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## Mediating Effects of Flow on Harmonious Passion: Contribution to the Exploration of Bright Side and Dark Side of Flow in Educational Context

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**Keywords:** education, flow, passion, persistence, vocational training

*Background:* Over the past 35 years, empirical analyses have mainly focused on the “bright sides of flow”. But in spite of its positive implications for life, flow presents an amoral character [1]: it can be used for both adaptive and less positive ends [2]. Thus, some researchers are involved in the study of the phenomenon termed for convenience as “dark side of flow” [3]. In the same vein, the dualistic model of passion [4] proposes the existence of two types of passion: harmonious passion (HP) promotes flexible persistence (FP) whereas obsessive passion (OP) thwarts it by causing rigid persistence (RP).

*Aim:* This preliminary study uses the “Dig-e-Lab” project (as regards vocational online training programs) to test a model exploring the relationships between students’ passion, flow, and persistence (flexible *vs* rigid) as presented in Figure 1.

*Method:* This contribution focuses on 345 Master students in Univ. Lille, *via* an online survey.

*Tools:*

- General passion scale [5]
- Flexible/rigid persistence scale [6]
- EduFlow-2 scale [7]

*Results:* Results from SEM analysis yielded good fit indices: CFI=.92; TLI=.91; RMSEA=.053; SRMR=.07. As expected, the model (Figure 2) confirms the relationships between (1) HP-FP; (2) OP-PR; (3) HP-Flow. It highlights that flow has similar effects on both FP and PR.

*Conclusions:* This study confirms that passion and flow have two sides. The mediating effect of Flow between HP and PR really is a key outcome: this is an original contribution to the exploration of the dark side of flow.

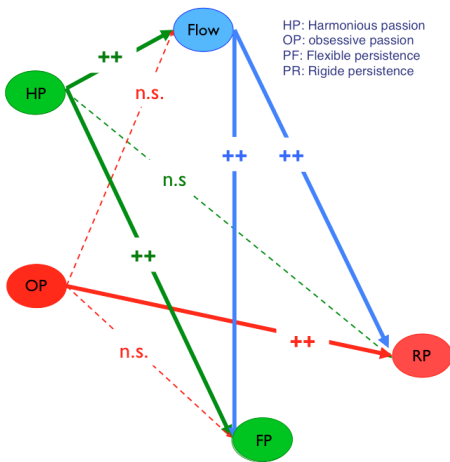


Figure 1. Expected model of relationships between Passion-Flow-Persistence

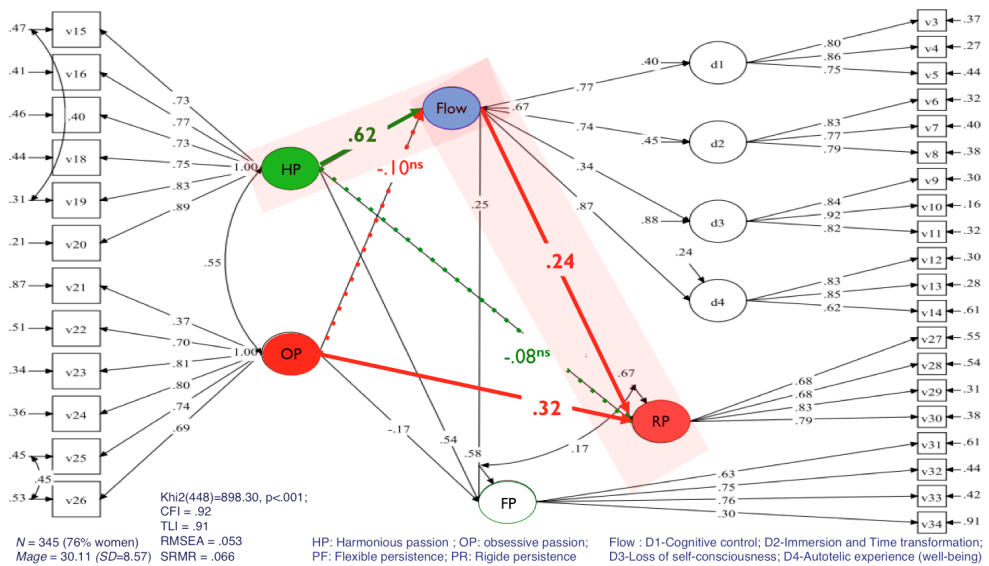


Figure 2. Mediating effect of Flow between harmonious passion and rigid persistence.

### Acknowledgments

The authors acknowledge the Interreg DigeLab programme financed by the European Regional Development Fund.

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