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**Cuvânt înainte / Foreword**

Numarul 6/2019 al revistei este dedicat Conferinței Internaționale "INDIVIDUAL, FAMILY, SOCIETY - CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES" – THIRD EDITION desfășurată între 9 și 10 octombrie 2019, la București. Rezumatele publicate au fost evaluate în sistem "double blind review".

The sixth issue of SCA (online version) is dedicated to the International Conference entitled "INDIVIDUAL, FAMILY, SOCIETY - CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES" – THIRD EDITION, which was held on October 9–10, 2019, in Bucharest, Romania, at the "Francisc I. Rainer" Anthropology Institute of the Romanian Academy. All abstracts were refereed by a double-blind review process under the supervision of the Scientific Committee.

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### Anexă - Programul conferinței / Annex - Conference Program

Opening words to the international conference

**Individual, Family, Society - Contemporary Challenges.** Third Edition

*Dear conference participants,*

*On behalf of the LUMSA University in Rome, Italy, I am honoured to welcome you all to the third edition of the International Conference "Individual, Family, Society – Contemporary Challenges". As acknowledged by the European Council programme "Horizon 2020", nowadays society is facing several major challenges: from granting social inclusion to understanding the implications of new technologies or from promoting health to providing caregivers with effective tools. Despite such assertions discussed in different public debates, new considerations are still to be made about how people are adapting to the societal changes and how academic research can facilitate this process. Given this context, this conference aims at shedding a light on the European examination of societal transformations, considering worldwide studies as valuable contributions. For example, different authors addressed the gender issues with regard to social representation of women and motherhood, as well as gender education in schools. Related to the micro-dimensions, other challenges were addressed by the researchers. A first challenge regards the societal impact of new technologies, with a specific focus on young people, in terms of the risks on time management, peer relationships, educational practices and outcomes. Another widely addressed challenge is linked to families and parent-child relationships. Among the contributions about families, demographics, the impact of divorce and separation on family members, the resources of adoptive families, the role of religious values in addressing current changes, the couple's relational dynamics, as well as the education about sex and relationships at school were mainly considered. Furthermore, several important aspects about parent-child relationships, individualisation processes, related risks and protective factors, parents' perceptions of the physical and psychological state of children with chronic diseases and their inclusion in educational school settings are covered during our debate. A third challenge emerging from the scientists' research regards the caregiving of elderly people and the promotion of their well-being, their psychological and value-related resources, the role of family in providing them with care and assistance and the advantages of new technologies in promoting web-based assessments and monitoring procedures. A fourth challenge regards schools, in terms of the characteristics of teachers and students. More specifically, our contributors addressed: the role of school caregivers, with a specific focus on the selection procedures to access the profession, the assessment of their psychological well-being and their implication for the individual and social representation of teaching; the physical, cognitive and emotional resources of younger generations linked to their cognitive adaptation to school demands and their psychological abilities to prevent and manage the risks of school burnout. A fifth challenge concerned the psychosocial impact of disability and mental illness related to assessing and screening procedures. A sixth dimension addressed the current labour market with regard to protective factors of workers, such as engagement and job satisfaction. Other research topics put into the light the issues linked to Palestine-Israel children inclusion, the global warming challenge and the intercultural exchanges, emphasising the role of NGOs and volunteering.*

*We are looking forward to developing a valuable debate around these major topics. Thus, we welcome all participants to this conference, wishing them to have a very fruitful research meeting.*

*Ilaria Buonomo, PhD, LUMSA University, Rome*



**Assessment of social relationships and free-time activities in a group of pupils from Moldova**

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**Objectives.** It is important to know how to spend free time and what is the level of parents' involvement in children' school activities, as presently they face many failures when it comes to high school graduation exams. Frequently, leisure activities such as watching television (TV) and playing computer games can be very demanding. The time spent in front of the computer may be higher in the future, with the risk of triggering addictive phenomena and social isolation. Young people tend more and more to make friends using online social networks and to have fewer friends in their real lives. In this context, it is important to know the number of real friends that young people have and especially the amount of time that they spend together outside the school.

**Material and methods.** The study was carried out on a group of 212 pupils from the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades, aged between 13 and 15. There are 111 young people from a National College in Pascani and 101 students from a General School in Dorohoi. These young people completed a questionnaire about spending their free time, social relationships and parenting. The results were processed by using Pearson's chi-squared test.

**Results.** Leisure time has been assessed based on the number of hours allotted to watching TV and playing computer games. In most cases (37.73%), pupils sit in front of the TV for 30-60 minutes or 2-3 hours (30.66%) every day, the differences between the two investigated grades and the two schools being statistically insignificant ( $p > 0.05$ ). The time spent in front of the computer is mostly "zero" (31.13%) or 30-60 minutes every day (30.66%), the differences being statistically insignificant ( $p > 0.05$ ). The presence of a group of friends is recognized by 56.60% of students, but there are statistically significant differences between grades and schools ( $p < 0.05$ ). In most cases, the students spend 2-3 days per week in the company of their friends (32.07%) or 1 day per week (25.00%). Differences calculated between schools are statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ ), highlighting the fact that the young people in Dorohoi spend less time with their friends. Parents are not very concerned about how well children do their homework (always - 26.88%) or about how they spend their free time (always - 23.58%), the differences being statistically insignificant ( $p > 0.05$ ).

**Conclusions.** The study highlights the existence of a large number of young people who spend a lot of time in front of the TV and using the computer. There is a modest level of parents' involvement concerning children' school program, which is difficult to understand, especially considering the fact that the pupils in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade will soon undergo the National Capacity Exams.

**Keywords:** free time; group of friends; parenting.

**The mediation effect of decisional autonomy on life satisfaction in preadolescence**

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**Objectives.** Preadolescence is a period defined by specific characteristics and development processes. In this period children acquire greater knowledge of themselves, develop a more articulated capacity of abstraction and take on a different relationship with society. These competences derive in large part from the role parents have had in their lives and from the quality of family relationship in which the children are involved. Preadolescence is particularly critical for family relationships and individuation processes; in this period, parents should, from one side, continue to guide and support their children and, from the other, give them opportunities to exercise their autonomy out from the family context. In fact, family can promote and encourage the autonomy and independence of their children or still show some degree of control. Reaching a preadolescent age, for a family member, represents a transitional event that the whole family must be able to cope with by implementing functional strategies. The family, in this context, must try to balance two movements that are in conflict with each other: the first is that which leads to the maintenance the unity and belonging, the other is the movement of differentiation and autonomy that the child begins to demand. Autonomy is understood as the possibility of exercising control over one's own environment and making choices independently. For these reasons, we expect that both family relationships and decisional autonomy may play a significant role in defining preadolescents' life satisfaction. Moreover, we expect decisional autonomy to mediate the effect of family relationships on life satisfaction.

**Material and methods.** One hundred and forty-six students aged 11 to 14 years ( $M=12.28$ ,  $SD=.93$ ; Females=47.9%) took part to this study. Data were gathered from March to May 2017, in four schools of Rome and Latina. All teachers and parents were previously informed of the research and only students whose parents signed informed consent participated to the research. Three dimensions were assessed: life satisfaction, decisional autonomy (My life as a student Questionnaire; Soresi and Nota, 2001) and family relationships (Cognitive-emotional indicators of school success Questionnaire, Vermigli et al., 2012). Correlational analyses and a mediation model were run, using PROCESS macro for IBM SPSS software (version 23).

**Results.** Correlational analyses showed that family relationships, decisional autonomy and life satisfaction are significantly correlated. Furthermore, as expected, the mediation model ( $F_{2,143}=22.32$ ,  $p<.001$ ,  $R^2=23.8$ , Sobel test:  $p<.01$ ) showed that decisional autonomy partially mediates ( $b=.180$ ,  $t=3.639$ ,  $p<.001$ ) the effect of family relationships ( $b=.273$ ,  $t=4.08$ ,  $p<.001$ ) on life satisfaction.

**Conclusions.** Findings support the initial hypotheses. Overall, the mediation of decisional autonomy is consistent with previous literature considering the role of family in the individuation process of preadolescents. Considering the current social changes in how adolescence is perceived and the current psychological and sociological debate around the beginning and end of this life period, these findings inform about the need of training parents to better understand preadolescents' needs, as well as negotiate their autonomy opportunities. Moreover, these findings confirm the authoritative parenting style as the most functional for children development and well-being.

**Keywords:** preadolescence; family relationships; autonomy; life satisfaction.

**The role of the family in triggering and treating illicit drug use**

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**Objectives.** Drug use in Romania, which transformed from a country of transition to a country with many consumers, has led to an increasing number of sociologists, psychologists, physicians, researchers from different fields to study this phenomenon. The aim of this study is to determine how the drug users' family of origin influences drug use and treatment.

**Material and methods.** This qualitative study was conducted in Bucharest for a period of three months with the participation of a consortium of 50 males and females addicts who consumed heroin and underwent methadone substitution treatment. Sampling was random, on a voluntary basis, following written, informed and freely expressed consent. The semi-structured interview took place face to face. The interview guide contained 23 open questions. For this work, it was selected four questions regarding the concept of family.

**Results.** To the questions: What was the atmosphere inside your family? How were your relationships with your family? - Responses were ranged from very good family relationships to family quarrels and fights. To the questions: Did your family have divorces, quarrels, violence? What were the reasons for their triggering? - Most of the respondents said there were no divorces, but there were quarrels and violence after drinking. To the questions: Did your parents or close relatives have somehow assaulted you? If the answer is yes, explain why? Would you apply these methods to your children or relatives? - Some respondents said they had not been assaulted, but many responded that they were beaten, offended. However, all responded that they would never aggressive their children. When asked about the existence of mental illnesses or other drug users in the family, some responded that this was not the case, but most had at least one relative with mental illness or addiction to alcohol or drugs. Most of participants said that their families had alcohol consumption (in general, the father), physical and verbal aggression towards mothers and children. Families of the interviewed were also alcohol/drug users, smokers, or gamblers. Most people said the family had supported them, adding the fact that the desire for their children not to see use drugs was an important factor in taking the decision to give up heroin. At the same time, it has noticed the desire to be very good parents and spouses, which is why many of them want to give up the methadone.

**Conclusions.** Regarding the family's influence on drug use, the family played an important role both in determining the use of illegal drugs and in the methadone substitution treatment. Therefore, the first to suffer is the family from which the drug user comes. The effects extend to school and workplace. Drug use is often associated with school drop-out or absenteeism at work. The consumer is no longer able to exercise his profession, and he becomes a burden to the society, sometimes being extremely dangerous. Thus the consumer becomes a man rejected by the society and the family. Finally, the drugs affect society as a whole, due to anti-social behaviours associated with drug use, namely: robberies, vandalism, violence, rape, accidents, etc. Young consumers abandon the school and the educational process in which they were enrolled, becoming people who can no longer contribute to the benefit of the society.

**Keywords: family; heroin addicts; methadone treatment.**

**Stereotypes of childhood in Romanian culture**

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**Objectives.** This study aims to explain the existing and operational childhood stereotypes in the Romanian society and culture. Two types of deeds are followed: 1) child and childhood stereotypes as perceived, defined and even designed by adults; 2) child and childhood stereotypes as defined, perceived and understood by children themselves. The objective of the present study is to provide for later analysis the model of traditional Romanian childhood, both as a type of global social culture, as well as the social type of child as competent social actor and active participants. The relevance of this approach is to join the adults' representations on children with children's representations on themselves and on the outside world.

**Material and methods.** The method of investigation used in the present study is the theoretical and secondary analysis of ethnographic texts (riddles, games, stories, songs etc.) of children and the anthropological, sociological and psychological texts referring to childhood in the Romanian culture and society. For the purposes of comparisons and generalizations, studies and reports of childhood research should be analyzed in different societies and epochs. Identifying and evaluating stereotypes – as instruments for cultural research and knowledge –is conclusive for collective attitudes.

**Results.** Both traditional and modern Romanian society is dominated by folklore and popular culture. The village is, from the point of view of the morphology of culture, a space favourable to the development of childhood culture. It is the place of the person's intuitive manifestation, the place of storyline and myth, of strong connections and continuity – all of them childhood specific features. Children's social spaces and institutions are the family, the neighbourhood, the age group and the community, i.e. the entire social space. Family roles (filiations or fraternity) are complemented by important social roles such as practicing forms of worship or specific rites that cannot be taken over by another social group and without which the community may be at risk. Specific activities combine specific social learning actions with lucrative (productive) or ordering (administrative) actions. The main types of activity specific to childhood are playing, working and stories.

**Conclusions.** Childhood is not only a stage, separate through rites of passage or other types of social thresholds from other ages, but also a way of social existence and a cultural type of self-standing. In the Romanian traditional society, children are social actors and culture generators with specific expression modes and types of activity. Correct knowledge of childhood culture and its comparison with maturity stereotypes of child and childhood can help resolve issues related to interdependence between generations such as intergenerational conflict or communication, identity crises, education issues (functional illiteracy).

**Keywords:** childhood; child; children; childhood culture; childhood stereotypes.

**The predictive role of school burnout, friendship quality and parental caregiving on the use of social networking sites in adolescence**

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**Objectives.** Over the years, Internet and social networks (SNs) have become an important social context in adolescents' lives. Adolescents' developmental concerns include formulating identity, adjusting to sexuality, and establishing intimate relations with peers. Recent research indicates that they use online contexts to reach these important developmental milestones. While there have been positive outcomes associated with SNs use, such as new opportunities for sociability, there are also negative ones linked to their frequent use. Studies showed that spending up to three hours a day on Internet and SNs could lead adolescents to reduce time for other activities, including face-to-face relationships. In a recent study, adolescents, in particular girls reported using SNs to keep in contact with peers from their offline lives, either to make plans with friends or to keep in touch with friends they rarely see. The girls in this study also reported using SNs to reinforce friendships whereas boys reported using them to flirt and make new friends. Despite this, the need for peer interactions and relationships could lead adolescents to use SNs, avoiding withdrawal. Moreover, adolescents' high SNs use may negatively impact the school involvement, the relationships with peers and parents and also the subjective well-being. The main aim of this study was to explore in a group of adolescence (16-18 years old) the relationships among SNs use, problematic use of internet, perceived parental caregiving, friendship quality, and school burnout levels. Furthermore, it was intended to combine these variables into a predictive model of adolescents' high SNs use.

**Material and methods.** 140 Italian high school students (M=72,9%) aged 16-18 years participated in the study and they completed an ad-hoc scale for SNs use; The Generalized Pathological Internet Use Scale-2 (GPIUS-2); The Parent and Peer attachment inventory for Friendship Quality (FQ); The School Burnout Inventory (SBI) and The Parental Bonding Instrument (PBI) for parental caregiving. A regression model was performed to evaluate the predictive roles of studied variables on high SNs use in adolescence. Friendship quality, paternal and maternal caregiving perceived by adolescents were used as protective predictive factors, instead school burnout as risk predictive factors. Moreover, Student's t-test was used in order to investigate gender differences between males and females in SNs use, problematic use of internet and school burnout scores.

**Results.** The main results from the regression model performed to evaluate the predictive roles of studied variables on high SNs use in adolescence ( $R^2=.38$ ;  $F_{4,134}=5.751$ ,  $p=.000$ ) showed that friendship quality ( $\beta = -.337$ ,  $p = .000$ ) and perceived paternal caregiving ( $\beta = -.242$ ,  $p = .011$ ) were relevant predictive factors for high SNs use. Moreover, main results from the Student's t-test showed that girls reported higher SNs use (M = 23.55, DS = 3.61 Vs. M = 21.89, DS = 4.26;  $t = -2.132$ ,  $p = .035$ ) and higher levels of school burnout than boys (M= 3.18, DS = 1.04 Vs. M = 2.78, DS = 1.05;  $t = -2.037$ ,  $p = .044$ ).

**Conclusions.** Findings support that relational factors, namely friendship quality and parental caregiving, can have a crucial predictive role for high SNs use in adolescence. Structuring interventions in order to promote socio-relational skills among peers and parental caregiving could prevent problematic use of SNs in adolescence.

**Keywords:** social networks; problematic internet use; parental caregiving; school burnout; adolescence.

**The impact of emotions and hedonic balance on teachers' self-efficacy - testing the undoing effect of positive emotions**

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**Objectives.** Teaching is an emotion-based job, in which goals, experiences and results are linked to emotional and relational experiences at school. Teachers' perceived emotions with students and towards professional role may influence their well-being at school. Emotions experienced at school may act as a source of information for self-efficacy: state emotions impact teachers' self-efficacy beliefs. Effectively, positive emotions may have an undoing effect on negative ones' detrimental effects on several measures of well-being. Starting from these considerations, this study aimed to: 1) evaluate the undoing effect of positive emotions on negative ones, when predicting self-efficacy; 2) verify whether emotions towards professional role moderated the mediation effect.

