

FOREWORD

Special Issue on Self-Determination Theory: A Canadian Contribution

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The last 25 years has seen an explosion of research and theorizing on human motivation. Such research has underscored the fundamental role of motivation in human functioning. A number of theories have been proposed to account for the role of motivation in human functioning (see Pittman & Zeigler, 2007; Shah & Gardner, 2008). Amongst these theories, self-determination theory (SDT; Deci & Ryan, 1985, 2000, 2008; Ryan & Deci, 2000) has been especially influential. It is important to acknowledge that Canadian researchers have played a key role in the development of this important theory. For instance, the last two international conferences on SDT have been held in Canada and the last one, held in Toronto in 2007, attracted more than 300 participants.

The collection of articles of this Special Issue on “Self-Determination Theory: A Canadian Contribution” were part of a presidential symposium organised by the first author and presented at the Canadian Psychological Association Convention on June 8, 2007, in Ottawa. This symposium generated a lot of interest, and it was suggested that a special issue of *Canadian Psychology* be devoted to it. Following an introductory article by Deci and Ryan,

a total of nine articles appear. These articles review research in a variety of contexts on various important themes, such as work, education, relationships, parenting, health, environmental issues, and psychotherapy. Finally, a concluding article provides some reflection on these articles and proposes directions for future research. As such, this special issue celebrates the role that Canadian researchers have played, and continue to play, in testing and refining this major motivation theory.

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