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About the Presenter:

Professor Julio Gonzalez is one of the most well known professionals in the field of guidance and counselling in Latin America and was the president of the Latin American Network of Counseling Professionals. He is presently Vice President of the International Association for Educational and Vocational Guidance (2007-2011). Professor Gonzalez is a leading contributor to scientific journals devoted to the field of Guidance in Latin America and has been dedicated, in recent years, to spread the contributions of the region at international conferences. His papers have been presented in New Zealand (2009), Finland (2009), Mexico (2008), Argentina (2008), Italy (2007), Denmark (2006) and Portugal (2005).

Title of Paper: **Counselors' Training in Latin America: Basic Criteria to Improve their Quality and Relevancy**

Abstract:

One of the principal problems in the performance of professionals in Guidance/Counseling results from their training. This situation, nowadays, has been overcome in many aspects but still certain drawbacks exist especially if we consider the situation among the countries that shape the geographical region known as Latin America. Dissimilar and opposite criteria of training result in the absence of uniformity in theoretical as well as practical orientations. This research tries to formulate basic criteria that could unify related factors to the training of the counseling professionals for Latin America, in order to improve the standards of quality and relevance in the performance of the profession. This research was approached under the criteria of the Compared Education. An analysis of the educational systems of these countries, related to the aspect of the training counseling professionals was done. The research, methodologically, consisted of four phases: description, explanation, juxtaposition and comparison. The conclusion describes some basic criteria that could improve the quality and the relevance of the training of guidance/counseling professionals in the considered region.