

# Understanding Meaning-Making in Daily Life Through Multilevel Network Psychometrics

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Intensive longitudinal designs, such as daily diary and experience sampling methods (Bolger & Laurenceau, 2013), offer valuable opportunities to study psychological processes as they unfold in the ecological context of daily life. However, the richness of the data collected through these designs requires sophisticated tools to leverage both inter-individual and intra-individual variability. Multilevel models of Network Psychometrics are particularly suited to exploring the conditional dependencies between core components of psychological processes investigated with intensive data collections, by distinguishing within-subject dynamics (including contemporaneous and lagged temporal effects) while accounting for stable individual differences. This contribution presents an application of Multilevel Network Psychometrics (Epskamp, 2021), to test a theoretical model that conceptualizes meaning-making as an emergent process resulting from the interplay among six core components over time (Zambelli & Tagliabue, 2022). The sample included 66 Ukrainian social workers engaged in the war emergency context and 23 social workers in training, who participated in a 30-day diary study completing twice a day a six-item self-report measure assessing situational meaning in life (SMILE; Zambelli & Tagliabue, 2024). Results showed a contemporaneous network of positive associations between meaning components within the same day. The temporal network unveiled that search for significance and purpose were the most fluctuating ones, that engaging in search for significance was predicting finding meaning in life (especially significance and coherence) the following day, while finding purpose in life increased the involvement in search for significance over time. Potentialities and challenges of multilevel networks to investigate dynamics of psychological processes are discussed.

## If you're submitting a symposium talk, what's the symposium title?

Mapping the Mind: investigating the relationships across Psychometric and Neural variables through Network Science

## If you're submitting a symposium, or a talk that is part of a symposium, is this a junior symposium?

Yes

**Primary author:** ZAMBELLI, Michela (Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore)

**Co-authors:** GIORDANO, Francesca; TAGLIABUE, Semira

**Presenter:** ZAMBELLI, Michela (Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore)

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