**Material and methods.** Self-Efficacy and Emotions in teaching were measured. Two hundred and seventy-two Italian secondary school teachers ( $F=73\%$ ) were involved.

**Results.** Positive emotions towards students might act as buffering factors against the detrimental effect of negative emotions on self-efficacy ( $F_{(2, 270)}=26.17, p<.001, R^2=.199$ ). Finally, emotions towards students and emotions towards professional role do not interact when predicting self-efficacy.

**Conclusions.** The current study confirmed the role of positive and negative emotions in predicting teaching self-efficacy. Moreover, it showed that positive emotions towards students may buffer the detrimental effect of negative emotions on self-efficacy. Finally, emotions towards students and emotions towards professional role did not interact when predicting self-efficacy. Overall, the relationships with students seem to have a highly protective effect on teachers' mental health. At the same time, the perception of one's own role as detached from the teaching community may have a role in justifying the non-significant effect of emotions towards professional role in the model and shed new light on intervention objectives. This study sheds new light on the effect of emotions on self-efficacy and has some implications concerning teachers' training, regarding positive psychology interventions on school climate. Cultivating collaboration and sense of community within schools, indeed, may help improving the effect of positive emotions on well-being: from one side, by increasing positive emotions during daily school life from the other, by improving positive perceptions of the teaching profession.

**Keywords:** emotions; hedonic balance; self-efficacy; undoing effect.

**Psychopathy traits and Alexithymia in a group of addicts and offenders**

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**Objectives.** Psychopathic could be defined as a constellation of interpersonal, affective and behavioural personality traits, including distinct features such as lack of anticipatory anxiety, fearless, unwilling to accept blame, high interpersonal dominance and lack of empathy. Psychopathy, Alexithymia, defined as a diminished general ability to identify and/or communicate feelings, is a cross mental disease common to different psychopathologies such as addiction and antisocial behaviours. Psychopathy and Alexithymia have some similarities but there are not equal, indeed the first could be defined as "words without feeling" and the second "feeling without words".

Psychopathic traits and difficulties in emotion regulation could play a significant role in the development of violent behaviours and also in maintaining and recovering from addictions.

The main aim of this study was to explore differences in psychopathy traits and alexithymia in a clinical group of addicts and offenders, and a control one of non-clinical subjects.

**Material and methods.** Thirty-one subjects (aged 18-44;  $M = 29.35$ ,  $SD = 8.68$ ) were included in the study. The clinical group was composed by 18 subjects ( $M = 13$ ;  $F = 5$ ) and the control one by 13 subjects ( $M = 6$ ;  $F = 7$ ). For evaluating alexithymia, data were collected using a semi-structured interview, the Toronto Structured Interview Alexithymia (TSIA), conducted by a trained psychologist; and a self-report questionnaire, the Toronto Alexithymia Scale-20 (TAS-20). Previous researches investigating the relationship between alexithymia and psychopathy have not found significant results, probably due to the exclusive use of self-report measures.

For Psychopathy, a self-report questionnaire was used, the Psychopathic Personality Inventory - Revised (PPI-R). The PPI-R is a 154-item self-report questionnaire designed to assess psychopathic personality traits. It provides a total score of psychopathy, three factor scores, and eight content scale scores. The subscales are: Blame Externalization, Rebellious Nonconformity, Coldheartedness, Social Influence, Carefree Nonplanfulness, Fearlessness, Machiavellian Egocentricity, and Stress Immunity. These factor-analysis-derived subscales have been shown to be assignable to two main factors: Fearless Dominance and Self-Centered Impulsivity, sometimes also called Impulsive Antisociality. In addition, the PPI-R includes three validity scales designed to measure random responding, and the over- and underreporting of symptoms: Virtuous Responding (VR), Deviant Responding (DR), and Inconsistent Responding.

**Results.** Main results show significant differences between the clinical and non-clinical samples. On average, addicts and offenders participants reported higher levels of Fearlessness ( $M = 48.78$ ,  $SE = 8.87$ ) than non-clinical participants ( $M = 40.46$ ,  $SE = 10.99$ ),  $F = 5.426$ ,  $p = .027$ ; and also higher levels of Stress Immunity ( $M = 57.50$ ,  $SE = 10.19$ ) than non-clinical participants ( $M = 47.08$ ,  $SE = 8.00$ ),  $F = 9.382$ ,  $p = .005$ . No significant differences were found for Alexithymia subscales and total scores among groups.

**Conclusions.** Results from the current study suggested a possible relationship between psychopathy traits, addiction and violent behaviours. Future research is needed to deeply investigate the relationship between psychopathy traits and alexithymia in clinical samples.

**Keywords:** psychopathy; alexithymia; addiction; offenders.

**Adoptive families and resiliency**

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**Objectives.** Adoption includes a series of sensitive topics, under the cultural aspect, as well in relation to values. Families and psychosocial professionals must unavoidably face a complex reality, concerning the biologic link, ethnic differences, and the development of new bonds founded on attachment. Support and sustaining the resilient attitude on behalf of adopting families represent an essential element in increasing the chances of a successful adoption. The present study aims to reach a better comprehension of coping strategies and adaptive processes intervening immediately after adoption, thus starting from the very insertion of the child from which a new family arrangement stems.

**Materials and methods.** Our sample includes 19 families recruited in relation to their attendance to courses on adoption; parental age ranges from 35 to 65 years; 58% is graduated. Total number of adopted children is 30; mean age at adoption is 6.43 years. An ad-hoc made semi-structured interview was used; its generative criteria were the three basic assumptions of familiar resiliency: systems of belief, organizational set-ups and communicative processes.

**Results.** Qualitative analysis has been performed by three independent referees; in relation to any of the questions, the most frequently debated thematic areas were detected; main results are the following: according to 53% of the performed interviews, adoption represents an opportunity to expand one's family; in 47% of the cases, negative circumstances after adoption have been overcome by the attitude of husband and wife to hold out together; in relation to the aspects of married life, in 37% of the cases, the more apt to give strength to the couple, are the stability of the relationship and enduring dialogue, in order to follow a shared course of action. Out of the family, the social resources most frequently utilized in the first months after the adoption were the extended family (63%), friends (47%) and independent professionals (74%). In all these families it is definitely possible to talk about adoption with children without any restriction (100%), and 100% of parents have been able to share their feelings and emotions, whether positive or negative, in relation to the adoption process; 68% of married people showed the utmost cooperation in the set up of common strategies in order to reach shared solutions to problems of any kind.

**Conclusions.** This explorative survey underlines the attitude of adoptive couples to set up effective coping strategies and adaptive abilities to the new situation, disclosing an excellent familiar resiliency. Supporting and sustaining these families proves of the utmost importance, giving attention to protective factors within the couple, during the transition to adoptive parenthood.

**Keywords:** adoptive families; parenthood; familiar resiliency; coping strategies.



**Forms of adaptation in Romanian penitentiary**

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**Objectives.** The number of inmates all around the world is growing without even a stance from their pace and it seems the universe of a prison is here to stay. This immense human source is not being used by the society. The objective of this study was to explore defense mechanisms and the self-construal that inmates in Romania developed in their deprivation of freedom corroborated with self-efficacy from inmates perspective.

**Material and methods.** In 2018, data were obtained from 173 adult respondents divided into 3 groups depending on the severity of the punishment. First group ( $N = 28$ ) with prison sentences from one month to 3 years, second group ( $N = 45$ ) with prison sentences from 3 to 5 years and the third group with sentences with more than 5 years of prison detention. A test battery was created containing 142 items (from all of the three questionnaires: Defense Style Questionnaire-60, 72 Items Self Construal Scale and Self-Efficacy Scale) with a focus on topics related to self-efficacy, defense mechanisms and self-construal.

**Results.** One hundred and seventy-three individual had an average level of personal beliefs about their capacities to mobilize their cognitive resources onto the stress that they face in the closed environment, self-efficacy also influences the resources allocated into solving a task. Even though it seems that there were no significant differences between the 30 defense mechanisms and the severity of the punishment of the three groups ( $p = 0.008$ ). There is a statistically significant difference only in the third dimension of self-construal between the research groups as derived from one-way ANOVA ( $F(2,170) = 3,337, p = 0.038$ ). The Scheffe test shows that decision-making based on the severity of punishment is statistically significant between groups 2 and 3 ( $p = 0.038$ ), but there's no significant statistical difference between the other groups.

**Conclusions.** This study relates to how each detainee has dealt with the issue of atonement. One of the major outcomes of this study is identifying the propensity for certain defense mechanism for each of the three groups of participants. Altruism seems to be the main defense mechanism that individuals use in the penitentiary environment. The enclosed environment has a hidden role, to place the inmates with the same social ideas in the same environment. And this affiliation to the "community" of the penitentiary can be explained by the immediate assumption of the captive role. The main explanation for the results on the self-construal scale may be that the self is structured on the penitentiary environment, they have fully adhered to the functions and pressures and all actions are relatively established a priori by the penitentiary institution. More explanatory studies are essential for a healthy society, especially during these uncertain times and economic challenges.

**Keywords:** defense mechanism; self-efficacy; self-construal; penitentiary; inmates groups.

\*This study is part of the doctoral research coordinated by PhD. Cornelia Rada, at the School of Advanced Studies of the Romanian Academy, Institute of Philosophy and Psychology "Constantin Rădulescu - Motru", Romanian Academy.

**Questionnaire on global warming knowledge, abilities and practices of the population -pilot study test research**

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**Objectives.** The climate of the planet is changing rapidly, witnessing the new generation and is becoming one of the causes of many global problems, including health problems. Human being needs time and knowledge to adapt to new climate conditions. The Republic of Moldova is not an exception, exhausting heat, floods, and torrential rains, strong winds are abnormal meteorological phenomena that have become quite "normal" for the country. Thus, the aim of the study was to evaluate the knowledge, abilities and practices of the population about the global warming phenomenon, the behaviour during the heat.

**Material and methods.** To achieve the goal, a transversal pilot study was projected in which a questionnaire was developed and tested. The questionnaire was applied to 150 people (52 men and 98 women, including 106 residents in rural areas and 44 urban residents). Applied methods: descriptive-bibliographic, sociological, and epidemiological. The first chapter included socio-demographic data. The second chapter included questions to understand whether the population is aware of the phenomenon of global warming and its health consequences. The third chapter was designed to collect information about health and well-being, which are influenced by the global warming phenomenon, about addressability to the doctor during heat, about complaints during heat wave. Chapter four allowed the estimation of the population's knowledge and skills regarding behaviour during heat (consumption of liquids during heat, periods of sun exposure avoidance, care of children, the elderly, or people with disabilities). Chapter five focused on assessing the practical application of the knowledge of the population during heat waves.

**Results.** The questionnaire was composed of 48 items, grouped in five chapters. For its testing and improving at the end of the questionnaire three questions were included on the quality of the questionnaire: (1) Which questions were confusing or difficult to understand? (2) Which questions were easy to understand? (3) Please suggest ways to improve this questionnaire. Of the total respondents, 17.3% did not answer one of the three questions; 62.6% of respondents answered only the second question, with no objections and/or suggestions for improving the questionnaire; 7.8% of the participants specified the number of order that they did not understand or are not sure they understood correctly; 4.1% completed the third question with ideas for improving the questionnaire and 8.2% responded to the first and third questions. Thus, the obtained questionnaire has 72 items. 4 questions were excluded, 28 new questions were introduced, and 8 were reformulated.

**Conclusions.** Applying the questionnaire as a pilot study allowed the less-understood items to be corrected, excluding less relevant questions and completing with new questions. This allowed the approval of the questionnaire at the Research Ethics Committee of the State University of Medicine and Pharmacy "Nicolae Testemitanu", Republic of Moldova (No 13 from 15.03.19).

**Keywords:** global warming; heat waves; questionnaire; pilot study.

**Cognitive performance of students in relation to hand laterality, gender and age**

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**Objectives.** Cognitive ability is defined as the ability which includes attention, memory and learning. The aim of this research was to establish the cognitive performance and its possible relationship with other characteristics, such as hand laterality, gender and age.

**Material and methods.** The sample comprised 756 elementary school pupils (Niš, south-eastern Serbia), 10-15 years of age. The pupils were divided into groups according to hand laterality, gender and age. The differences among the groups were determined by Trail Making Test-part A (TMT test) and Index of Learning Styles (ILS) questionnaire. TMT test is used for determining the speed of processing, visual attention, scanning, mental flexibility and performing functions. ILS model gives insight into four bipolar dimensions: perception type (sensory or intuitive), information processing (active or reflective), acquiring information (visual or verbal) and understanding (sequenced or global). Handedness was determined with the aid of Edinburgh Handedness Inventory (EHI) questionnaire.

**Results.** Average speed of execution TMT test for left-handed is 27.17s and for right-handed is 27.22s, without statistically significant differences ( $p=0,97$ ). A statistically significant difference is evident only when younger and older students in both groups (left and right-handed; boys and girls) are compared. The obtained results show that cognitive and motor abilities of young children are not developed to such extent. Learning styles present another way of determining similarities or differences between certain groups of examinees. The left-handed students have higher values for reflective, sensory and sequenced style, whereas the right-handed have intuitive, visual and global values. However, there are statistically significant differences regarding information processing, and the left-handed students are usually sensory ( $p=0,04$ ), while the right-handed are intuitive ( $p=0,03$ ). After comparing male and female students, statistically significant differences can be observed during the process of acquiring information. Girls more often belong to the verbal type ( $p<0,03$ ), whereas boys belong to the visual type ( $p<0,04$ ). The most statistically significant differences are observed when age categories are compared, which argues in favour of changes at a cognitive level. Statistically significant differences can be observed in the process of information processing (younger students more often belong to the sensory type,  $p<0,01$ ), acquiring information (younger are verbal, while older students belong to the visual type;  $p<0,00$ ), as well as understanding process (younger belong to the sequenced type, while older belong to the global type,  $p<0,00$ ).

**Conclusions.** This research points to the age specific characteristics of primary school children and the gradual development of their cognitive performance, especially in the domain of cognitive processing speed and the type of understanding and processing of information. Thus, any research of this type can contribute to a better understanding of the cognitive characteristics of students and can help teachers in the preparation and implementation of educational programs.

**Keywords:** cognition; handedness; learning styles; gender; age.

**Burnout's protective factors in secondary school students: the role of emotional skills and flourishing**

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**Objectives.** This study examines the role of flourishing and its relation to emotional skills and school burnout in a group of secondary school students. School burnout is a syndrome characterised by an intense feeling of emotional breakdown, cynicism and feelings of inadequacy. It usually arises when a student's personal resources are not adequate enough to cope with the requests of the scholastic environment, generating an unmanageable amount of stress. Emotional skills and flourishing seem to be particularly relevant amongst the protective factors for this condition. In fact, emotional skills can be defined as the ability to manage our own emotions and it also affects the personal development of students. Flourishing, on the other hand, is considered to be a measure of positive functioning, made of personal (optimism, environmental mastery, engagement, sense of purpose, self-acceptance) and relational (social contribution and positive relations) dimensions, and it is often associated with improvements in school performances and in the quality of academic engagement. We expected that flourishing, as a measure of optimal functioning, would heighten the protective role of emotional skills on burnout.

**Material and methods.** One hundred and seventy-eight teenagers aged 14 to 18 years old were involved (Females=65,8%;  $M=15.07$ ,  $SD=80$ ). Data were recruited at school, during the school hours, and only if students' parents gave informed consent for the research. In order to fulfil the aims of the research, the following construct were measured; school burnout (SBI; Fiorilli et al., 2014), emotional competences (TCS-A; Gambini, 2015), flourishing (Diener et al., 2009). Analyses were run with IBM SPSS software (version 23) and PROCESS macro for IBM SPSS.

**Results.** Findings show that flourishing, emotional skills and burnout significantly correlate ( $p<.001$ ). Moreover, the proposed mediation model shows that flourishing partially mediates ( $b=-.389$ ,  $t=-5.182$ ,  $p=.000$ ) the effect of emotional skills ( $b=-.375$ ,  $t=-3.235$ ,  $p=.001$ ) on burnout ( $F_{2,175}=24.976$ ,  $p=.000$ ,  $R^2=22.1\%$ ; Sobel test:  $p<.01$ ).

**Conclusions.** Findings show that emotional skills are a good protective factor for student burnout. Moreover, the mediation model suggests that when teenagers perceive themselves in a condition of optimal functioning, the protective effect of emotional competence is boosted. This finding shed light on the role of positive psychology interventions on emotion regulation and flourishing at school. Working with adolescents on these dimensions, indeed, may not only reduce the risk of burnout, but even empower and support them when fulfilling their development tasks.

**Keywords:** teenagers; school burnout; flourishing; emotional competences.

**Familial factors of sleep quality in children with congenital heart disease**

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**Objectives.** The aim of this study is to evaluate parental perceptions of parent-infant bedtime interactions and quality of sleep, after hospital discharge, in a group of children diagnosed at birth with congenital heart disease (CHD), as compared with the perceptions of parents in a control group of children who were healthy at birth. More specifically, there were evaluated the associations between parental stress, parental perceptions of infant emotion regulation, and infants' bedtime and sleep routines in each of the two groups.

