

EDITORIAL

The problem of guidance nowadays should be stated again as a distinct interdisciplinary problem where theory focuses on the structural nodes their complex relationships have, and empirical research and social intervention find the concrete situations establishing the proof and enrich both the theoretical and empirical level with appropriate and effective products.

The complexity of the activities of guidance, the theories supporting it, the changes in the educational and labor systems and the new psychosocial problems associated with unemployment (reconversion, adequacy, preparation for retirement) have originated a new vision of guidance strategies and the different guidance centers and services worldwide.

The productive reconversion which developed along the so-called globalization of economy, the changes in political, cultural and educational systems has certainly had an impact on guiding models. What in some contexts is known as "Careers Guidance" and, in our country as "On-going Vocational-Careers Guidance" requires a means of communication expressing said realities and offering a space for exchange for specialists in this field and these disciplines. A space where exchange, debate and deepening shall be possible, opening up the field to other latitudes and occupying an intellectual gap that can be noticed in our country nowadays.

All of these social transformations have changed and widened the counselor's view even beyond the formal and non-formal educational system to embrace the different programs with projection into the community and the attention to the economic, labor, technological systems and the social cultural patterns.

"Orientación y Sociedad" (Guidance and Society) aims at becoming a space for the dissemination of the different experiences related to guidance, employment, and work at the individual, institutional and community levels, both in the preventive and the assistance aspects. It also seeks to share new approaches related to the production, transmission and transfer of knowledge.

"Orientación y Sociedad" is also the corollary of years of professional practice in the areas of teaching, research and extramural activities; the fruit of permanent communication among colleagues of national and international universities and of scientific national and international meetings.

These, among others, apparently are the reasons that justify this magazine.

The editorial project groups and summons a number of experts from different areas of knowledge who can be linked through the connecting theme of Guidance. This project is one of strategic character that finds its own propellant and path in the contributions by the authors and the urging demands of the social milieu.

It has also been our intention to widen the reading context of this means of communication

adding to each contribution its English version as well as a summary in Portuguese. We would very much like to reach Spanish-speaking, Portuguese-speaking readers as well as those readers in places where the barriers set by different languages can somewhat be overcome and, in some way, compensated using English.

The condition of multilingualism also favors the approach and setting up of an international advisory and referee board to weigh —according to strict criteria- the most suitable works.

The magazine shall incorporate in issues to come, not only the main contributions in Guidance and Society by renown authors but also different types of information: research results, preliminary reports, abstracts, book reviews and comments, scientific events, etc., thus enabling systematic updating and formation.

This first issue is a "special edition" due to the expectations its appearance posed which resulted in a number of contributions from the advisory board, whose interest and importance lead to this introduction. From now on, the contributions shall have to comply with the rules specified at the end of the magazine.

Mirta Gavilán