



Resilience and Perseverance in Uncertain Times

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From the Founders:

Resilience and Perseverance in Uncertain Times

Taisir Subhi Yamin; Ken W. McCluskey

The evolving coronavirus is still with us (and mutating). Many have likened our struggle with this plague as warfare; and it is truly a formidable enemy. In times like these, the world needs all the creativity we can muster, together with a liberal dose of resilience and perseverance. The International Centre for Innovation in Education (ICIE), Lost Prizes International (LPI), and the University of Winnipeg (UW) are trying, insofar as possible, to stay the course and move ahead safely, cautiously, and productively.

As part of its overall service delivery, ICIE conducted four Interviews in the latter part of 2020:

- Vlad Glaveanu, *Contemporary Issues and Research in Creativity*;
- Ken McCluskey, *ADHD: Disorder or Gift?*
- Maureen Neihart, *Social-Emotional Problems of Gifted, Creative, and Talented Students*; and,
- Trevor Tebbs, *Misdiagnosis in Gifted Education*.

As well in 2020, ICIE published the following books and monographs:

- *A Call to Action: The Urgency of Cultural Competency Training for Teachers Working with Racially Diverse Gifted Students*, by Joy Lawson Davis (Foreword by Erinn Fears Floyd);
- *Gifted Workers Hitting the Target*, by Noks Nauta and Siewwke Ronner;
- *Providing Students with Creative Spaces: The Power of Edutainment*, by Maher Bahloul; and,
- *21st Century Skills: Powerful Teaching with Cooperative Learning*, by Ludger Bruening and Tobias Saum (Translator, Heinz Neber; Editor, Taisir Subhi Yamin).

Unfortunately, we lost two renowned scholars in gifted education who passed away in 2020:

K. Anders Ericsson, a Swedish psychologist and Conradi Eminent Scholar, was known widely as the “expert on experts.” A long-serving cognitive psychologist at Florida State University, he wrote extensively about expertise and performance in various forms of human endeavour, from sports to music to medicine. By zeroing in on “extended deliberate practice,” Dr. Ericsson examined how it is that experts acquire skills so far above the norm. And from his nurture-trumps-nature perspective, hard work was a major part of the expertise equation. His research has had far-reaching impact and his advice has been sought from many quarters, including corporate executives, professional coaches, and well-known organizations (such as Cirque du Soleil, Google, the Philadelphia Eagles, and the CIA).

Victor Müller-Oppliger served as Professor at the University of Education and Teacher Training, Northwestern Switzerland. We're told that Professor Müller-Oppliger enjoyed a full and energetic life well-lived, and that – as a passionate and talented percussionist – he literally marched to the beat of his own drum. And professionally, he made many contributions to gifted education. A respected writer (on topics such as giftedness, talent development, self-directed learning, and mentoring) and a popular speaker locally and internationally, Professor Müller-Oppliger was the founder of the Swiss international Master in Gifted Education and Talent Development program; a co-founder of the International Panel of Experts in Gifted Education; a member of the General Committee and the Educational Board of the European Council for High Ability; and an elected delegate for Switzerland with the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children.

In closing, as we write this piece, preparations are well underway for the 9th Annual Lost Prizes/ICIE Seminars that will take place July 8-10, 2021 at the University of Winnipeg. Due to the ongoing pandemic, this event will again be delivered virtually. We were thrilled with the engagement of presenters and participants during our first venture with a remote format this year, and look forward to even bigger and better things on our next attempt. The conference theme for the upcoming Seminars is *Staying Connected: Engagement, Creativity, & Innovation*. Three keynote speakers have been confirmed: Dr. Michael Ungar (Halifax), who will be presenting on Building Resilient Schools and Communities; Dr. Jody Carrington (Alberta), who will bring her expertise on Relationships and (Re)Connecting; and UW's Marc Kuly, who will share Walking Between Worlds: Stories Inner City Indigenous Young Adults Tell About School. (We expect to finalize our slate of keynote and invited speakers in the very near future.)

New this time around is a youth panel where we are engaging the voices of young people who will share their stories, passion projects, and perspectives on community and global issues. Also new for 2021 is the opportunity to submit presentation proposals. We look forward to expanding our networks and sharing the amazing and innovative work our communities of educators have been doing as they navigate these challenging and unprecedented times.