Developing socio-emotional competencies through online simulations

Abstract
Simulations in education are widely recognized as an effective tool for developing social-emotional competencies (SEL). With the outbreak of the Corona virus (COVID19) and the social distancing regulations, many simulation workshops transitioned into digital settings, via Zoom software. Given the vast investment of resources in simulation, the present study examined whether socio-emotional development processes conducted remotely, allow for the enhancement of SEL competencies as effectively as those facilitated in face-to-face simulations. For this purpose, 20 participants from two types of workshops (face-to-face and online simulation) were interviewed following their participation in a workshop. In addition, quantitative questionnaires were administered to 136 participants pre- and post-workshop, 49 participated in face-to-face workshops and 87 in online workshops. The findings suggest that the two types of workshops contribute positively to the enhancement of SEL competencies, although there are differences in participants’ subjective experience. In this lecture we will expand on differences between the two types of workshops with respect to the uniqueness of each type of workshop and its potentials and challenges.

About the presenters
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