**Material and methods.** Forty Italian intact two-parent families (18 boys) of toddlers ageing from 12 to 36 months ( $M=24.47$ ,  $SD=7.30$ ) were recruited. 20 families of CHD children group were recruited from the Department of Cardiology at the "Bambino Gesù" Children's Hospital in Rome, Italy; 20 families of the healthy children group were recruited from two child care units. Parents completed Emotion Regulation Checklist (Shields & Cicchetti, 1997), Parent-Child Sleep Interaction Scale (PSIS, Alfano et al., 2013), Parent-Stress Index-Short Form (PSI-SF; Abidin, 1995) and ad-hoc semi-structured interview on child's sleep quality.

**Results.** The independent-samples t-test evidenced that parents of healthy children reported significantly higher scores on children's emotion regulation compared with the CHD group. Specifically CHD children and healthy children's emotion regulation reported both by mothers (respectively CHD children's mothers:  $M=26.1$ ,  $SD=2.9$ ; healthy children's mothers:  $M=28.9$ ,  $SD=2.8$ ;  $t(37)=3.10$ ,  $p=.004$ ) and fathers (respectively CHD children's fathers:  $M=25.7$ ,  $SD=2.7$ ; healthy children's fathers:  $M=28.37$ ,  $SD=2.7$ ;  $t(31)=2.71$ ,  $p=.011$ ). Main correlational findings showed in the CHD children's group that parenting stress total scores were positive related to difficult parent-infant bedtime interactions both for mothers ( $r=.58$ ,  $p<.01$ ) and fathers ( $r=.70$ ,  $p<.01$ ).

**Conclusions.** Results show significant differences in emotion regulation between the two groups. The results of this research will show to the clinicians the aspects of parent-infant bedtime interactions to be addressed in parents of children with CHD.

**Keywords:** sleep; parent-infant bedtime interactions; parenting stress; toddlers; congenital heart disease.

**Predictors of work engagement in a sample of young Italian workers**

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**Objectives.** Personal dispositions and well-being conditions have a significant role in the degree of involvement at work. This is particularly true for novice workers, above all when inserted in a professional training program. Furthermore, considering the feeling of insecurity of the current Italian employment scene, younger workers may experience lower engagement because of the fear of being fired. For these reasons, we aimed to study possible predictors of engagement in this specific workers' group.

**Material and methods.** Eighty Italian workers, aged 19 to 34 ( $M=25.4$ ,  $SD=3.2$ ; female=58.8%), were involved in this study. Data were collected from September 2018 to March 2019, during a soft skills training for novice professionals. Four dimensions were assessed with the Italian versions of: 1) Big 5 Questionnaire - short form (Soto and John, 2017) to assess personality; 2) Psychological Well-being Scale (Ruini et al., 2003) to assess six dimensions of well-being (autonomy, self-acceptance, environmental mastery, life meaning, personal growth, positive relationships with others); 3) Utrecht Work Engagement Scale – Ultra short version (Schaufeli et al., 2017) to assess three dimensions of work engagement (vigor, dedication, absorption); 4) Job Insecurity scale (Elst et al., 2014) to assess beliefs about being fired. We ran three hierarchical regression models, in which vigor, dedication and absorption were explained by four blocks of predictors: i) socio-demographic variables; ii) personality; iii) psychological well-being; iv) job insecurity.

**Results.** Regression models showed three paths of predictors for engagement's dimensions. The 24.7% of vigor ( $F_{16,76}=2.55$ ,  $p<.01$ ) was explained by Conscientiousness ( $\beta=.283$ ,  $t=2.061$ ,  $p<.05$ ) and Positive relationships with others ( $\beta=.299$ ,  $t=2.386$ ,  $p<.05$ ). The 34.6% of dedication ( $F_{16,76}=3.51$ ,  $p<.001$ ) by sex ( $\beta=.325$ ,  $t=2.500$ ,  $p<.05$ ), age ( $\beta=.313$ ,  $t=2.551$ ,  $p<.01$ ), annual income ( $\beta=-.349$ ,  $t=-2.873$ ,  $p<.01$ ), Self-Acceptance ( $\beta=.450$ ,  $t=2.477$ ,  $p<.05$ ) and Job Insecurity ( $\beta=-.242$ ,  $t=-2.341$ ,  $p<.05$ ). The 16.9% of absorption ( $F_{16,76}=1.96$ ,  $p<.05$ ) by educational qualification ( $\beta=.332$ ,  $t=2.381$ ,  $p<.05$ ), Conscientiousness ( $\beta=.287$ ,  $t=2.01$ ,  $p<.05$ ), and Personal Growth ( $\beta=-.455$ ,  $t=2.376$ ,  $p<.05$ ).

**Conclusions.** Overall, the most significant model (dedication) showed that being male, older, with lower income, higher self-acceptance and lower job insecurity heightens the chance of experiencing emotional work engagement. It remains unclear whether the lower significance of the other models is due to the participants' features (e.g., the higher salience of the emotional dimension of job for novice professionals) or the sample size. Following research should consider a comparison of this group of novice workers with more experienced ones, to verify these paths and, eventually, discover differences between the groups.

**Keywords:** novice workers; personality; psychological well-being; work engagement.

**Family values in Bulgaria in the context of the global crisis**

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**Objectives.** The purpose of the study is to identify the processes that take place in the Bulgarian family, with a focus on this issue after the accession of Bulgaria to the European Union (EU), and the way in which the movement of family's values towards the global ones affects the demographic processes. Another objective of the study is to determine how the changed conditions for raising children influence their social activity and, in general, their ability to achieve a complete fulfilment of their personality. The two directions of the study should offer an answer to the question: How the lack of family values or their replacement with others (alternative values) influences the formation of the asocial modern individuals.

**Material and methods.** The research methods used were the analysis of focus groups including parents aged 18 to 50 years from 4 Bulgarian cities, and the comparative analysis of the European databases about the demographic processes gathered within EU and especially in the latest waves of EU accession, including Bulgaria. A questionnaire with 56 items for Bulgarians has been used, which covers different issues, such as: the contemporary values of families in relation to raising children, the way in which the disintegration of previous social formats affects demographic processes and birth rates, the changes in family values due to internal migration and the refusal of family responsibility for child-care. Another part of the survey summarizes data in recent years on the topic of the acceptance of European values as "European Values in Today's Bulgarian Society", compiled by Georgi Fotev and the impact on family values in relation to the previous periods after the collapse of the Eastern Bloc.

**Results.** The survey results show several important trends. In the context of a global crisis of values, Bulgarians still place the family values first. From a 2017 survey regarding the three main values existing within the society, 46% of respondents put the family first and "security" in the third place. There are around 400,000 single parents who raise and educate their children, and that situation lead to other social and demographic issues. Data from the last formal overhaul shows that in Bulgaria there are 312 783 single parent families. A major problem is the case of grandparents raising their nephews while parents work abroad, and that means a very high percentage of teenagers being in potential risk. The European values of the "different" family are not well perceived by over 50% of Bulgarian citizens.

**Conclusions.** From the analysis of data one can see that family breakdown and family values 'changes had accelerated after Bulgaria's accession to the EU. The number of single parent families is increasing, with the older generation assuming the burden of rearing and upbringing the youth. This situation diminishes responsibility and creates prerequisites for a higher percentage of children at risk. Migration to larger cities also changes the status quo of Bulgarian family, which cannot balance two unidirectional factors - economic instability and withdrawal from family values. Nevertheless, the share of people who believed that the traditional family is the basis for a healthy society remains relatively high in Bulgaria.

**Keywords:** family; family values; demographic changes; European values.

**Health assessment and presence of mental health problems in young people in Novi Pazar**

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**Objectives.** The aim of this research was to assess the general health condition, as well as mental health status of young people in Novi Pazar. The research also aims at identifying whether the differences on individual health indicators were linked to gender, place of residence and material status.

**Material and methods.** The wider battery of tests used in this research included questions related to the self-assessment of general physical health, while the presence of mental health problems (somatic symptoms, anxiety/insomnia, social dysfunction and severe depression) in young people was evaluated by the abbreviated version of General Health Questionnaire–GHQ-28. The sample consisted of 373 girls and 248 boys with an average age of 18.3 years. In data analysis descriptive statistical methods, one-way ANOVA and Mann-Whitney U test were used.

**Results.** The results of the research show that 34.3% of young people generally assess their health as excellent, 30.2% as very good, 18.5% as good, 10.6% as moderate, and only 0.8% assess their health as bad. Boys evaluate their health as generally better than girls ( $p < 0.005$ ). Regarding to individual indicators of mental health problems, the highest average values were obtained in the domain of social dysfunction ( $M = 7.198$ ), then in the domain of somatisation ( $M = 6.297$ ), anxiety ( $M = 6.011$ ), and least for the presence of depression ( $M = 4.199$ ). Statistically significant differences with regard to gender of the respondents were registered for the presence of somatisation ( $p < 0.001$ ) and anxiety ( $p < 0.001$ ), where girls showed significantly more symptoms. The place of residence makes the difference among young people in only one indicator of mental health, in somatisation, where respondents living in urban areas achieve a higher result on the scale than those who live in rural areas ( $p < 0.05$ ). Concerning material status, significant differences have been shown in three domains of mental health: anxiety ( $p < 0.05$ ), social dysfunction ( $p < 0.05$ ) and depression ( $p < 0.05$ ). Respondents with a worse material status report a greater presence of issues and symptoms in the aforementioned subscales.

**Conclusions.** By analyzing the results obtained in this research, it was revealed that young people in Novi Pazar generally assess their health as good. However, the values of individual indicators of mental health problems emphasize that it is necessary to help people in developing a responsible attitude towards their health, in order to maintain it and improve it. Health education at school, activities/programs in different sectors of the society (family, health institutions, civil sector, and media) can be strong and significant levers to preserve and improve the health of young people through the development of appropriate skills and attitudes.

**Keywords:** health assessment; mental health problems; youth; differences.



**Estimation of the impact of disability on children in the context of service reform**

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**Objectives.** Disability is the generic term for deficiencies, activity limitations and participation restrictions, which denotes the negative aspects of the interaction between the individual and the contextual factors in which he is found. The issue of disability is addressed by three models: the personal, medical inspiration (which considers that the difficulties of persons with disabilities are due to their biological and psychological inferiority); the social model (which emphasizes the unadapted social environment, considered to be the generator of the difficulties of people with disabilities) and the rights-based model (institutionalized).

**Material and methods.** To achieve the research goal, the transversal / descriptive and selective / qualitative study was performed. On the basis of the research file, there were analyzed the documents of 400 children with disabilities, following: neurological problems (infantile cerebral palsy); psychiatric problems (mental retardation). Selective research was based on the Paediatric Quality of Life "PedsQL" questionnaire, which was systematized into the following compartments: physical functions, emotional functions, social functions, and school / work activities. The methodology of research with both instruments was approved by the Research Ethics Committee of the State University of Medicine and Pharmacy "Nicolae Testemitanu" (No 11 from 10.12.18).

**Results.** In the republic, following the reforms (2017-2018), the disability determination is implemented after the CIF (International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health) and CIF-CT (for children and youth) developed by World Health Organisation experts. Currently, 11.7 thousand children (aged 0-18 years) with disabilities are registered in the country. At the same time, over the past six years, the overall prevalence has fallen from 20.4<sup>0</sup>/<sub>00</sub> children (2012) to 17.9<sup>0</sup>/<sub>00</sub> children (2018) respectively.

Therefore, there is a 10.2% reduction in the number of recognized children with disabilities and a reduction in their share of the total number of addresses by 3.5%. On the other hand, there is an increase in the number of people with disabilities from childhood compared to the previous years 2014-2017. And the proportion of people with childhood disabilities constituted 8.1%. When assessing the potential of a person with disabilities, in addition to determining the degree of dysfunctionality of the body, environmental factors, including family, quality of education, family measures, possible neglect, and personal factors are also taken into account. In the absence of the family, the peculiarities of the substitute environment are assessed.

**Conclusions.** In order to better integrate into society and ensure access to psychosocial and medical-sanitary services it is necessary to have a detailed knowledge of medical-social aspects, to improve the quality of medical and social assistance provided to people with psychosomatic deficiencies. Using CIF will allow for interventions to be reported, which can improve the level of participation and help identify the main source of the "problem". And, through the second tool, interventions can be properly targeted in each separate family / "individual", and their effects can be measured, monitored, over-guarded.

**Keywords: disability; child; family; environmental factors.**

**Family as a resource of psychological balance in old age**

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**Objectives.** Old age is the last stage of human life. It is probably the most neglected stage of life if science and research work are concerned. This is because we have developed such an attitude that we consider aging and old age as a tedious and not very perspective stage of human life. It is important to study the influence of family on some basic psychological phenomena in old age, its ability to influence, stabilize and delay the psychological changes that are typical of old age. The objective of this study was to establish if the family was the main core of psychological support for old people, and whether approval by other people may contribute to optimization of their Self-concept. To this end, several research papers on this issue were checked, all prepared by authors working on such issues.

**Material and methods.** An extensive analysis of the main references on this topic from the last few years was made. A search on keywords and phrases in the specialized databases was done. The content of the articles, papers and books showing the role of the family for the psychological functioning of old people was analyzed qualitatively and classified. The information obtained was interpreted and structured logically and by topics. The method that was used was qualitative inductive content analysis of the materials related to old age and the topics that were extracted emerged from the content of the materials that were examined and compared.

**Results.** The content analysis showed some already expected tendencies. During the various stages of human life, there are different relationships that predominate. When it comes to old age, these seemed to be companionship, care of the other, sharing, spiritual communication etc. The family should not be regarded as a static institution but as a dynamic environment subjected to the influence of various factors and stimuli, something that allows the individuals to develop mentally and physically within their particular community. The family proved to be the main source of communication for the old person. The elderly people could most fully develop their repertoire of roles in their families and may optimally satisfy both their basic and higher order needs. Their self-evaluation, self-concept and emotional balance were positively affected by the family life. Their feeling of worthiness, the reduction of loneliness and the psychological well-being were also affected by the family life.

**Conclusions.** The family has a unique role for aging people's psychological functioning. Attention, respect and warmth are needed for being calm in old age. Taking care of the old person is an expression of care and faithfulness. Being around them really matters for them and contributes to their psychological balance. Sometimes the young people unrealistically expect that they can change completely old people's opinions and habits. Such a change most likely is not necessary. It is just that elderly people should be accepted for who they are.

**Keywords:** emotional balance; family; family environment; old age; psychological functioning.

**Religious beliefs, self-esteem, anxiety, and depression in older adults: A preliminary study in Greece**

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**Objectives.** Despite the research in Catholic and Protestant individuals revealing that religious or spiritual beliefs are conducive to better health, psychological well-being and religious beliefs have been less investigated in Orthodox older Greeks. The purpose of this study is to determine the relationship between religious beliefs, self-esteem, anxiety, and depression in older adults living in Greece.

**Material and methods.** Thirty physically healthy older adults (15 females and 15 males), all members of the Greek Orthodox Church, participated voluntarily in this research. Their mean age was 75.58 years (SD = 7.50, range 61-90), and level of education 15.47 years (SD = 3.82). Participants completed four self-report questionnaires: 1) Beck Depression Inventory - a multiple-choice self-report inventory, 2) State and Trait Anxiety Inventory - a psychological inventory based on a 4-point Likert scale which consists of 40 questions on a self-report basis, used to measure trait and state anxiety, 3) The Royal Free Questionnaire for Religious and Spiritual Beliefs - an instrument which has the form of a self-report questionnaire, and 4) Rosenberg Self-esteem Scale - a widely used self-esteem measure.

**Results.** Results indicated no significant differences on the basis of gender ( $p > 0.05$ ). The vast majority of the participants ( $n = 25$ ) stated a strong religious and/or a spiritual belief as measured by the Royal Free Questionnaire for Religious and Spiritual Beliefs. High scores on the Royal Free Questionnaire for Religious and Spiritual Beliefs were strongly positively correlated with increased self-esteem as measured by the total scores in the Rosenberg Self-esteem Scale ( $p < 0.05$ ). In addition, the Royal Free Questionnaire for Religious and Spiritual Beliefs scores were negatively correlated with depression as assessed by the Beck Depression Inventory ( $p < 0.05$ ). Finally, the Royal Free Questionnaire for Religious and Spiritual Beliefs was negatively correlated with current stress ( $p < 0.05$ ), as well as stress as personality trait ( $p < 0.05$ ), both measured by using the State and Trait subscales of the Anxiety Inventory.

