

SLOVAK PSYCHOLOGY OF INDIVIDUALS WITH THE VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS

An overview of related basic and applied psychological research and practice

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HISTORICAL MILESTONES OF SLOVAK PSYCHOLOGY

Ján HORVÁT (1732 - 1799): Lectures on Metaphysics
Universita Tyrnaviensis

Andrej VANDRÁK (1851): Enchiridion antropologiae psychicae
Fries' Jena Psychology School

Anton JUROVSKÝ (1946): Psychology. 1st textbook

1928 - Psychotechnological Institute

1939 - Psychology chair at Comenius University

☛ „War“ ➡ and „Peace“ ☛

1948 „rebuilding“ a field ➡ dialectical & historical materialism

1955 Psychological Laboratory - Slovak Academy of Sciences
(...) but some psychologists, therapists *underground* (Praha, Brno, Bratislava, Košice...)



(1908 – 1985)

PATHOPSYCHOLOGY - CONCEPTUAL DEVELOPMENT

- **Dpt. of Psychology and Pathopsychology** at Comenius University
Faculty of Philosophy / Faculty of Education
 - defining pathopsychology as a new psychological discipline;
 - pathopsychology courses (psychologists, special teachers, therapeutic educators)

- Ladislav KOŠČ (1974). General Pathopsychology.

Pathopsychology = psychological discipline dealing with psychological anomalies and deficits, that means borderline states, characteristics and processes in human personality in the *area between normality and pathology*; with accompanying psychological phenomena and consequences of any life deficit (somatic or psychic illness or defect, or social deficiency), those deviated from the range of normality but without the quality or level of psychic abnormality or pathology

Critique: 1) too close to neighbouring discipline psychopathology and 2) too wide or unspecific (e. g. life deficiency)



(1924 -)

PATHOPSYCHOLOGY – THEORETICAL FRAMEWORKS

Until 1989

- Lev Semionovič VYGOTSKIJ (1896 – 1934):
theory of human cultural and bio-social development – cultural-historical psychology ; mediatory role of culture (language) in the development of higher mental functions in ontogeny and phylogeny within the domain of cognitive-mediation theory
- Alexander Romanovič LURIIA (1902 – 1977):
(1962) Higher Cortical Functions in Man and Their Impairment Caused by Local Brain Damage; ... (1976) Basic Problems of Neurolinguistics
- Ivan Petrovič PAVLOV (1849 – 1936) and Burrhus Frederic SKINNER (1904 – 1990):
theories of classical and operant conditioning
- Alfred ADLER (1870 – 1937): personality theory



1957 Psychological Educational Clinic - Bratislava
interdisciplinary cooperation

1958 Slovak Psychological Society
Studia psychologica – scien. journal

1959 Dpt. of Psychology Comenius University re-est.

1964 Institute of Child Psychology and **Pathopsychology**

1966 Child Psychology and **Pathopsychology** – scien. journal

1967 Institute of Special and Therapeutic Pedagogy
incl. Dpt. Psychology and **Pathopsychology** at CU FP

1968 National corporation Psychodiagnostic and didactic
testing (Czechoslovak)

1989 ☛ „Velvet Revolution“

1994 Act No 199/1994 on Psychological Activities and Slovak
Chamber of Psychologists

1995 Code of Ethics - Slovak Psychology Chamber



Miroslav T.
BAŽÁNY
(1923-1998)



Ladislav
POŽÁR
(1928 -)

- **Ladislav POŽÁR et Ivan JAKABČIC, Eva D. UHROVÁ, Miroslav ANDREÁNSKY (1984).** Pathopsychology of Handicapped Child I.

Pathopsychology = psychological discipline *dealing with research of the principles* of development of psychological processes, states and characteristics, overall personality structure in *people with handicap* as well as principles of *psychological regulation of their behaviour*;

handicap - handicapped individual = from the psychological perspective an individual with difficulties in social participation (application) implicated from deficiency or deficit of an organ, its function or process; individual with characteristic difficulties in perception and understanding of the environment, in social interaction; at the same time with specific characteristics in personality development

Critique: 1) too heavy and not practical,
2) person with handicap vs. handicapped person

- **Man / woman with a handicap** = a man with the existence of a clear deficiency or with an organ deficit or its function deficit, which modifies the processes of cognition, acquiring and applying social skills and by whom at the same time specifics in the geneses and structure and dynamics of personality are present

Commentary: not an existence of deficiency or a deficit are essential but their reflection into human experience and behaviour

- Pathopsychology ➡ **Psychology of individuals with various handicaps** = deals with research of such behaviour and psychological phenomena which are beyond common framework of assessing of normality, but which at the same time do not reach the level of pathology or abnormality

Example: Is it normal to be blind or deaf...? It is hard to say, yes. Is he or she because of that ill or not normal? Definitely not. He or she is simply different...

