

Prof. Armand Chatard (Université de Poitiers)

Conference Title :

Escaping from self: Investigating the relations between failure, self-awareness, and suicide thought accessibility

Abstract:

According to Baumeister (1990), suicide occurs when individuals fail to attain important standards and are motivated to escape negative self-awareness. In an effort to contribute to this literature, a theoretical model, developed and currently tested in our lab, seeks to specify the relations between failure, self-awareness, and suicide thought accessibility (that is, the extent to which suicide-related cognitions are central to attention). According to this model, an increase in suicide-thought accessibility is a direct consequence of failure, and the motivation to escape negative self-awareness is a mediator of the relation between failure and suicide thought accessibility. The model also identifies a number of moderators of this relation, such as the combined influence of self-consciousness and avoidant coping, the discrepancy between self and standard, chronic feelings of failure, and self-focused attention. Several experiments will be presented to illustrate core tenets of the model. Although this model is just at its beginning, it may offer promising avenues of research for the study of suicidal thoughts and behaviors in normal and clinical populations.