**Conclusions.** This study shows that there are numerous statistically strong correlations between religious beliefs and different mental health variables in older adults living during a time period characterized by financial crisis and social changes in Greece. The above findings need to be investigated not only in larger samples of older adults, but also in groups of older adults suffering from different diseases.

**Keywords:** elderly; religious beliefs; self-esteem; anxiety; depression.

**Determinants of demographic development of Southeast Serbia**

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**Objectives.** Demographic transition is a key segment of deeper socioeconomic changes that Serbia has undergone in past decades. While at the beginning of the twentieth century demographic youth in Serbia was the norm in all areas, the beginning of the twenty-first century is marked by demographic ageing with significant regional differences in population movement, in particular in the domain of reproduction. Demographic studies reveal differences in the intensity of the processes of depopulation and population ageing in particular areas which are in keeping with their basic socioeconomic and geographic characteristics. Therefore, this paper represents an attempt to indicate some specific features of these processes in the region of Southeast Serbia.

**Material and methods.** The survey covers the territory of five districts in southeast Serbia (Nišava, Toplica, Pirot, Jablanica, and Pčinja Districts), with the total area of 14.010 km<sup>2</sup> and a population of 944.000 (2016.). The analysis of the population movement is primarily based on the results of the eight censuses conducted between 1948 and 2011 and vital statistics data for the period between 1961 and 2016, which provided an insight into the contribution of individual components in the total population growth.

**Results.** An overview of the data on the population movement in southeast Serbia between 1948 and 2016 in different districts and municipalities indicates significant regional differences regarding the pace of growth that were obvious from the beginning of this period. The main consequence of the different dynamics is the differentiation of the districts into depopulation (Toplica and Pirot Districts), where the population is decreasing throughout the whole period and other districts (Nišava, Jablanica, and Pčinja Districts) with positive population growth until 1991. In 2016, the population of southeast Serbia decreased by 8% compared to 1948. The decrease was recorded in all districts (Pirot by 55,72%, Toplica 49%, Jablanica 11,2%, Pčinja 4,5%) whereas there was an increase by 28,9% in Nišava District. The increase of population recorded between 1961 and 1981 was due to the direct effect of natural growth (natural growth 168421 people, migration balance -115339). In the period between 1981 and 1991, natural growth, although positive, could not compensate the loss of population caused by the negative migration balance (natural growth 30695, migration balance - 52,127). Since 1991, the decrease in population has been influenced by negative natural growth and negative migration balance.

**Conclusions.** Trends in the population movements of the five districts of Southeast Serbia prove previously presented assumptions about depopulation and population ageing as the basic demographic processes in this area. Demographic research of Southeast Serbia reveals the intensification of the processes of depopulation and population ageing, as well as the differences in their manifestation in certain districts which correlate with the differences in their basic geographic and socioeconomic characteristics.

**Keywords:** southeast Serbia; depopulation; natural growth; migration balance.

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**The representation of ‘modern’ woman in New Age Indian advertising**

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**Objectives.** Independence, choice and equality in a man’s world, signifying the neo liberal woman of today approach has been appropriated by the Indian advertising industry to tap the consumerist markets appealing to the new wave thinking of the present day ‘modern strong, independent’ women. Beauty products’ ads featuring women to promote fairness creams, hair oils, perfumes and deodorants etc., have faced strong criticism for the stereotypical portrayal of women and their commodification. In response, the creative industry has tried to break the stereotypes and portray the ‘new’ woman in the commercials. The portrayal of the new Indian woman through the advertisements in the post liberalisation era after the nineties, who chose to carve strong career paths and be seen as economically independent also redefined how the home maker of the earlier times was portrayed in the Indian advertising. This paper analyses the dichotomy in the depiction of modernity in an industry immanent in the promotion of beauty/fairness etc. to maximise the woman’s femininity which continues to be of primacy. Drawing from the neoliberal theories, which talks of one’s ability to choose to maximise material gain and profit, rather than absolute or universal freedom of choice, this paper would like to analyse select Indian ads that promote beauty products for the ‘modern woman’. A textual analysis of the concept, the protagonist and the product promoted will be analysed to understand the subjective contradictions if any between the product and the ad within the framework of neo liberal thinking.

**Material and methods.** The study is based on a semiotic analysis of select advertisements (ads) that promote beauty products to young women. Ten television advertisements from the internet will be selected for the analysis using purposive sampling that promotes beauty products for women.

**Results.** The analysis should reveal the continuation of the idea of beauty and fairness as a primary requirement for success, albeit in an altered form. For instance, a beauty product now helps a woman find a place in the job market to rise in her career as opposed to being a dutiful and beautiful home maker of the earlier times. This again lead the women to secure a space among the materialist world as determined by the majoritarian understanding of the woman’s worth determined by her success in the materialist world than her freedom to choose her path in her life according to her interests.

**Conclusions.** From the analysis it may be concluded that while the themes appear to break the stereotypes of young women, it might continue to be in consonance with the normative values of the society. Does this make the women more strong, independent or free? Or is this a continuum of trying to prove her worth in a man’s world?

**Keywords:** Neo liberal; beauty products; commercials; commodification.

**A longitudinal analysis of the recruitment and selection process for teachers in Albania**

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**Objectives.** An educational system is qualitative and effective towards teachers. This study aims at identifying and describing the problems of the recruitment and selection process of teachers in Albania, during a certain period of time. The purpose is to underline the changes, especially in the legislation, in order to better understand and define the best policies and strategies for the development of the profession (e.g. teachers and professors).

**Material and methods.** The research consisted in analyzing the references about the teachers' recruitment and selection at international level, in analyzing the process of recruitment and selection for teachers in Albania and the analysis of official educational laws during the years. Second, there was an analysis of the online portal "Teacher for Albania" from 2014 – 2015 and its impact in the selection mode in the following years. Third, 57 teachers and 5 education experts in National and Local level from different educational institutions and schools, were interviewed.

**Results.** This study highlighted that there are no National Public Data which could be useful for the projections of needs for teachers in Albania on long term. The online portal "Teacher for Albania" is the only system of national data that can provide a forecast of supply and demand of teachers for one year. The analysis of the recruitment and selection process for teachers during the years revealed that there are gaps in the legal framework, especially regarding the new system of recruitment and selection, leading to practical difficulties of the involved actors. The selection process for new teachers is based on assessments that have not been well-defined and has no clear criteria for selection of potential effective candidates.

**Conclusions.** This study shows that during the years, the changes of the recruitment and selection procedures for new teachers were difficult to attain by new candidates. Also, the results reveal that the recruitment process for the teachers is based on assessments with no clear criteria, not only for the new teaching applicants, but also for members of the commissions responsible for the teaching staff recruitment and selection. Finally, the present study emphasizes the existence of a high risk of recruiting and selecting non effective teachers within the existing staff for the non-attractive schools.

**Keywords:** teachers' recruitment; teachers' selection; assessment and criteria; assessment of the new teachers.

**Dynamics in the mean age at marriage of the population of the central Belarus (through the example of the Minsk Region)**

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**Objectives.** Over the last 150 years, the marriage patterns of the population on the territory of Belarus have changed significantly. The objective of this study is to show the changes in the age at marriage of the population of the central Belarus that happened during the period from the 1860s through the 2010s.

**Material and methods.** The marriage data for the period between the 1860s and the 1920s were acquired from the analysis of the archival registers (4041 entries). The marriage data between the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> and the early 21<sup>st</sup> centuries were acquired from statistical sources. Significance of differences is determined by the p-value of 0.05 and greater.

**Results.** Mean age at first marriage in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century was for men 24.9 years, which is by half a year ( $p < 0.01$ ) more than in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, for women – 22.3 years, which is by 0.8 year higher ( $p < 0.001$ ). Up to the late 1910s, both men and women remarried only after the death of their spouse, divorces were not common.

The two World Wars were the events that greatly affected the marriage patterns on the territory of Belarus in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, reducing the male population, and also increasing the migration activity of the population. For instance, during the WWI, local girls in near-front line married the field forces soldiers, who were coming from different regions of the Russian Empire (54.7% of the registered marriages).

Throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the mean age at first marriage varied between 24.3 and 25.6 for men and between 21.6 and 22.7 for women. The first divorces were registered in the 1920s, and their number has increased greatly over time. In the early 21<sup>st</sup> century, 51.0–56.8% of the registered marriages end in divorce.

Significant changes in the marriage pattern occurred in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century. Over the period between 2000 and 2017, the mean age at first marriage was increasing incrementally. It increased by 3 years for men (28.0 years), and by 2 years for women (25.6 years) (in all cases  $p < 0.001$ ).

**Conclusions.** The population in the central part of Belarus in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century is characterized by a "traditional" type of nuptiality, with a young age at first marriage and a low singlehood rate. Up to the 1910s men and women would remarry only after the death of their previous spouse. The number of divorces started growing in the 1920s, and thus in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century, more than half of the registered marriages eventually break up. Due to socio-economic, political, and cultural changes in the country, the "traditional" marriage pattern was substituted by a "European" one at the turn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century (older age at first marriage, high singlehood rate, and high percentage of unregistered marriages).

**Keywords:** age at marriage; central Belarus; "traditional" and "European" marriage patterns.

**The psychological phenomenology of being within time: the Leib, the Psyche and the Geist**

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**Objectives.** The present paper aims to explore deeply the Psychodynamic Prototype of an individual through the perspective of psychological phenomenology. The purpose is to justify the utility of Psychodynamic Prototype not only as a bridge between phenomenology (as a philosophic approach) and psychology (as a life-based approach), but also as a materialization of it, into the individual daily activities.

**Material and methods.** This paper is based on an exploratory and expressive qualitative research. There were used a variety of references and psychoanalytic analysis in conducting this study. The empirical research alternates reflections on the action and philosophical approaches. The research is oriented towards the improvement of educational practices, the training of subjects and of all the involved actors (children, territory, families, schools, communities). Also, it contributes to enlarging the academic knowledge and training the academic researchers, in order to acknowledge the concept of "knowledge of life".

**Results.** The findings of this study are linked to the fact that the existence is a stand beyond one's self possibilities and one's own potential to overcome him/her self, every human being placing him/her self in the center focus of the existence. It is revealed that individuals are always related to each other and are also related to their beings. This result reflects the philosophical approach of "being to whom I am concerned" that relates one's own possible ways for being. Thus, instead of being in the world not in a psychological state achieved by a transcendence or a certain discipline, to be in the world represents a modified form of the relationship of the individual with his own concept of humanity and everydayness. Giving a meaning to one's Self helps a person to fulfil the meaning of his/her Self Psycho-Surrounding Prototype, both as a tool of measure and a tool of action. Moreover, everything that one can think, believe and say today was thought, said and believed before.

**Conclusions.** Rules, laws and meaning of life are processes that can be taught to humans in order to help them to become independent and coordinated as entities within different groups. Even though in disturbances of emptiness of his/her life, the individual designs his/her understanding being, based on the roles or personality, and develops his/her life projects. The revival of being in his/her daily living may be oriented to the fulfilment of a choice, as a purpose in life. The autonomy of free choice, expectancies and social forces that form the one's Self oriented toward social purposes is surely the best connection between the individual Self-Self and the individual Social-Self.

**Keywords:** phenomenology; psychodynamic prototype; being; existence.



**Giving ‘voice’ to childhood experiences of separation and divorce: introducing a framework to support practitioners working with children and families**

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**Objectives.** This research study aimed to give ‘voice’ to young adults’ childhood experiences of separation and divorce. Focusing on their everyday lived experiences it sought to learn about what it meant to them as children and how they feel about it as they look back now as young adults.

**Material and methods.** The research joined 34 participants aged between 18-30 years. Young people were involved in the design and co-creation of the research methods. Steps in creating this bricolage involved the creation of a short film clip of a fictionalised case study which was dramatised, filmed and uploaded to YouTube by young people themselves. Known as a Prompt Stimulation Video (PSV), its purpose was to act as a ‘hook’ to engage young adults and encourage reflection on their own experiences. The PSV was linked to an online questionnaire enabling participants to describe their own childhood experiences in a place and space where they felt comfortable to share their personal experiences.

**Results.** Participants’ accounts were categorised according to whether they showed a high, medium or low level of i) satisfaction and ii) acceptance of their parents’ separation. Where these levels coincided their level of accommodation, as high, medium or low, could be determined, allowing particular experiences associated with each level to be identified. These were used to create a ‘framework for understanding children’s accommodation of parental separation’, ensuring the findings were accessible to a wide audience including academics and practitioners working with children and families.

**Conclusions.** The study showed that in adulthood the majority of participants showed a high level of accommodation of parental separation. The accounts of those who showed a medium level indicated they often experienced a loss of contact with one parent and felt ‘silenced’ from talking about them at home. In cases where they showed a low level of accommodation this was either because they continued to witness their parents’ on-going contact and felt ‘divided loyalties’ or because it was a recent event and arrangements were still being put in place. Initial feedback from sharing the framework with professionals working in education and social work indicates they see it as a useful tool in working with children and families. Future work will involve researching their experience to see how useful it has been in practice.

**Keywords: separation; divorce; bricolage; childhood experience.**

**Recent trends in the public discourse regarding the sex and relationship education (SRE) in schools from a comparative perspective. The case of UK and Romania**

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**Objectives.** Although UK and Romania have very different trajectories regarding the implementation of sex and relationship education (SRE) in schools, it seems both countries have similar problems of reproductive health among youth, especially related to high rates of teenage pregnancy and births. During 2017 and 2018, UK and Romania witnessed a series of fervent public debates regarding the reframing of SRE in the national educational system. This paper reflects on public discussions about the purpose and reason for changes in SRE in schools and proposes a bottom-up approach, by exploring the views of students on whether parents should be involved in the decision for their children to attend SRE classes.

**Material and methods.** This study was based on a qualitative research design. In 2015, 152 university students from UK and Romania completed a semi structured questionnaire which investigated their opinions and attitudes on the quality of SRE, curriculum content and perceived needs for improvement. It examined their views on whether parents should have the right to decide on the participation of their children at SRE classes and explored their reasons using thematic analysis. Their perspectives were set within the context of national regulations and proposed new curricula in schools.

**Results.** More than half of the UK and Romanian students declared parents should not have the right to decide whether children attend SRE classes in school. The main reasons given were: "the importance of the subject", parents "being unwilling/uncomfortable discussing it" and the "child's right to choose". Among those who thought they should, they believed "parents may want to take on the role themselves" because "they are responsible for the child until he/she is 18" while UK students thought parents "may have concerns about the age this is done in schools". Parents' "religious and cultural beliefs being different to those promoted by the school" was also emphasised.

**Conclusions.** This study showed that in both countries young adults value SRE and want to see an informed and comprehensive curriculum delivered in schools. Currently, there is a tension between young adults' views on SRE and parents' concerns about the content of such curricula, how it is taught in schools and its potential impact on young people's sexuality.

**Keywords:** sexual education; schools; students' views; UK; Romania.

**Employees' motivation and satisfaction at work**

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**Objectives.** One of the key aspects having an influence on Human Resource Management is represented by the employees' motivation degree and satisfaction at work. The purpose of this study is to show the impact of motivation on the satisfaction level at work for the specialists of the Regional Council of Durres and to identify which motivation factors have the highest impact on the level of satisfaction at work. As a concept motivation is a result of interaction between individuals and the situation in order to undertake incentives and to achieve a given goal or purpose. The research question of the study was: Which of the motivation factors has the strongest impact on the level of satisfaction at work?

**Material and methods.** The study was conducted in a state institution of the Council of Durres. The instrument used in the study was the survey, based on two questionnaires: one regarding the job rotation with 26 items, and one investigating the job satisfaction with 36 items. Also there were made interviews with 10 of the employees. The participants in the study are the employees of the Regional Council of Durres. The data were analyzed using the statistical package for social sciences (SPSS). The final volume of the sample used in the analysis was made of 60 specialists. The participants were aged 25-45 years, and there had been 71.7% women and 28.3% men.

**Results.** Descriptive data on the points registered for the Work Motivation Questionnaire and Job Satisfaction Questionnaire show that the average motivation reached a level of 77 points and the average satisfaction reached a level of 130 points. These results demonstrate that the employees of this institution have a high level of motivation and satisfaction at work.

The correlation between work satisfaction and income is 0.769 and this value indicates that the high level of salary is a factor influencing the level of satisfaction of the employee. Also the level of employee satisfaction is not related to the gender of the individuals.

**Conclusions.** The results obtained from the quantitative data analysis show a high level of motivation and satisfaction of the employees participating to this study. It was evidenced that the motivating head factor with the strongest impact on the level of satisfaction at work was the salary. The better paid an employee was, the higher level of satisfaction he/she will have. The results also stressed the fact that the more trained in the job the employees were, the more satisfied they will be in their work.

