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<b>Title of the project:</b>	OUTIP – Out of control. Analysing precarity and its effect on the psychological wellbeing of youth under an intersectional perspective
<b>Contact:</b>	Lara Maestriperi (PI)
<b>Web page:</b>	<a href="https://portalrecerca.uab.cat/en/persons/lara-maestriperi">https://portalrecerca.uab.cat/en/persons/lara-maestriperi</a>
<b>Area:</b>	Precariousness, precarity, economic insecurity, mental health, psychological wellbeing, youth, transition to adulthood, vulnerability, intersectionality

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## What?

OUTIP's general objective is to study the impact of precarity on psychological wellbeing among Spanish youth, considering the mediating role of vulnerability through an analytical intersectional framework. It conceives precarity as the perceived insecurity based on a subjective evaluation regarding one's current employment and/or economic conditions. Opting for applying the concept of precarity allows OUTIP to bridge two strands of literature (job precariousness and economic insecurity), which have mainly developed independently in spite of the commonalities in their research object. The first original point of this project would thus be arguing for a direct impact of precarity on psychological wellbeing, considering at the same time its work-related and economic-related dimensions of insecurity. As a second original contribution, we argue that the higher vulnerability of young people to mental health issues depends on several economic and social determinants, as well as on specific individual circumstances. Vulnerability mediates between precarity and psychological wellbeing, and it will be conceived in intersectional terms - taking gender into account in this project. We focus on youth as we consider that they are particularly vulnerable to mental health issue, due to their specific moment in life course.

## Who?

OUTIP is led by Lara Maestriperi (Ramon y Cajal distinguished fellow at IGOP-UAB) and the research team members are the following:

**PI: Lara Maestriperi** holds a Ph.D. in Sociology and Social Research, granted by the University of Trento (2011). She is distinguished researcher "Ramon y Cajal" in the Department of Political Science at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. She is also a member of i-GOP-UAB's Research Group on Innovation, Governance and Public Policies.

Her research interests concern social change in post-industrial society and in particular: public policies and intersectionality, economic insecurity in Southern European countries, social innovation and emerging professions.

**Mireia Bolibar** holds a PhD in sociology from the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (2014). In 2022, she joined the Department of Sociology of the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB) as an associate professor (professora agregada). As part of the UAB, she is currently a member of the Sociological Research Center on Everyday Life and Work (QUIT) and the Institute for Labour Studies (IET). Her research interests are both in the field of social research methodology and sociology of work. On one hand, she has been studying social inequalities in youth labour market trajectories, the role of social capital in the labour market, and the extension, characteristics and health consequences of precarious employment and unemployment.

**Sergios Salas** holds a degree in Sociology and a Ph.D. in Public Health from Autonomous University of Barcelona. His works on occupational epidemiology deal with the effects of job insecurity on mental health, inequalities in exposure to psychosocial occupational risks, and the surveillance of health and safety based on data from population surveys. He is currently working as a researcher in the area of occupational health at the Fundació 1<sup>er</sup> de Mayo CCOO, leading a European project on social dialogue, climate change and heat waves funded by the call Improving Expertise in the field of industrial relations.

**Daniel Edmiston** is a mixed-methods researcher who has developed an innovative programme of national and comparative research exploring the relationship between poverty, economic insecurity and social policy across the life course. His research has explored, inter alia, the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on young people, students, migrants, ethnic minorities and those in social housing. He has demonstrated how young people are not only more likely to experience relative poverty but are also over-represented amongst those falling deeper into poverty and has produced a series of academic papers and applied reports to identify policy mechanisms contributing towards this trend. He is currently PI of a 5-year project funded by the European Research Council Who Counts: Incorporating a missing minority to re-examine the profile, drivers and depth of poverty across Europe (2024-2028).

