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ECDP

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Editor

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Foreword

Developmental psychology is the scientific study of progressive psychological changes that occur in human beings throughout the lifespan. Studies in the field of developmental psychology focus on different aspects of cognitive development, language development, emotional development, moral development, personality development, development of the self, psychosexual development, and physical development in infants and children, also in later other periods of great change such as adolescence, emerging adulthood, adulthood and aging. Thus, this field examines changes occurring during the life-span across a broad range of topics and informs several applied fields, including educational psychology, developmental psychopathology and some others.

The foundation of the European Society for Developmental Psychology (ESDP) aims to promote scientific exchange and to support young scholars and scientific excellence. In addition, the ESDP is responsible for defining research topics specific for Europe and for preparing an official framework for the biennial conferences. However, apart providing the possibilities for scientific exchanges, the ESDP conferences also give the opportunity to experience European countries, their culture and their tradition in developmental psychological research. In 2009, the ESDP was holding its first conference in the Baltic countries, in Vilnius. Vilnius is considered as a European baroque capital, and was the European capital of culture in 2009.

This volume is based on papers presented at ECDP 2009 – the 14th European Conference on Development Psychology – hosted by Mykolas Romeris University in Vilnius, Lithuania, on August 18-22, 2009.

We thank most sincerely the prestigious faculty and the participants who brought their data and experience to Vilnius as indicated by the high level of presentations and symposia. The scientific program included 10 Invited Talks, 8 Invited Symposia, 32 Symposia and a large number of contributed talks and poster presentations. We deeply

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appreciate participants who prepared these chapters for publication. Thanks are also due to all sponsors of ECP2009, to ESDP Council, all our colleagues, friends and families for their support at different stages of preparation and running of the ECDP 2009.

We hope and trust that the discussions and debates in Vilnius will help us all in planning and implementing new initiatives, such as positive parenting in Europe initiated by current ESDP President José María Rodríguez. We truly believe that developmental scientists may contribute to the societies by facilitating the transfer of knowledge to best practice, providing recommendations, based on sound scientific research in the years to come.

*Rita Zukauskiene
Vilnius, Lithuania, July 2010*

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