**Keywords:** motivation; satisfaction; employees.

**Values, elites, intellectuals in the interwar Hungarian cultural criticism**

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**Objectives.** Value-crisis is an obligatory topos in the interwar cultural criticism. It is not surprising: the WWI broke apart the old economic, social and intellectual frameworks of life. The Great War put an end to the first wave of globalisation based on the structures inherited from the capitalist civilization of the previous century. The aim of this study is to underline the values-crisis during the interwar period in Hungary, from the cultural criticism point of view.

**Material and methods.** This study is based on analysing the main references in the field. The validity of the values of liberalism of the 19<sup>th</sup> century had been questioned and the quasi-religious faith in the relentless, value-accumulating human progress had been replaced by pessimistic cyclical philosophies of history whose most emblematic representative was Oswald Spengler who, in the disillusioned and disappointed atmosphere of the post-war Germany, after the shock of war defeat, became one of the most shining intellectual stars of the early twenties in the first, crisis-laden years of the Weimar Republic: his suggestive saga on the inevitable death of modern civilization, *The Decline of the West* was a bestseller. The German readers suffering from the shock of the dissolution of German Reich found a morbid consolation in the Spengler's prophecy of the demise of modern Western world.

**Results.** German conservative revolution, Spengler was one of its thinkers, elaborated the theories of an alternative modernity and rejected the modern civilization of *homo oeconomicus* based on the values of competitive capitalism and greedy, egoistic, self-interest following individualism. Acquisitive society, according to these theories, has to be replaced by a new kind of human community having rooted in a new value-system and a new type of human personality, the *homo aesthetico-moralis*.

**Conclusions.** This conception of alternative modernity borrowed from German cultural criticism inspired the contemporary Hungarian thinkers. László Németh, the renowned writer and ideologue of the third road theory, had been impressed by the ideas of the German Tat-circle. In the columns of his one person journal *Tanú (Eyewitness)* he outlined a utopia of Garden Hungary in which he depicted a vision of the network of little agricultural communities without a centralized bureaucratic state led by new elites and based on a new value system. In this utopian world manual and intellectual work is in a fruitful symbiosis: high culture is the cement of community permeating the everyday life of individuals.

**Keywords.** value-crisis; elites; conservative revolution; homo oeconomicus; homo aesthetico-moralis.

**Formation of the sociodemographic composition of the Belarusian family**

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**Objectives.** An essential component of the modern anthropology research is the analysis of the demographic indicators, which serve as a source of information on the formation of the Belarusian families. Such demographic phenomenon as the migration rate is of high importance. The objective of this research is to select several consecutive generations in the period of the 20<sup>th</sup>-early 21<sup>st</sup> centuries, based on the demographic and genealogic data obtained through a questionnaire survey; and to define the impact of the migration on the sociodemographic composition of the Belarusian families in those generations.

**Material and methods.** In the early 1980s, detailed information on families encompassing 3,377 persons was collected through personal interviews, and in 2017 such information was collected on families encompassing 3,029 persons. When defined by place of birth, the population studied was classified into four groups according to the geographic (Belarus, other countries) and socioeconomic (city, village) criteria: natives of the Belarusian cities and towns; natives of the Belarusian villages; migrants from foreign cities and towns; migrants from foreign villages.

**Results.** When conducting a comparative analysis, there were detected significant changes in the formation of the composition of the Belarusian families related to migration processes and urbanization. Among the older generations born over the period from the early 1920s to the late 1950s, the majority is comprised of the natives of the Belarusian villages (59% and 55% accordingly), while among the younger generations who were born in the early 1980s and in the 2000s, the majority is the natives of the Belarusian cities and towns (69% and 83% respectively). This process is most evident in the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (cent.) and especially vivid in the 1960s-1980s. During this period, the socioeconomic structure of the Belarusian society saw significant changes, urbanization processes were intensifying (the city population tripled during this period). As a result, among this generation representatives (born in 1957 on the average), 55% were born in the Belarusian villages, while in the following generation (born in 1981 on the average), 69% were born in the Belarusian cities and towns. This is a consequence of the process of the inner migration from rural to urban areas. There is an interesting tendency in the interstate migration. The number of migrants coming to Belarus from foreign cities, towns, and villages is decreasing significantly from the older generations to the younger ones (in the early 20<sup>th</sup> cent., they comprised 35%, in the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> cent., 18%, and in the early 20<sup>th</sup> cent., only 1%).

**Conclusions.** The obtained data allowed defining the influence the inner and interstate migration has on the formation of the sociodemographic composition of the Belarusian families.

**Keywords:** sociodemographic composition of a family; migration processes.

**E-health and Romanian seniors. An exploratory study**

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**Objectives.** Research shows that older adults respond differently to mediated communication than younger adults. These age differences result from both generational differences and life-span development. Seniors face new challenges in the case of the present displacement in the study and practice of medical communication. The present study draws on the hypotheses linked to health-related internet use by seniors, trying to validate them in a specific context - the Romanian society. Thus, the hypotheses of our study are: H1: seniors use the internet as a starting point for general information related to their health, but when it comes to make informed decisions about health care they adhere to physician-centred care model (Campbell and Nolfi, 2005); H2: the more a senior as a patient learns from the internet about her/his illness, the more likely she/he is to ask questions derived from internet consumption to his/her physician (Frederikson and Bull, 1995).

**Material and methods.** The study used the interview as the main method of research. A sample of seniors was included in the analysis. The sample was made of fifteen persons aged +65 years old who used the internet not only to obtain daily information and to socialise with their friends, but also to search for health-related information.

**Results.** Only the first research hypothesis (H1) was validated by the data. The results showed that Romanian seniors still do not consider online health information to be as reliable as inter-personal communication with their general practitioner (GP). At the same time, Romanian older adults are overloaded with the sheer amount of information available on the internet and tend to "simplify" it by checking that information with the medical staff (e.g. GP, nurses).

**Conclusions.** The Romanian seniors interviewed for this study have a lower desire to control their health care by themselves and remain deeply dependent on the interpersonal medical communication with the GPs, family, pharmacists and friends. A *post-festum* hypothesis is generated by this project: the e-health related consumptions for Romanian seniors could be conditioned by the level and degree of their active search of health-related information.

**Keywords:** seniors; online communication; interpersonal communication; health-related information.

## Heteronormativity Gender Norms in Early Childhood Education

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**Objectives.** The idea of putting the topic of gender equality as a main part of children's daily activities in kindergarten has broadened the interest of a number of scholars to do a study on the topic of early childhood education and gender. It is the challenge of early childhood education to counter images of identity formation that are influenced by the heteronormative norms and the generalization and simplifying view of children, and their understanding on gender. The objective of this study was to see the way heteronormative norms are constructing gender in early childhood education.

**Material and methods.** This paper is using a desk research method focusing on five main studies from Australia (5 preschools), Sweden (12 preschools), and Norway (20 preschools). Those studies focus on the preschools through the gender perspectives and the way they promote gender-equal and gender-neutral environment within their kindergartens. Most of the kindergartens pay attention on the language that is used to speak with the kids. The kindergartens in Sweden use the gender-neutral pronoun with the kids. While some of them and the ones in Australia also change the toys towards some gender-neutral toys and changing the role in the playroom. The studies are mainly focus on the staff and teachers and the way they pursue the concept of gender within the kindergartens.

**Results.** Based on the analysis of the literature and on the number of researches used for this study, there are five main results regarding of the concept of heteronormative that construct gender in early childhood education. Heteronormative as the norms in the context of early childhood education is still present in the kindergartens that are mentioned in this study. It is seen through the gender-neutral method that some kindergartens in Sweden use it in order to create a gender equal kindergarten. The concept of gender-neutrality itself perpetuates the idea of heteronormativity and tends to devalue femininity instead. The research that has been done also highlights teacher's personal perspectives and experiences on concept of gender. It affects their method in creating a friendly classroom from the gender perspective. Furthermore, this study also shows that children are able to have their own idea about their gender construction despite of what the teachers have shown them. It shows the way children are able to negotiate the concept of gender despite of the lack of children's participation from the conversation of recreating a new gender concept that is not supporting the idea of heteronormativity.

**Conclusions.** Throughout this study it is seen that the most important part of creating a gender equal environment that is not supporting the idea of heteronormative gender norms is by involving the children in the process. A research on challenging children' understanding over the value of femininity and masculinity in the context of early childhood education is needed in order to find more studies on this topic.

**Keywords:** early childhood education; gender; heteronormative.

**Mutilation, Self-mutilation and Sexual Aberration. Representation of the Bodily Experiences of the Great War in the Hungarian dystopias of the interwar period**

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**Objectives.** The social experiences of the Great War putted the physical, bodily experiences on the focus. The aim of this study is to underline the representation of these practices in the Hungarian dystopias of the interwar period.

**Material and methods.** This study is based on analysing the most relevant literature in the field. A common European impression was the contrast of the re-barbarisation of the society what transformed to *mass-society*, and the emergence of new technologies both within the tools of the war machinery, and in the everyday life of the soldiers and the civilians in the hinterland: gases and machine-guns as weapons, conserves and industrially produced substitutes as food. This new social experience has appeared in the theoretical and literary reflections as the meeting point of body and technology.

**Results.** A significant form of the representation of these social experiences in the Hungarian culture, a series of dystopias written partly during the Great War, partly in the interwar period, and it remained as a cultural tradition in several features of the Hungarian thinking and literature after the WWII, as well. The planned presentation offers an analysis of the Hungarian tradition of dystopias from the point of view of body experiences of the Great War. Within this topic, the first phenomenon discussed here will be the representation of the system of the illegal medical mutilation of the new-born children and self-mutilation of the adults with medical assistance, both for avoiding the military service, as they appear in the fictional literature. Another problem is the reformulation of the body–mind-problem in the mirror of the new body experiences, with a fundamental critique of the traditional concept of soul in its epistemological, moral and religious meanings, as well. A separate problem is the perverted sexuality of the militarised mass-society. One of its faces is the increased aggressivity within the sexual behaviour, but it is more important the description of the augmenting gap between the feminised world of the hinterland and the masculine frontline, with a consequence of the alienation of men from women, a kind of an asexual social habitus.

**Conclusions.** An important feature of the analysed fictional literature is the conscious reflection to the changing role of the machines and technology in the human life, with different evaluations in the same œuvres, as well. In the planned presentation, the above mentioned elements will be exemplified by the novels and short stories of Mihály Babits, Frigyes Karinthy and Sándor Szathmári.

**Keywords:** aggressivity; asexuality; body experiences; body–mind-problem; dystopias; Hungarian literature; mutilation; WWI.



**Challenges to the family and upbringing of children in the conditions of digitization**

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**Objectives.** The present paper aims to analyze some changes that occur in the family upbringing processes when the digital devices (computers, tablets, Internet, mobile phones) enter in the modern environment. How the parents control the access of their children to various digital devices? When they impose certain restrictions on watching television programs or using the Internet? And not only on what to watch, but how long do they watch or use different devices? Do parents believe that the children could be protected from a variety of negative effects associated with aggression, high anxiety, uncertainty and emotional discomfort related to digital media socialization? The analysis focuses on the support that children receive from their parents in the context of mass digitization. Parents are the ones with whom children can discuss different characters, events, shows or movies viewed via media, as well as other issues requiring further information or clarifications from the adults.

**Material and methods.** The paper is based on results obtained through qualitative methods in the course of a research project carried out in 2016 with young parents who are at the same time undergraduate and Ph.D. students at South-West University in Bulgaria. The main methods for obtaining information are in-depth interviews (10) and one (1) focus group with young mothers in Sofia.

**Results.** During childhood, parents are the most important intermediaries in digital media socialization for their children. Parents are the individuals who can provide the necessary cognitive and emotional balance to children, being aware of the serious challenges they face in the current situation related to various negative aspects of the action and content of digital media. Parents said that due to the age and school attendance it is becoming increasingly difficult to control children's choices. Thus, the role of the school environment in this case is also of a great importance. It was revealed that digital devices create conditions for widening divisions and inequalities among children, which complicates childhood assessments and perceptions. Also the individuals' socialisation via media is a process which leads to achieving values, norms, attitudes, and to establishing his/her interests, goals and awareness.

**Conclusions.** The study reveals the problems that accompany the digitization within the society. Some of these issues are related to upbringing children and shaping them as individuals. It is relevant for the parents to know what are the psychological comfort and confidence that children need in order to achieve balanced and confident personalities. In this respect, parents should seriously rethink their children's access to digital devices that become an active participant in the process of socialization.

**Keywords:** digital devices; children socialization; digitization.

### Mapping Homogamy of Noble Descendants in Poland

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**Objectives.** Even though Eastern European nobility's land properties were confiscated after 1944 and a noble milieu suffered prosecutions what apparently led to its disappearance in the communist bloc, nevertheless, as some recent work demonstrated post-feudal elites mainly of aristocratic descent managed to sustain comprehensive family bonds and expressive social rituals. In explaining reasons for their continued relevance, the aim of this study is to argue that the vitality of the former-feudal elites in Poland should be attributed to the rich cultural and social capital resources that have been accumulated within this milieu. Following earlier discoveries in the Netherlands where the possibility of maintaining the coherent noble milieu was significantly underpinned by the ongoing homogamy, it would be also interesting to examine if this practice also applies to the Eastern European nobility.

**Material and methods.** Historically in the pre-20<sup>th</sup> century Poland homogamy functioned as one of the major factors perpetuating a stable noble identity over generations but also contributed to the accumulation of material and symbolic resources within kin networks. Since 2005 a unique project has been carried on, which aims to collect all possible descendants of the parliamentary elite of the 18<sup>th</sup> century Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth (Rzeczpospolita). The project resulted in creating an online database, called The Genealogy of Descendants of the Great Sejm which provides a unique source of information about the genealogical structure of people descending from the 18<sup>th</sup> century noble elite of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. This paper drawing on these data aimed to open up new lines of inquiry on the dynamics of homogamy of the Polish nobility by analyzing longer trends, of several (e.g., five, eight or even more) generations of nobles (or nobles' descendants) in Poland over the last two centuries.

**Results.** The first issue addressed in analysis was concerned with marriages between descendants of the old elite and other people who had not belonged to this group. What we could see is that the rate of homogamy (where both spouses are "descendants of Great Sejm") was similar in the half-centuries 1850-99 and 1900-49 but dropped by two thirds in the period 1950-99 (ratio of both spouse descendants to any spouse descendant 17.4%, 14.1% and 4.4% respectively). For the initial 18 years of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the rate was even lower (3.8%). Secondly, it appeared that about 60 years after the regional elites were defined (i.e., about 1850) the structure reached stable form.

**Conclusions.** The regional differences were levelled out and currently, if one descends from a former representative of Greater Poland, the likelihood that one's wife descends from a representative of Lithuania, Latvia or Ukraine is roughly the same as in the second half of 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**Keywords:** Polish nobility; homogamy; descendants of Sejm Wielki; reproduction of historical elites.

**Anger mechanisms in the couple. A literature review**

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**Objectives.** As a construct of cognitive, physiological and behavioural components, anger is almost pervasive in couple relationships both as an individual trait and a function of couple dynamics. While sometimes it can be a positive motivator, providing the energy and strength to change, at other times, it is the fuel for aggressive responses, violence and abuse. Much of the research regarding anger in the couple has been focused on domestic violence, and the factors that perpetrate it. While reviewing the literature on the topic of anger in the couple, the objective of the study was to map the theories and models of couple partners' anger as both personality trait and behavioural response.

**Material and methods.** The analysis has been carried out on 43 journal articles published between 2009 and 2019, selected upon multiple searches in three databases: Sage Journals, Google Academic and EBSCO. The list of 10 search queries has included specific keywords and phrases: "anger in the couple", "anger in romantic relationships", "anger in intimate relationships", "anger regulation in the couple", "anger expression in the couple", "anger response in the couple". All studies included in the analysis have used a quantitative approach and their results have been classified by two criteria: anger as a personality trait versus behavioural response and functional versus dysfunctional anger mechanisms.

**Results.** The analysis results provide a structured review of recent research on different facets of anger in the couple as well as a list of factors that either aggravate or prevent the escalation of anger. The inventory of theories and models relevant for the functional couple relationships included the following: the anger avoidance model, cognitive-behavioural models of anger, negative emotionality template, heightened reactive anger, interactive anger expression, social information processing models of aggression, dynamic cascade effects of anger, appraisal model of anger. Applied research studies focus on anger as a trigger for intimate partner violence especially in the case of reactive aggression and a mediator factor in substance abuse related aggression. As a response in intimate relationships, anger has been linked to insecure attachment patterns and maladaptive strategies of regulating affect. In a clinical context, anger expression in the couple has been correlated to borderline personality disorder of the abusive spouse.

**Conclusions.** While theories that treat anger as a trait or a symptom for a personality disorder hold more explanatory value, the models that approach anger as a component of couples' dynamics during conflict provide more information that applies in therapeutic and non-clinical contexts.