**Alessandra Guglielmi** is a full Professor in Statistics at Politecnico di Milano, Department of Mathematics. Her research interests are mainly focused on Bayesian inference (parametric and nonparametric), with emphasis on modelling and computational aspects. From the application point of view, my work concerns statistics for Medicine (e.g. recurrent events related to heart failures, survival after an infarction), Health care management (e.g. home care providers, recurrent blood donations), Biology (e.g. SNP's data) and Engineering (e.g. topic modelling)

**Mattia Vacchiano**, is a Sociologist (Phd UAB 2019) lecturer in the Department of Sociology at the University of Geneva. His research addresses from an interdisciplinary approach, issues related to labor markets, leisure, mental health, life courses and social inequalities, especially among young people. His main theoretical and methodological expertise is social capital theory and social network analysis.

**Matilde Cittadini** is a Phd Student at IGOP-UAB. Her thesis project focuses on the study of minimum income schemes through an approach based on intersectionality theory. She graduated with a three-year course in ‘International and Diplomatic Sciences’ at the University of Bologna (Forlì Campus) in the 2018/2019 academic year. She continued her studies at the University of Padua in the course of ‘European and Global Studies’ with a focus on ‘European Policies’. She participated in an Erasmus+ project at the Universitat in Siegen (a.y. 2018/19) and a second one at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona (a.y. 2020/21). During her stay in Barcelona, she carried out an internship working for the POLBIS project, as part of the agreements between Unipd and UB (Universidad de Barcelona).

**Vincenzo Favara** is Phd Student at the Department of Sociology at UAB and is a graduate student in Sociology for Sustainability at La Sapienza Università di Roma. He previously earned a degree in Political Science and International Relations from Luiss Guido Carli University. Vincenzo has collaborated with the Istituto di Ricerche Educative e Formative (Iref) on urban regeneration initiatives. As part of the *Caring Tower* project, he collected life stories that were featured in the 2023 anthology *La parola che cura – storie di vita degli inquilini della "torre gialla" (The Healing Word: Life Stories of the "Yellow Tower" Residents)*. Driven by a commitment to addressing socio-economic inequalities and promoting environmental justice, Vincenzo’s dedication to social change and his academic grounding provide a robust foundation for advanced research in deliberative and participatory democratic approaches to sustainability, as well as in the psychosociology and sociology of emotions. His academic journey is rooted in mixed-methods inquiry, with a specific focus on communication patterns among social groups.

## Why?

The mental health of young people has been of growing concern and interest to policymakers and public health experts since the 2000s, with some describing it as a key public health challenge globally. In recent years, the COVID-19 pandemic has further highlighted the vulnerability of young people and their disproportionate exposure to social, public health and economic risks. Taking into account that precariousness is a crucial social determinant of mental health, some authors highlight the concentration of labour precariousness among youth as a key explanatory factor for poor mental health. While there is growing interest in job precariousness as a key explanatory factor for psychological wellbeing, a recent scoping review found the literature on the topic to be limited, with just a few studies focusing on young people and only limitedly taking into account the multidimensionality associated with the concept of precariousness.

OUTIP continues the research that was founded by LaCaixa Foundation in 2023, with the project [#VulnYouth](#).

## How?

OUTIP addresses the following research questions:

- i. how does precarity influence the psychological wellbeing of young people?
- ii. to what extent does vulnerability mediate this relationship?

iii. is there any specific intersection which is particularly exposed to the adverse effects of precarity on psychological wellbeing?

OUTIP will adopt a mixed-methods approach to address these questions among the population of young people 20-34. We will field an original longitudinal survey to explore what feeling insecure in employment and life have youth psychological wellbeing (2 waves, 18 months span). A second research action will address young people's most vulnerable profiles, exploring meanings challenging to intercept with a survey. We conduct 20 life-course interviews to reconstruct young people's lives and understand the intersectional complexity of their vulnerability. This will allow us to understand if specific intersections of inequalities magnify the exposure of the person to the negative consequences in terms of psychological wellbeing determined by precarity. The policy implications of the empirical evidence collected within the project will be disseminated to the public, civil society associations and policymakers with tailored actions.

## **When?**

September 2024 – September 2027

Call: PID2023-147403NB-I00