, and on his invitation, scholars from Wrocław took part in conferences abroad.

In 2002, 2005, 2010, 2014 J. Guichard led research seminars, delivered lectures and workshops for researchers, PhD students, graduate students and counsellors, sharing his experience on construction of personal and professional identities, explaining categories of transition in counseling psychology, discussing constructivist approaches and introducing life design dialogues. Each of these academic events was attended by over 120 people.

In 2003, Professor enabled pedagogy students specialising in Counselling to pay a research visit to INETOP-CNAM and other counseling institutions in Paris. Since 2005, students have benefited from the opportunity to read one of the classic work of Guichard, co-authored with M. Huteau (*Psychologie de l'orientation*), which had been translated into Polish and became the core manual and one of the must-read publications for all future counsellors (Guichard, Huteau, 2005).

Professor Guichard's kind assistance has been opening doors for cooperation with other research centres abroad. He also made it possible for us to host lectures of professors Bernadette Dumora (2003, 2005), Valerie Cohen-Scali (2013), Mark Savickas (2014), David Blustein (2016, 2017) and Maria Eduarda Duarte (2017).

The UNESCO Chair on Lifelong Guidance and Counseling, led by professor Guichard, initiated a network of international scientific cooperation UNITWIN NETWORK *Life designing interventions (counseling, guidance, education) for decent work and sustainable development*, with a membership of 18 universities from all over the world: University of Wrocław, Poland (project coordinator), Institut National d'Etude du Travail et d'Orientation Professionnelle (INETOP-CNAM) Paris – France, Université de Bordeaux (France), Université de Buenos Aires (Argentina), Université de Lausanne (Switzerland), Université Catholique de l'Ouest – ANGERS (France), University of Iceland, Reykjavík (Iceland), University of Lisbon (Portugal), University of Coimbra (Portugal), University of Padova (Italy), University of São Paulo (Brasil), Université Laval – Québec (Canada), Lesley University – Cambridge (USA), Università degli Studi di Firenze (Italy), University of Pretoria (South Africa), University of Eastern Finland – Joensuu (Finland), the University of Lower Silesia in Wrocław, and Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań.

As a scientist and scholar, Jean Guichard has always been attempting to answer core questions, such as diversification of social objects in spontaneous knowledge structures, activities and professions, their genesis, transformations and role in assimilation of new knowledge, different ways of setting up individual relations with own world and with the self.

This special issue begins with three important research papers by Jean Guichard, in which he presents changes in counseling and challenges that counseling faces in contemporary world, as well as an original model of counseling interventions, i.e. life design dialogues.

The issue also includes other texts that are thematically related to the questions addressed in three main papers by professor Guichard. All authors in this volume address, although to a varying degree, the issues regarding tasks ahead of contemporary counselogy, such as life design in today's globalised world, and the role of dialogue in the counseling relationship. Here we cite just selected – most important and most recent – publications by professor Jean Guichard in chronological order:

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- Guichard, J. (2008). Proposition d'un schéma d'entretien constructiviste de conseil en orientation pour des adolescents ou de jeunes adultes [Outline of a life designing counseling interview for adolescents and young adults]. *L'Orientation Scolaire et Professionnelle*, 37, 413–440.
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Translated by Katarzyna Byłów-Antkowiak

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