**Keywords:** anger; couple; personality trait; anger expression.

\* This study is part of the doctoral research project entitled "Manifesting forms of anger and post-conflict coping strategies in the couple", coordinated by PhD. Cornelia Rada, at the School of Advanced Studies of the Romanian Academy, Institute of Philosophy and Psychology "Constantin Rădulescu - Motru", Romanian Academy.

**Post conflict coping strategies for couple partners**

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**Objectives.** While conflict is unavoidable in any relationship, for the couple, it represents both a threat of disconnection and an opportunity for growth. The difference lies in the way both partners process the emotional aftermath of the conflict and manage to cope with its consequences. Therefore, the coping strategies for each partner as well as the couple considered as a unit are essential to the longevity and wellbeing of the relationship. The emotional dynamic during couple conflict typically associates anger with a fight response and anxiety with withdrawal, both types of reaction fuelling the other. Yet, the emotions that become activated during a conflict are more complex and fundamentally intertwined with the partners' beliefs and appraisals of the situation. While there is abundant research regarding the functionality of different coping strategies for the individual, the interaction of partners' coping strategies within the couple is a topic that needs in depth investigation. This study aims to explore the corresponding coping strategies of the partners engaged in romantic relationships and to identify the emotional and cognitive coping patterns that occur most frequently within the couple.

**Material and methods.** The correlational design of the study has used data provided by two dependent samples of 50 male and 50 female participants, partners in heterosexual couples. The instruments used for data gathering were: the Cognitive Emotion Regulation Questionnaire (CERQ) and the Strategic Approach to Coping Scale (SACS). An omnibus survey has been used to gather information on demographic variables (such as age, gender, education level etc.) as well as the relationship history.

**Results.** On a first level, the statistical analysis of the data provided by the participants has established several emotional and cognitive coping strategies for female and male partners in the couple. A second level of analysis has explored the correlations between the main coping strategies of partners within the couple. The third level analysis consisted of nonparametric correlations between couples' coping strategies and their longevity. Research findings pinpoint significant correlations ( $p < 0.5$ ) for all levels of analysis. The strategies employed by both partners to cope with the aftermath of a conflict prove to be essential for the couple's longevity.

**Conclusions.** The correlations between partners' coping strategies suggest that there are patterns of processing and reaction specific to the couple. Further studies are necessary in order to establish whether these patterns are a result of learned behaviours and roles or a matter of inherent complementarities.

**Keywords:** emotional coping; cognitive coping; couple conflict; coping strategies.

\* This study is part of the doctoral research project entitled "Manifesting forms of anger and post-conflict coping strategies in the couple", coordinated by PhD. Cornelia Rada, at the School of Advanced Studies of the Romanian Academy, Institute of Philosophy and Psychology "Constantin Rădulescu - Motru", Romanian Academy.

## The Fragility of the Families Today and the Responses of the Catholic Church Magisterium

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**Objectives.** There's changing landscape, produced by a society that is marched by a complexity, in which all permanent structures, such as family, are heavily questioned. In the face of a growing pluralisation of family forms in the developed world, the distinctive traits of the family have become blurred. The main trend today is to confuse the family with a generic social group. The aim of this study is to emphasize the fragility of nowadays families and the responses of the Catholic Church Magisterium.

**Material and methods.** This study is based on the analysis of the climate in which the family crisis is inserted, in a context of liquidity and precariousness: liquid life, liquid society, liquid love, but also flexible work, precarious relationships. The family adapts to this daily uncertainty. The data that are made available by the statistical institutes of all the northern countries in the world tell us that the number of separations and divorces is increasing and live together often have very short duration. The phenomenon of singles who decide to live their affectivity and sexuality on an occasional basis is increasingly widespread, thus avoiding giving stability to relationships. Experiencing relationships occasionally prevents the men and women of today from designing together a future in which there is space for one or more children.

**Results.** The pastoral practice of the Catholic Church in relation to what is regarded as "fundamental cell" is strongly conditioned by the search for answers suitable to the changes being made. The Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* of Pope Francis aims to propose magisterial guidelines to collect the instances pointed out by the two Synods on the family celebrated in 2014 and 2015. Accepting those who are in difficulty and offering a time for listening and understanding the circumstances that may have produced a wound or a break in the sacramental bond is the only correct attitude to take since the Church, already defined by Francesco on several occasions "a field hospital" ready to treat the suffering of those who have been wounded by life. In the apostolic exhortation, the Pope, writing about the speed with each one passes from one affective relationship to another and how these are oriented in an individualistic sense, says that people... "Believe that love, as in social networks, can be connected or disconnected at the consumer's liking and can also be blocked quickly" (*Amoris Laetitia* no. 39). Pope Francis continues writing that, for this reason, "What happens with objects and with the environment is transferred to emotional relationships: everything can be thrown away, each one throw away, waste and break, exploit and squeeze as long as necessary. And then goodbye" (*Idem*).

**Conclusions.** While the stability of relations is currently considered almost an archaic feature no longer presentable, the Church does not renounce to show the "beautiful and exciting" face of God's blessed union.

**Keywords:** family; relationship; conflicts; Catholic Church Magisterium.

**Total body skeletal muscle mass in children and adolescents**

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**Objectives.** The total skeletal muscle mass is an important component of nutritional assessment in both children and adults, and it is also essential for motor development. The measurement of skeletal muscle mass is important for the evaluation of exercise performance and the influence of physical training on muscle mass. The objective of this study was to determine percent of skeletal muscle in children and adolescents in a sample of Serbian children.

**Material and methods.** A cross-sectional sample of 2287 schoolboys and girls (N=1133; N=1154 respectively) in the age range of 7 to 15 years was examined in 2017 and 2018, in primary schools on the territory of Vojvodina (North Serbia). Age was calculated as the difference between the date of birth and the date of data collection. The subjects were grouped into nine age categories (6.50-15.49). Percent of skeletal muscle mass (% SMM) was measured using the OMRON Body Composition Monitor BF511 which distinguished between fat mass and fat free mass on the basis of their differential electrical conductance and impedance characteristics. Arithmetical means with standard deviation (Mean±SD) for each group were calculated. One-Way ANOVA with Bonferroni Post-hoc test was used for detecting differences among the ages and gender differences were evaluated using t-test.

**Results.** Percent of skeletal muscle mass increases with age in both boys and girls, and ranges from 28.76% to 39.73% in boys and 28.75% to 32.75% in girls. Significantly greater % SMM is found in boys from 8 to 15 years of age. In boys, % SMM increases significantly by the age of 14, and in girls between the ages of 7- 8 and 9-12. The % SMM is significantly influenced by gender, age and physical activity ( $R = 0.675$ ;  $R^2 = 0.455$ ;  $F = 611.495$ ;  $P = 0.000$ ) cumulatively and partially ( $P < 0.001$ ). The joint impact of these three factors explains 45.5% of the % SMM variability. The highest correlation is with age (Beta = 0.614;  $P = 0.000$ ), and the smallest with physical activity (Beta = 0.088;  $P = 0.000$ ).

**Conclusions.** The data on children and adolescents skeletal muscle mass are scarce, and the use of this measurement in surveillance has been constrained by the absence of normative data that identifies individuals with high or low amounts of skeletal muscle mass. Given the necessity of national reference values, this data can serve as an initial basis for further similar research in Serbia.

**Keywords:** age; muscle mass; children; adolescents; physical activity.

**Effectiveness of ABA Verbal Behavior in a group of Italian patients**

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**Objectives.** Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) may take part in several kinds of interventions (for example, behavioral interventions, speech therapy, occupational therapy, and so on). Children involved in this study took part in a particular ABA intervention program, called ABA-Verbal Behavior (ABA-VB). ABA-VB interventions were created by Sundberg, Michael and Partington, building on Skinner's Verbal Behavior Analysis. This intervention strategy aims to intervene on patients' language skills as soon as they start their therapy sessions. According to the authors, indeed, ABA interventions may treat language skills as behaviors, thus using strategies like modeling and reinforcement. This theoretical assumption allowed clinicians to focus their attention on how the children use the language (instead of on what the children say, as in typical ABA interventions on children with ASD). ABA-VB distinguishes four linguistic functional units (the so-called "verbal operants"): mands (i.e., making requests), tacts (i.e., labelling), echoic language (i.e., verbal imitation) and intraverbals (i.e., answering questions). By enhancing the use of verbal operants, ABA-VB aims to explicitly teach adaptive language skills to children with ASD. According to the literature, the improvements in verbal and communicative skills may influence other functioning domains, such as relational skills and general adaptation to social contexts. This study aims to verify the effects of a six-month ABA Verbal Behavior intervention on basic language and learning skills in a group of 24 patients with ASD.

**Material and methods.** Patients were 1.8 to 10 years old ( $M=4.85$ ,  $DS=2.48$ ), and were mainly males (91.7%;  $N=22$ ). Data were gathered during assessment and monitoring sessions (in a clinical center) and ABA therapy sessions (at patients' houses). On average, each patient took part to 5.16 ( $SD=1.43$ ) hours of therapy per week. All the monitoring sessions occurred six months after the assessment. ABLLS-R (Partington, 2010) was administered. A t-test on paired samples was run, to evaluate whether patients' skills (as measured with ABLLS-R) changed after six months of treatment, as well as a correlational analysis to verify the associations among the registered improvements.

**Results.** Patients improved in all the skills measured, except for grammar and syntax, classroom routines, generalized answers, spelling, toileting, and gross motor skills. Cooperation and reinforcer effectiveness, visual performance, receptive language, vocal imitation, labelling, play and leisure, and interaction skills were the scales with the most significant change ( $p=.000$ ). Several skills' improvements are positively associated one to another. For example, improvements in the collaborative/linguistic skills are interestingly correlated to the social interaction and the play and leisure skills. More specifically, the cooperation and reinforcer effectiveness scale is associated with both the skills ( $r=.831$ ,  $p<.001$ ;  $r=.891$ ,  $p<.001$ , respectively); labeling is associated with social interaction ( $r=.844$ ,  $p<.01$ ); spontaneous vocalizations are associated with play and leisure skills ( $r=.703$ ,  $p<.001$ ).

**Conclusions.** Although the sample is highly heterogeneous regarding demographic features, results confirm the effectiveness of ABA Verbal Behavior therapy. More specifically, it seems meaningful that the improvement in verbal abilities (see spontaneous vocalizations) is related to changes in interactional/play skills.

**Keywords:** autism; ABA verbal behavior; verbal skills; social skills.

**Effectiveness analysis in the treatment of reading-writing disabilities in primary and secondary school children**

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**Objectives.** Well-timed interventions on learning difficulties are the core of a proper rehabilitation. The sooner students have the chance to rehabilitate their reading and writing difficulties, the better they'll be able to master learning compensative strategies and pursue their learning goals. At the same time, according to patients' difficulties in reading and writing, clinicians are requested to pursue different strategies and address different learning process during the intervention. Starting from these considerations, an eclectic, multidimensional method seems to be requested to address each patient's need. Accordingly, the study illustrates the efficacy of a multidimensional treatment for reading and writing abilities in children with dyslexia or a sub-threshold-difficulty in reading. The mentioned treatment includes strategies and techniques from lexical and phonological approaches to the rehabilitation of learning skills, fundamentally based on the cognitive-behavioral research on learning skills.

**Material and methods.** A group of 13 children aged between 7 and 12 years ( $M=9$ ,  $SD=1.6$ , Female=58%) undergoing a three-month assessment for writing and reading rehabilitation was recruited in a Clinical Center in Rome. Data were recruited from a clinical psychologist, during an assessment session and after 3 months of treatment. The clinicians involved in the assessment sessions are different from the therapists involved in the treatment sessions. Children's reading and writing abilities were assessed using three tools corresponding to the Italian gold standard for the assessment of learning disabilities: MT (words and non-words reading, text comprehension) and DDE-2 (words and non-words reading) for reading abilities, BVSCO (words, non-words and text writing) and DDE-2 (words and non-words writing) for writing abilities.

**Results.** With regard to reading, the findings show an improvement in the speed of reading syllables and words ( $p<.01$ ), while the accuracy of the reading procedure did not show significant differences. More specifically, patients showed a significant improvement of the reading speed of words ( $p<01$ ) and the reading accuracy for non-words ( $p<.05$ ). Furthermore, errors in writing both words ( $p<05$ ) and text ( $p<01$ ) are significantly less frequent during the assessment procedure.

**Conclusions.** Improvements in the speed of words reading and words/text writing (opposed to non-words) show an effect of the treatment on the lexical strategies in both the learning process. The present study, indeed, confirms that multidimensional treatment for dyslexic children, when including reinforcements of the decoding processes, facilitate the development of lexical reading abilities over time, while focusing on cognitive process underlying learning disabilities.

**Keywords:** learning skills; dyslexia; treatment; reading; writing.



**Dynamics of adaptation potential at Belarusian school students over time**

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**Objectives.** The children's organism is sensitive to environmental influences, including socio-economic factors. The objective of this study was to determine changes in the adaptive resources of an organism among school students of the Belarusian city during 21 century.

**Material and methods.** In 2002/03 (further 2002) and 2012/13 (further 2012), anthropological material (anthropometry, functional indicators of the cardiovascular system and some other) from 900 school students aged 8, 13, and 17 at the city of Polotsk (Belarus) was collected. The obtained data allowed defining the adaptive status of each student by calculating the index of adaptation potential. Then, according to the standards each student received one of the following marks: a status of satisfactory adapting, a condition of stress of adaptation mechanisms, an unsatisfactory adapting of an organism or the failure of adapting.

**Results.** In all age and gender groups of examined school students, indicators of satisfactory adapting prevailed – from 74.0% (in females of 13 years old at 2002) to 94.7% (in females of 17 years old at 2012). From 2002 to 2012 frequencies of cases of satisfactory adapting grew significantly in males of 13 years old (from 77.8% to 94.1%;  $p<0.01$ ), in females of 13 years old (from 74.0% to 90.1%;  $p<0.025$ ) and of 17 years old (from 83.1% to 94.7%;  $p<0.05$ ). Cases of stress of adaptation among males met more often in 2002 – 17.2% (vs 6.6% in 2012;  $p<0.05$ ) at 8 years old; 19.4% (vs 3.5% in 2012;  $p<0.01$ ) at 13 years old; 15.4% (vs 7.6% in 2012) at 17 years old. The frequency of cases of stress of adaptation in females from 2002 to 2012 changed in a similar way in groups of 13 years old – from 16.4% to 9.9% and 17 years old – from 11.3% to 5.3% accordingly. Only at females of 8 years old cases of stress of adaptation increased slightly over the decade – from 10.7% to 13.8%. Low frequency of cases of an unsatisfactory adapting in 2002 (less than 5%) in males approached 2% in 2012. Only among females of 8 years old was noted 1 such case, and cases of an unsatisfactory adapting in 13 and 17 years old were not fixed in 2012. The failure of adapting took place at 1 male of 17 years old in 2002 and at 2 males of 8 years old in 2012. Among girls, there were such cases at 4 females in 2002 and at 1 female in 2012.

**Conclusions.** Adaptive resources of school students of Polotsk for the first decade of 21 centuries grew, frequencies of cases of satisfactory adaptation in groups males and females of 13 years old and among females of 17 years old increased significantly. It is supposed that growth and development of the children and teenagers examined in 2012/13 happened in more favourable social and economic conditions, than of the school students examined in 2002/03. This was manifested by the positive dynamics of the adaptation potential.

**Keywords:** urban school students; adaptation potential; age and gender variations, dynamics over time.

**Intercultural Bridges: A Case Study of a Peace Corps Volunteer in Moldova**

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**Objectives.** This study focuses on narrated intercultural experiences of a Romanian-American Peace Corps volunteer in the Republic of Moldova. It seeks to understand in depth the participant's point of view on the role of culture in creating bridges of understanding between people, as well as hindering communication.

**Material and methods.** The method used is a case study based on 5 formal in-depth interviews and numerous anecdotal conversations over the course of 2 years. The interviewee is a Romanian-American male in his 40s who served as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Republic of Moldova between June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 and June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019. Each of the 5 formal interviews lasted approximately one hour and they were semi-structured. The topics of the interviews were: the participant's experiences of culture shock and adjustment to the Moldovan culture, the nonverbal communication of Moldovans, and the participant's strategies of building communicative bridges with Moldovans. All other questions flowed naturally from the discussion during the interviews.

**Results.** Several themes emerged from the participant's narrative: from stranger to accepted member of the community; Moldovans' non-verbal communication heavily influenced by the Russians' serious and reserved demeanour; and constant code switching as a "third" language is both an oddity and an opportunity for intercultural bridges. The results are interpreted through the lenses of intercultural communication concepts of individualism-collectivism, high-context – low-context cultures, ethnocentrism, stranger, acculturation, and globalization.