Viera ANDREÁNSKA et Ivan JAKABČIC, Elena BROZMANOVÁ, Miroslav ANDREÁNSKY (2012)

Since 1989

- SLOVAK PSYCHOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION (* 1990)
1999 standards of European association for psychotherapy adopted
Network of certified training:
ABC Slovak Institute of Training in CBT; Dialog Slovak Institute of Training in Gestalt Psychotherapy; Institute of Brief Psychoanalytical Psychotherapy; Virginia Satir Institute in SR; Institute of Systemic Experience in Kosice; PCA Institute Ister; POPI Slovakia – Institute of Process Oriented Psychology; SIPP Slovak Institute of Psychodynamic Psychotherapy; Slovak Association Institute of Katathym Imaginative Psychotherapy; Slovak Association for Concentrative Motion Therapy; Slovak Institute for Supervision; Slovak Institute for Psychotraumatology; Slovak Institute of Logotherapy and Existential Analysis SILOE; Institute for Training in Relaxation and Symbolic Psychotherapy
- Renewal of the Centres of Psychological and Special Education Counselling
- Association of School Psychology (1990) – move towards integration and inclusion



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RESEARCH PROJECTS and PUBLICATIONS

- „Some psychological aspects of social and professional integration of handicapped individual.“ Research Project. Čiastková úloha rezortného plánu výskumu RSS – 2/3 / L. Požár (zodpovedný riešiteľ). – Trnava: Pedagogická fakulta UK, 1980.
- Specifics of personality development in handicapped child. Závěrečná správa RŠ II-03-09 / L. Požár, M. Andreánsky, I. Jakabčic, E. Uhrová. – Trnava: PdF UK, 1985.
- „Attitudes of society towards individuals with various kinds of handicaps “ Project VEGA (1992-1995) DPP FEDU UNIBA (L. Požár)
- „Social psychological aspects of forming of integrated pupils groups“ Project VEGA (1996 – 1998) DPP FEDU UNIBA (L. Požár)
- „Psychological factors influencing the quality of life individuals with various kinds of handicaps“ Project VEGA (1998 – 2001) DPP FEDU UNIBA (V. ANDREÁNSKA) and CBSC SAS
- „Psychological dimensions of a lifestyle in individuals with various kinds of handicaps in the context of social economical changes“ Project VEGA (2003 – 2005) DPP FEDU UNIBA (V. ANDREÁNSKA) and CBSC SAS ;
- „Possibilities of creating conditions for the equal opportunities of individuals with various kinds of handicap in majority society“ Project VEGA (2006-2008) DPP FEDU UNIBA (V. ANDREÁNSKA) and CBSC SAS;
- „Cognitive versus social prerequisites of success of people with handicap“ Project VEGA (2009-2012) DPP FEDU UNIBA (M. GROMA) and CBSC SAS;

- Požár, L. (1971). Some patophysiology a perception specifics in children with amblyopic and strabismus. Paedagogica Specialis, II, p. 5–35. • Požár, L. et al. (1972). Experimental research of some perception characteristics in children with amblyopic and strabismus. Paedagogica Specialis, III., p. 3–32. • Požár, L., Argalášová, V. (1974). Standardisation attempt of Kohs Cubes test adapted for the blind population. Psychológia a patopsychológia dieťaťa, 9, 3, p. 261–270. • Požár, L., Andreánska, V. (1974). Aspiration level in visually impaired children in experimentally triggered frustration situation. Psychológia a patopsychológia dieťaťa, 9, 4, p. 345-357. • Preliminary standardisation of modified Kohs test in our blind population. Psychodiagnostický bulletin „Psychodiagnostika v socialistických krajinách“, IV, 2, p. 53–69. • Požár, L. (1979). System approach to research of handicapped individuals. Špeciálna pedagogika, 1, p. 26–29. • Požár, L. (1980). A comparison of recognition of verbal content in blind and normally sighted individuals. In Psychologické výskumy v CSSR: 1976 – 1980 (Sborník individuálnych referátů k V. sjezdu československých psychologů v Brně 8.-11.12.1980). – Praha, 1980. – S. 47 – 49. • Požár, L. (1982). Effect of long-term sensory deprivation on recall of verbal material, Studia Psychologica, 24, č. 3-4, p. 311. • Požár, L. (1982). Some psychological questions of social integration of the blind. Špeciálna pedagogika, 1, p. 19-24. • Požár, L. (1983) Experimental research of personality of visually handicapped. Špeciálna pedagogika. – Roč. II, 1983, s. 1 – 5. • Požár, L., Andreánsky, M., Jakabčic, I. (1984). Experimental research of some moral traits in handicapped individuals. In Sborník Fulnecké dny J. A. Komenského. – Praha: SPN, 1984. – S. 348. • Požár, L. (1985). Importance of the work of L.S.Vygotskij for patopsychology. Psychológia a patopsychológia dieťaťa, 39, 4, p. 294-302. • Požár, L., Andreánsky, M., Jakabčic, I., Uhrová, E. (1984). Patopsychology of handicapped child. Bratislava: Univerzita Komenského, 1984. - 1. vyd. - 140 p. • Požár, L. (1986) Personality of visually handicapped. In Tyflogické listy. – 2 (1986). – 1 – 16 s. • Požár, L. (1987). Patopsychology of handicapped child II. Bratislava: Univerzita Komenského, - 1. vyd. - 140 p.
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