

Zucconi

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abstract

We are living in a period of globalization and of growing complexity.

To meet our present and future challenges we need new and effective ways to cope since our old ways of dealing with reality seem not to be up to the task.

The human population's exponential increase in numbers and consumption has produced dramatic and exorbitant costs to the environment.

Our present way of life has negatively affected the ecosystems of our planet; growing numbers of scientists warn us that we are fast approaching a tipping point where mitigation and /or reversal of trends will be not be within our reach.

Therefore we must act promptly and effectively. In order to do this we need to foster a bio-psycho-social intelligence, which will allow us to acquire the new needed competencies.

The principles of network science can make this available not only to the professions but also to the general public, fostering in this way new intercultural, interdisciplinary and intersectorial competencies. In this way we will be able to write a new chapter in the sociology of the professions and at the same time create a new and more democratic sociology of competence.

I will illustrate this with examples from the fields of health promotion, human capital protection & promotion and the development of psychological literacy.