**Conclusions.** This study is a qualitative attempt at understanding the inner and communicated experiences of one person, as he lived, worked, and interacted with the Moldovans in professional and social settings. It adds to the literature of intercultural communication and non-verbal cross-cultural communication by providing a glimpse into a rarely studied society, Moldova, through the eyes of an American born in Eastern Europe. It shows that the Moldovan culture as a natural linguistic experiment of language blending that provides an unusual openness toward intercultural communication. It also highlights the slow and difficult process of personal adaptation to a new culture in order to be accepted as a full member of the community. This case study, although based on only one participant, offers suggestions for future studies on bilingualism and intercultural tolerance, and building intercultural trust in an era of globalization. It encourages researchers to study the "sandwich" cultures, those at the intersection of two strong cultures (like Russian and Romanian, in the case of Moldova) in order to understand the lessons of survival and intercultural openness that they can teach us.

**Keywords:** culture shock; non-verbal communication; code switching; intercultural communication.

**Factors associated with depression in the elderly**

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**Objectives.** Age itself is not considered a risk factor for depression in the elderly. The risk factors for depression, which arise with increasing age, may be the loss of a loved one, especially the partner, disability and chronic somatic diseases, social factors (change of roles, loss of social status, income reduction, financial problems, social support, loneliness, etc.). The hypotheses of this study are: the risk of depression is lower if there are a) an appreciation of the income in terms of the needs as satisfactory b) the perception of one's own person as being active c) sexual activity with pleasure d) socialization with neighbours, friends.

**Material and methods.** From the "Ana Aslan" National Institute of Gerontology and Geriatrics, 601 patients have agreed to participate on the research *Quantitative and qualitative study on successful aging, a psycho-socio-medical approach on the third age* that took place between 2016-2017. Age of participants was between 55-93 years with the Mean of 67.32 and the Median of 67. Several questionnaires were administered; for this article has been used the 30-item Geriatric Depression Scale (GDS) and responses to 3 items regarding income, activism, sexual behaviour, socialization. Based on the SPSS GENLIN procedure, an ordinal logistic model was used to predict geriatric depression category (1 = Normal, 2 = Mild, 3 = Severe) on four other categorical variables describing income satisfaction perception (1 = Extremely Low, 2 = Low, 3 = Decent, 4 = Satisfactory, 5 = Very Satisfactory), physical activity self-perception (1 = Sedentary, 2 = Active, 3 = Very Active), frequency of leisure time habit to meet people (1 = Rarely, 2 = Often) and frequency of sexual interest (1 = Very Often, 2 = Often, 3 = Rarely, 4 = Very Rarely, 5 = No sexual life).

**Results.** Over ½ of respondents suffer from moderate and severe depression, almost half of respondents feel that family incomes are not enough or hard to meet needs, around 10% think they are sedentary, over ½ have no sexual life, and over ¼ do not respond frequently with pleasure to partner-initiated sexual relationships. Those who were in the higher depression category have perceived their income extremely low ( $p=.001$ ). They perceived themselves as sedentary ( $p<.001$ ), have lower sexual interest ( $p<.001$ ), and the habit not to meet friends, neighbours as a leisure time is low ( $p=.002$ ).

**Conclusions.** The study's hypotheses were confirmed. The middle-aged adults and older should learn about the health benefits of socialization, physical activity and sexual activity. Increasing life expectancy can lead to an increase in the share of the elderly population with depression. Costs of treating depression are a reason to increase efforts to prevent it. Exit from the labour market should be considered for possible depression. Social policies must take into account this low-income segment. Poverty itself can be a contributor to depressive states and at the same time, due to low incomes, the elderly is at risk of benefiting less from pharmacotherapy and psychotherapy.

**Keywords:** depression; elderly; income, socialization; sexual behaviour.

**Subjective well-being, reflective function and offline emotional disclosure as protective factors for problematic use of internet in adolescence**

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**Objectives.** Internet has become an essential part of adolescents' and young adults' daily lives. Furthermore, today, the compulsive use of social networks increasingly mediates adolescents' emotional disclosure and peer relationships. Although research showed that using social networks and online emotional disclosure may increase the problematic use of internet, higher levels of subjective well-being, reflective function skills and good peer relationships could reduce this risk. The current study aimed to explore in a group of adolescents the relationships among online risk factors (online emotional disclosure and social networks' use), personal (subjective well-being in terms of life satisfaction levels and reflective function skills) and relational protective factors (friendships quality and offline emotional disclosure with a friend) and problematic use of internet. Moreover, it aimed to combine the aforementioned variables into a predictive model of adolescents' problematic use of internet.

**Material and methods.** 442 high school students ( $F=53,3\%$ ) aged 13–20 years ( $M = 16.12$ ,  $SD = 1.50$ ) were enrolled in the study and they completed The Generalized Pathological Internet Use Scale-2 (GPIUS-2); an ad-hoc scale for SNs use; a self-report measure evaluated offline and online emotional disclosure; Life Satisfaction scale (SWLS); Reflective Functioning Questionnaire (RFQ) and a self-report measure for Friendship Quality (FQ).

**Results.** The main results from the hierarchical regression model performed to evaluate the predictive roles of studied variables on problematic internet use in adolescence ( $R^2=.267$ ;  $F_{7,456}=23.388$ ,  $p=.000$ ) showed that on one side, online emotional disclosure using chat ( $\beta = .179$ ,  $p = .001$ ) and post ( $\beta = .104$ ,  $p = .026$ ) and higher use of social networks ( $\beta = .178$ ,  $p = .000$ ) were relevant risk factors for pathological internet use; instead, on the other side, life satisfaction ( $\beta = -.132$ ,  $p = .002$ ), reflective function (Certain-Reflective Function;  $\beta = -.320$ ,  $p = .000$ ) and offline emotional disclosure (talking with a friend;  $\beta = -.186$ ,  $p = .000$ ) resulted as crucial protective factors.

**Conclusions.** Findings support that personal and relational factors can play a meaningful protective role for pathological internet use.

**Keywords:** Social Networks; Emotional Disclosure; Reflective Function; Life Satisfaction; Adolescence.

**An in depth investigation of the experience of trainee Integrative psychotherapists on  
Therapeutic Alliance in the light of their Attachment Style**

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**Objectives.** Therapeutic relationship has been regarded as a profound element of the psychotherapeutic procedure and crucial for the outcome of therapy. Research evidence so far claim that both therapist's and client's personality can impact their between Therapeutic Relationship. Based on the well-researched Attachment Theory there have been some research mostly focused on how clients' attachment patterns can affect the alliance but only limited research that emphasizes on how therapists experiences the relationship in relation with their attachment styles do exist. The current study investigates novice therapists' experience of the Therapeutic Relationship with different clients and in different stages of client's change in the light of their own Attachment Style.

**Material and methods.** A qualitative approach was used for this research to investigate in depth the experience of five novice Integrative psychotherapists who were recruited to take part in semi-structured interviews. The research was based on therapists' self-report Attachment Styles, thus, chosen participants were all aware of attachment theory and willing to disclose their own attachment pattern for the needs of this research. Two of the participants categorized themselves to the 'Secure' Attachment Style; two were self-referred as 'Preoccupied' and one as 'Anxious'. Interviews were transcribed and verbatim were divided to superordinate and subordinate themes and analyzed by Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis method. Four master themes were identified. Findings were then compared and discussed according to existing literature.

**Results.** Even though all participants referred to the value of the Therapeutic Alliance in psychotherapy regardless their Attachment patterns, their Attachment Style affected their responses regarding the way they offer themselves during the therapeutic process, their interaction with clients of different Attachment Styles or clients in different Stages of Change, the way they feel about the concept of trust and on possible ruptures during therapy. Secure attached therapists confirm previous studies on their capability to offer a secure base for their clients. On the other hand therapists with insecure Attachment Styles appeared sensitive in their collaboration mostly with insecure clients. Anxious attached therapists proved to experience a difficulty in the initial stages of the Therapeutic Relationship while the combination of ambivalent attached therapist-ambivalent attached client appeared to be the most demanding one, regarding the concept of trust and relationship ruptures.

**Conclusions.** The exploration of trainee therapists' attachment styles as well as the study of the theory of attachment should be added to all counselling and psychotherapy curricula regardless the therapeutic approach because of its contribution to forming positive therapeutic relationships.

**Keywords:** Theory of Attachment; therapists' Attachment Styles; Therapeutic Relationship; Stages of Change; Integrative trainee psychotherapists.

**Risk and protective factors of school burnout in Italian high school students: the role of trait emotional intelligence and academic anxiety**

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**Objectives.** School is a crucial match point for adolescents' development. During this period, they have to face with several duties and difficulties that could boost their stress perception and eventually leading them to burnout. School burnout consists of emotional exhaustion, detached approach toward the school, and feelings of inadequacy as a student. When in burnout, students are usually less engaged, show worse academic performances and are more prone to drop-out. In order to prevent burnout and the adverse outcomes that are often related to, several studies have focused on the role carried out by risk and protective factor. Trait emotional intelligence, defined as the ability to recognize, regulate and express one's emotions, could help to manage the emotional load derived from overwhelming academic demands. Conversely, academic anxiety, a dysfunctional and excessive type of anxiety related to test and evaluation could play a role in boosting school burnout. The objective of this study was to determine the impact of trait emotional intelligence and anxiety on school burnout in a sample of Italian high school students. Two hypotheses were formulated: (1) Trait emotional intelligence and academic anxiety were related to school burnout (positively and negatively respectively); (2) Trait emotional intelligence and anxiety were predictive on school burnout, with opposite directions.

**Material and methods.** Data were obtained from 234 high school students from Center and Southern Italy, aged from 13 to 19 years ( $F= 57.5\%$ ;  $M= 15.73$ ,  $SD= 1.659$ ). Three questionnaires were used: Trait Emotional Intelligence Questionnaire (teiQue), Anxiety and Resilience Italian Questionnaire for academic anxiety, School Burnout Inventory for school burnout. Questionnaires were administered in classrooms, during school hours, with a paper pencil approach and with online survey (Google Form).

**Results.** In order to verify hypothesis 1, correlation analysis was performed, including gender and age. In order to verify hypothesis 2, a three-block hierarchical regression were performed: 1) gender and age; 2) trait emotional intelligence; 3) academic anxiety. Correlation analysis confirm hypothesis 1. In particular, while anxiety was positively related to burnout ( $r= .509$ ,  $p<.01$ ), trait emotional intelligence was negatively related ( $r=-.429$ ,  $p<.01$ ). Multiple hierarchical regression analysis has confirmed hypothesis 2, showing a significative model ( $F_{(4,229)}= 32.08$ ,  $p=.000$ ) that explain 35% of variance in student's burnout levels and is comprehensive of the three blocks. In particular, age ( $\beta= .241$ ,  $p=.000$ ) trait emotional intelligence ( $\beta= -.206$ ,  $p=.001$ ) and anxiety ( $\beta= .400$ ,  $p=.000$ ) are the predictive variables of the accepted model.

**Conclusions.** This study represents an innovative contribution to the understanding of risk and protective factors in school burnout. Although previous findings have underlined the individual role of academic anxiety and emotional intelligence on negative academic outcomes, this study demonstrated that these variables together have an influence on the school burnout. These findings could be useful to plan interventions for improving emotional intelligence and reducing anxiety levels, in order to prevent and reduce school burnout risk.

**Keywords:** School burnout; emotional intelligence; academic anxiety; high school students.

**Parent-led school tutoring: a new opportunity for inclusion**

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**Objectives.** A new type of classroom tutoring, known as parent-led tutoring, was used in this study for the first time. The main object of the present contribution is to explore the involvement of parents as tutors in primary school classes, especially in the presence of children with special educational needs. This study focuses on the relationship between school and family from the point of view of didactical collaboration and inclusion in the classroom, and more specifically, parents' involvement in classroom activities with children with special educational needs.

**Material and methods.** The idea of organizing parent-led tutoring came about after a period of observation in a pre-school in 2016. Parents were often invited to talk to the children about their occupations, or just to tell a story. During these encounters, there was an evident increase in the level of enthusiasm on the part of the children, including non-native speakers and those with disabilities. In response to this, it was decided to carry out an initial exploratory survey to study the effects of the parents' involvement in certain didactical activities in primary school classes in the school year 2017-18. There were involved in the investigation forty-six children aged nine, twelve teachers and forty-six parents. First, semi-structured interviews with parents and teachers were conducted to evaluate the level of acceptance of parent-led tutoring in the classroom. Next, teachers were asked to complete a questionnaire regarding a training session for parents to learn how to conduct themselves in the classroom and to provide effective tutoring. Level of inclusion, level of children's motivation to learn and parents' and teachers' willingness to cooperate were explored through the use of a variety of scales, including the Index for inclusion. After the training session was over, seven parents per class were selected to start collaborating as tutors in the classroom. During the parent-led tutoring, research was carried out through direct observation. The information was collected and entered in a quantitative grid written expressly for this study. After the tutoring period ended, the variables were re-examined using the same questionnaires as in the first phase.

**Results.** Twenty-three interviews were conducted after the parents' intervention in the classroom. The data showed that parents were generally enthusiastic about the idea of working as tutors in the presence of the teachers (87%). On the other hand, the data indicated that not all teachers were convinced of the benefits of parent-led tutoring (20%). The data contained in the scales revealed a medium to high level of positive social climate in the classroom and a medium level of inclusion and children's motivation to learn. The data concerning the teachers' willingness to cooperate with the parents in the classroom indicated a low level of acceptance. After the intervention, new data revealed that parents' enthusiasm had increased (95%). Parents not taking part in the tutoring were interviewed and expressed satisfaction with the positive feed-back from their children. Furthermore, the data also revealed that all teachers recognized the benefits inherent in parent-led tutoring. The re-test regarding the positive level of social climate, the level of inclusion and the level of motivation to learn indicated an increase in all the above variables.

**Conclusions.** This exploratory survey suggests that parent-led tutoring enhances children's motivation to learn, their ability to cooperate, leading to an overall improvement of inclusion of special needs children.

**Keywords:** school; parents; tutoring; cooperation; inclusion.

**Palestinian Child Participation in Israel Cross-Cultural Perspective**

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**Objectives.** The right to participate enables children to define their lives and express their views in any decision that impacts their lives. Child participation is expressed in various domains: home, school, workplace, and community. It is a manifestation of the respect we have for the child as a person here and now, and when this right is not vested in the child, his/her welfare may be harmed. There is a difference between various cultures and societies, in the attitude towards the child and his/her participation. Whether participation is considered a "right" or a "duty" depends on the presence and express separation of related standards within the society beneath thought. The aim of the study is to represent the Palestinian children's participation in Israel, within their families and community from a cross-cultural perspective.

**Material and methods.** This study sums up the previous researches, both empirical and theoretical, and deduces comprehensive conclusions from the body of literature on the topic. It has shown that the reality of the Palestinian culture in Israel affects the participation of the Palestinian children in Israel.

**Results.** The Palestinian community in Israel (also called the Arab community in Israel) is a minority that has been shaped in 1948 under the tragic circumstances of war, destruction, evacuation, and coercion. The most significant change that has occurred to the Palestinian society in Israel is the reversal of status it has undergone, from a majority based in its homeland to a defeated, isolated, and excluded ethnic-national minority in its own country. Due to the different social, political, economic, educational, and family structure changes that the Palestinians face in Israel, their culture is eventually changing, so does the image of the child. Traditionally, Palestinian children are demanded by social norms and values to adapt, obey, and respect their elders. Before the Intifada (the civil revolution against the Israeli occupation) children were not heard, socially and politically. The forceful participation of Palestinian children in the Intifada improved their place in the community. The Palestinian children's view is becoming more valuable within their family and community, yet, they are still suffering from racism and discrimination by the Israeli government, law, and community in general. Palestinian children support, in a limited manner, the majority of the children's rights. At the same time, they are more encouraging to public and governmental rights.

**Conclusions.** The findings have important implications for policy and practice. There should be a multicultural public policy in a country that has a cultural diversity. There is a need to foster a community development practice that enables the children to address their own concerns, problems, opinions, and solutions, through the developmental organizations' projects, to empower the Palestinian child to participate in the community, as well as in the family for individual and collective advantages.

**Keywords:** children's rights; participation; Palestinians; Israel; culture.



**Dynamics of family composition in Belarus (20th–21st centuries)**

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**Objectives.** The aim of this study is to determine the pace and nature of reproduction of the population in Belarus from the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (cent.) to the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> cent.

**Material and methods.** In the 1980s and in 2017, by questioning young women, data about their date of birth, place of birth and residence, education, number of children and dates of their birth, and the same information about their mother, grandmothers and great-grandmothers, their spouse's mother and grandmothers (6406 people in total) was obtained. 5 generations of residents born from 1885 to 2017 were examined: the generation of the early 20<sup>th</sup> (1904 birth year on average), 1930s (1932), 1950s (1957), the 1980s (1981) and the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> cent. (2005). The average number of children in a family, the average age of birth of the first child are determined.

