

Editor's Note

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We are all aware of how the pandemic has created unsureness in many of us, now we are cruising through life by creating a new, post-pandemic, normal. The chaos theory of careers is presented as “a dynamical systems theory alternative and contemporary model of career development that emphasises continual, uncertain and non-linear change, complexity of influences, and emergent fractal patterns in career” (Bright & Pryor, 2012, p. 10). The chaos theory of careers acknowledges that there are many factors that play a role in one’s career development such as economic situations, job markets, one’s personal values, family, and culture. Furthermore, the theory suggests that change is a part of life and being certain about the future is unfeasible. Difficulties faced are learning opportunities and it is alright to make decisions with the little info that one has (Bright & Pryor, 2012).

The aim of this special issue is to extend current knowledge and application of the theory into post-pandemic approach with practitioners, educators, and policy makers. The chaos theory of careers has been a primary theoretical approach for analyzing and planning career policies and interventions during the COVID-19 pandemic and is likely to continue to be used into the future. By using the increased uncertainty spawned by the pandemic, this special issue further aims to become a foundation for future focused career planning.

We are honored to have received the key manuscript led by Jim Bright, the founder of the chaos theory of careers, accompanied by Robert Pryor and Olivia Pennie, entitled “Chaos Theory

of Careers: Standing Out Not Fitting In.” Other manuscripts included in this special issue are “Career Chaos Scale: A Validation Test in China” by Hsiu-Lan Shelley Tien, Tiantian Li, Jiyou Gu, and Juanjuan Wang and “Exploring Self-Efficacy in the Classroom with a Chaos Theory of Careers Curriculum” by Jon Schlesinger, Zachary Vigliani and Sandra Sylvestre . These articles will provide practitioners, educators, and policy makers with further insight on the application of the chaos theory of careers.

I am humbly grateful to be given the opportunity of being a guest editor for this special issue of an impactful journal. I thank the Asia Pacific Career Development board of directors, the editor of APCDJ, Dr. Brian Hutchison, along with the editorial team for providing me with this opportunity. The authors of this special issue are among the top in our profession and were kind to lend their names and work to this journal.

I would like to end this note with a quote that resonates with the nature of the chaos theory of careers. In the words of Sun-Tzu, “In the midst of chaos, there is also opportunity.” I believe this describes well the nature of the chaos theory of careers amid this post-pandemic era. I wish all many great opportunities and success for the future.