**Results.** During the 20<sup>th</sup> cent., a tendency to increase the average age of birth of the first child (from 22.5 to 23.2 years), with a maximum for the generation of the 1930s (24.0 years) and a authentic reduction in the generation of the 1950s ( $p < 0.05$ ) was noted. The average age of appearance of the latter child decreases from 35.0 to 28.9 years, with a minimum in the generation of the 1950s (28.6 years). During the century, the shares of those who gave birth to a child under the age of 20 are reducing (the group aged 20-24 is increasing). The generation of the 1930s significantly different from the generations of the early 20<sup>th</sup> and the 1950s: the portion of those who gave birth to their first child before the age of 20 is reduced, at 25-29 and after 30 years – increased. The average number of children in a family is consistently reduced from 5.1 in the generation of the early 20<sup>th</sup> to 4.7 – 1930s, 3.2 – 1950s, 2.2 – 1980s and 1.7 in the generation of the early 21<sup>st</sup>. In all generations in cities, the birth rate is lower than in villages (from  $p < 0.01$  to  $p < 0.001$ ). The proportion of families with 3 or more children has declined by more than 4 times over the century. The fertility rate shows a negative trend with an increase in the level of education of a woman, which is also manifested in the reduction in the proportion of mothers of large families among more educated women.

**Conclusions.** During the 20<sup>th</sup> cent., the average age of birth of the first child increases, the latter – increases. Closer to presence, women give birth to their first child at the most favourable age and less often under the age of 20. The term-shift towards the older groups in the generation of the 1930s happened due to the World War II, the related change in the number of sexes, epidemics, and forced relocation. The average number of children in a family over the century has decreased by 3 times; the rate is lower among more educated women; in cities lower than in rural areas.

**Keywords:** family; fertility; Belarus.

**The Neonatal Intensive Care Unit: psychological and emotional aspects related to the infant's taking charge by the medical team**

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**Objectives.** Health professionals frequently face stressful events at work. The need to constantly cope with stressful conditions, while taking care of their patients, heightens their risk to experience detrimental experiences, as well as stress and burnout. These experiences are highly related to both their daily interactions and practices as medical professionals, and their emotions and beliefs about their profession in general. Building on these considerations, the goal of this research (conducted as a qualitative survey) is to explore the emotional and behavioural personal reactions of doctors and nurses in the process of treatment and care of premature babies; their beliefs related to the work in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and the process of taking charge of the premature child and his parents, thus tracing possible strategies to improve their work.

**Material and methods.** A group of 36 subjects (N = 16 doctors; N = 20 nurses) aged between 30 and 60 years old took part to the research. Subjects worked in two NICU: the first one comes from the Operative Unit Complex of the "A. Gemelli" Hospital in Rome, the second one from the "Annunziata" Hospital of Cosenza. The research was conducted using a semi-structured interview, consisting of 21 questions related to five identified thematic areas: the emotional impact of work, the management of emotions, the relationship with the parents, the support and coordination of the group, personal perceptions related to empathy. The answers of the subjects were analyzed through a qualitative analysis of the content.

**Results.** The study suggests that emotions are categorized both positively and negatively. More specifically, all respondents feel emotionally involved and close to the needs of the premature babies and their families; in particular, it emerged that there is a direct proportional relationship between a longer stay in the ward of the members of the medical team and empathy, which is perceived as a protective factor in the face of stressful events and limits the behaviour of detached concern to the doctors. At the same time, all the interviewees recognized that their work had a strong impact on their emotional experiences. Negative emotions such as anxiety, emotional exhaustion, physical tiredness, frustration are attributed to the emotional implications of their work and to the difficulties of communicating with the other members of the group and with the parents, in the moment of restitution; however, all the interviewees proposed strategies to improve work and group communication, communication with parents and their empowerment process in recognizing themselves as an active part in the parent-child relationship and the child's stress signals, due to the fact that they believe they have a positive influence on other's people life.

**Conclusions.** This study offers reflections on the potential implications of positive and negative emotional experiences in the NICU; more specifically, psychological support in the ward for team members could improve the management of both positive and negative emotions for doctors and nurses.

**Keywords:** prematurity; emotions; care; neonatal intensive care unit; medical team.

### Interest in one's appearance

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**Objectives.** The interest in one's overall appearance may express the need for self-knowledge, the positive attitude towards oneself and emotional attractiveness of one's body image. Socialization practices suppose some social-demographic differences in the interest in one's appearance, especially gender and age differences. It is important to study the interest in one's appearance because it may influence on health status and social functioning. Being preoccupied with some defects in one's appearance may cause a body-image disorder such as Body Dysmorphic Disorder, distress and problems in human communication. The objective of this study was to determine the degree of manifested interest in one's appearance and the impact of sociodemographic variables on the interest in one's appearance.

**Material and methods.** Appearance satisfaction is related to global self-esteem, and the relation between self-esteem and appearance satisfaction was the reason for choosing a self-report method based on self-assessment for measuring the interest in one's appearance. In 2013–2016, data were obtained from 528 Bulgarian participants aged 18–62 years who reported their gender belonging, educational level, age, family status, the number of their children, and their period of work experience. A self-report scale of seven items was constructed by using several items of a questionnaire focused on narcissism, because narcissism expresses also an excessive interest in oneself and one's physical appearance. The modified scale had high enough reliability as the coefficients of Cronbach's alpha, inter-item correlation and split – half reliability indicated. Its construct validity was established. The norms on it were extracted.

**Results.** Medium/moderate interest in one's appearance prevailed, followed by low interest in one's appearance, and then high interest in one's appearance. Extremely low interest in one's appearance was very rare, and no participant manifested extremely high interest in one's appearance. The female participants were more interested in their appearance than the male participants ( $p < .05$ ). The family status and age differentiated the answers on some items of the scale ( $p < .05$ ). The participants who had an intimate partner liked more being different from the others with their way of dressing than the participants who did not have any intimate partner. Younger participants preferred more than older participants their picture to decorate the cover of a fashion magazine. The educational level did not differentiate the participants' interests in their appearance ( $p > .05$ ). The interest in one's appearance slightly diminished with the increase of number of own children ( $p < .05$ ) and with a longer period of work experience ( $p < .05$ ).

**Conclusions.** This study shows that the risk for developing body image disorder because of extremely high interest in one's appearance might be smaller than the risk for neglecting the care of one's overall outlook due to extremely low interest in one's appearance. The most vulnerable social-demographic groups for neglecting the care of one's overall outlook by reason of extremely low interest in one's appearance seemed to be the workers with very long work experience, more advanced in age. The scale for measuring the interest in one's appearance had good psychometric properties.

**Keywords:** appearance; attitude; disorder; interest; need.

**From Theory to Praxis, i.e. What Does it Mean to "Philosophize"  
The Philosophical Possibilities of the Young Georg Lukacs**

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**Objectives.** "Every significant person has only one thought; actually, it is questionable, if the thought can have a plural form; what if the complexity of thoughts refers only to something frivolous?" Georg Lukacs formulated this statement at the beginning of his carrier in 1911. Thus, the focus of this study is what it means to philosophize according to the concept of the young Georg Lukacs.

**Material and methods.** This research is in fact a philosophical investigation. The meaning of the sentence is mainly determined by the word "significant", it goes beyond the category of the pure reason and intellect, defines genius as an anthropological factor, as László F. Földényi also pointed out. However, at the turn of the century, the young George Lukacs was not yet "significant" and "full-fledged" philosopher, but a self-seeker who wishes to express this idea. However, the identity of the "culprit" and the consequences are already known, but the path leading to it is still unclear.

**Results.** This paper gives an insight into the intellectual trends of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries: The young Georg Lukacs, as a neo-Kantian thinker, is looking for an ontological foundation for the arts, because, as Földényi defines, the social and individual foundations can be found in the aesthetical qualities. Lukacs seeks to solve the final and decisive questions, namely the basic problems of philosophy. It is not about the problems of a philosophical methods, but the final aspects of life. This is the basic idea of the *Philosophy of Art* (1912–1914) and the *Heidelberg Aesthetics* (1916–1918).

**Conclusions.** The great philosopher and sociologist of the era, Max Weber, recognized and cherished this novel approach to the ontology of art, but there was a fundamental philosophical misunderstanding between Weber and Lukacs: can the final questions of philosophy be solved? In an adequate sense: is it possible to philosophize in the "*entzauberte Welt*" (as Max Weber defined it)? The *Philosophy of Art* and the *Heidelberg Aesthetics* are a possible answer to this question, the problem is that these works of Lukacs had never been completed.

**Keywords:** Georg Lukacs; theory; Philosophy of Art; Heidelberg Aesthetics; Max Weber.

## Childless but not childfree? Comparative study of female childlessness in Romania and Hungary

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**Objectives.** In Central-Eastern Europe there have been only a limited number of empirical studies focusing specifically on childlessness, while it can be expected that – at least partly – different reasons contribute to the development and increase of childlessness in Central-Eastern Europe than in the West. The main aim of this study is to explore those factors and processes that characterize the social phenomenon of childlessness in present day Hungary and Romania. This research also aimed to investigate the empirically detectable – real and/or perceived – reasons of intentional childlessness. The research questions included whether any patterns of (intentional) childlessness can be identified according to basic demographic traits and other important personal characteristics in the postsocialist region?

**Material and methods.** The empirical base of this study includes 106 in-depth interviews conducted with childless Hungarian and Romanian women and 25 expert interviews (10 from Romania and 15 from Hungary). Potential psychological, social and socio-political consequences of childlessness were also examined by exploring issues our interviewees envisioned as already existing consequences, potential future problem areas and opportunities.

**Results.** The results showed that mainly similar socio-demographic variables have effect on being childlessness on Hungary and Romania such as having a stable relationship and a secure employment. However, there were discovered some differences regarding the effect of religion and social norms linked to age limits. Moreover, the experts in Romania and Hungary framed the childlessness issue in different ways.

**Conclusions.** Our findings highlighted that childlessness can hardly be traced back to one single reason or decision. Remaining childless can result from a complex process of several interacting factors: for instance, the lack of partnership can contribute to the postponement of childbearing, which can lead to reproductive health problems especially over the age of 35-40. At the same time it should also be emphasized that not having one's "own" child does not necessarily lead to a "childfree" lifestyle: our interviewees reported on their active involvement in raising the children of close family members and/or friends.

**Keywords:** childlessness; women's views; experts' views; Hungary; Romania.

## **Self-confidence and emotional regulation in classroom: a study on a group of Italian preadolescents**

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**Objectives.** The school skills are influenced by the interaction of many factors, some of which are not directly visible. Indeed, it is possible for students at the same level of knowledge to have different performances, due to the effects of psychological variables. This study has two objectives: the first is to verify the differences in anxious state, resilience, own ability perception, trust in one's own intelligence, "fixed" or "incremental" theory of intelligence, felt/shown negative and positive emotions; the second is to evaluate correlation relationship between such variables.

**Material and methods.** In January 2017, 63 students (30 males and 33 females), spanning from 11 to 13 years of age, participated to this research. They were from 5 different school classes, all enrolled in the first grade of a junior high school. After obtaining the consent of the parents and the head teacher, an anonymous questionnaire was collectively administered during class time. It included: Questionario Ansia e Resilienza (QAR), Three-series of Questionario sulle Convinzioni (CQ) and Student's Emotions Test.

**Results.** ANOVA and correlations were calculated. The first has not showed significant gender differences, although there are trends in line with literature referring to older students (for example, girls have more anxiety and less resilience than boys). There are significant correlations between the constructs evaluated, except for the variable of fixed/incremental theory of intelligence.

**Conclusions.** The transition from primary to secondary school is a characteristic step of 11-12 years of age that correlates with school anxiety. The present research shows that as anxiety increases, the negative felt and expressed emotions grow, but the positive ones, the trust in one's own intelligence, the own ability perception and resilience decrease. Specifically, resilience is the skill to overcome difficult circumstances, thanks to own mental qualities, behaviour and adaptation. It is essential in the scholastic context, because it allows students to maintain motivation and determination to obtain positive results even in the face of difficulties and failures. So the result obtained in this research could be interpreted in a perspective according to which anxiety would produce a series of unpleasant emotional activations. These would have a negative influence on the trust in one's own ability to cover external requests. This would explain the negative correlation with the own ability perception and the trust in one's own intelligence and, consequently, the decline in resilience. Therefore, anxiety could be the optimal focus of a possible future intervention.

**Keywords:** Students; Junior High School; Self-Confidence; Emotional Adjustment; Anxiety.

**Body Image Disturbances and Eating Disorders in men and women: Exploring the experiences of therapists with different psychotherapeutic orientations**

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**Objectives.** As society's pressure for flawless outward appearance has increased, individual's attention on body aesthetics has been amplified. During the last decade, the percentage of individuals, both males and females, who struggle with Body Image Disturbance (BID) and therefore Eating Disorders (ED) has grown spectacularly. The objective of this study was to explore therapists' experiences from different psychotherapeutic orientations when working with BID/ED clients.

**Material and methods.** Data were obtained through semi-structured interviews provided that the intent of the study was to explore experiences and attitudes. In total 6 therapists from 4 psychotherapeutic orientations (Cognitive-Behavioural Therapy, Person-Centered Therapy, Family/Systemic Therapy and Integrative Therapy) participated in the study. Also, the research sample consisted of 6 Greek therapists who had a minimum of 5 years of professional practice, were certified in their own approach and had working experience with at least one client, male or female, with BID or ED.

**Results.** The interview analysis displayed six super-ordinate themes. Initially, therapists claimed that the two main motives for their orientation training were the approach's structure and their supervisor's influence. Their general experience with BID/ED clients is that mostly females seek professional help, family difficulties are the main cause, BID and ED often coexist with other disorders such as depression or anxiety and clients seek for acceptance. Therapists use a range of interventions however the clients' responses depend on either their personality or their gender. Hence, females are more responsive whereas males are unwilling to invest emotionally. Although two participants claimed that integrative therapy should not be separated from the rest of the approaches or that therapists should be trained only in one approach, all participants unanimously highlighted its efficiency and mandatory application. Therapists reported a variety of feelings towards their clients such as bafflement, responsibility, anxiety, anger, empathy, burnout and the need for personal and professional limits respectively.

**Conclusions.** The study's findings depict the complexity of BID and ED while they present an internal aspect of the therapeutic world and the corresponding emotional reactions. Independently of their psychotherapeutic orientation, therapists adapt their therapeutic plan on each individual borrowing interventions from other approaches and forming a flexible and integrative approach. Integration and flexibility are essential for a holistic and comprehensive intervention which can address challenges and benefit both clients and therapists.

**Keywords:** body image disturbance; eating disorders; therapeutic orientation; integration.

## Psychosocial Aspects of Aging

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**Objectives.** From an anthropological perspective, aging is characterized by specific changes of the body, in the psychological and social behaviour, affection, thoughts, attitudes, activities and relationships, so the aging process can be accelerated by the influence of some social factors (work, eating, pollution, habits) and slowed-down by others (healthy lifestyle, social and familial support, intergenerational ties). Considering the body as a system, consisting of a hierarchy of subsystems of elements (molecules, macromolecules, sub cellular structures, cells and tissues, organs, systems), aging causes morphological, structural and operational alterations at all levels of the system. The aims of the study were: to investigate, from an anthropological perspective, the way psycho-socio-cultural factors influence life quality in later life and identifying the potential link between the family model and the quality of life.

**Material and methods.** The sample size was made of 369 subjects, randomly selected from both urban (41.7%) and rural (58.3%) areas, 171 men (46.3%) and 198 women, aged between 55 and 83 years. In order to preserve randomness in selecting our subjects, the systematic sampling method was used, with fixed points in medical/geriatric health institutions. From each of those points, self-selected individuals were included in this study, on volunteer basis. Data was collected between 2008 and 2011, through three questionnaires (an omnibus type questionnaire, Woodworth-Mathews Personal Data Sheet, Circumplex model of marital and family systems III) and processed using descriptive statistical methods, significance tests and statistical analysis, according to the specific data. In order to build a picture as comprehensively as possible of our subjects' lives, they were asked to briefly describe family relationships (with their parents, between their parents, with their children, grandchildren, the intergenerational support system, etc.).

**Results.** In the study group, due to its mean age, most subjects are retired and live with one family member, usually their partner. Most of them live on a total household income that provides them (on their own assessments) only the bare necessities or not even covering the costs of food and paying the utility bills. Psychological tools used have shown that the most common condition in the studied group was depression (present in 60% of subjects). Gender, marital status and area of residence had a significant influence on the depressive tendencies recorded. In our study group, self-assessed health was influenced by educational level, origin and gender of the respondent and the presence or absence of diagnosed medical conditions. Identifying depressive tendencies correlated with a less favourable image of the subject's health. Due to the small sample size, the study results cannot be extrapolated to a population level, the results referring strictly to the studied sample.

**Conclusions.** Regardless their sex and area of residence, most of the subjects rated their family as having a medium to low cohesion. Respondent's gender did not influence the perception of family flexibility, most men and women appreciating their family as having a medium to high flexibility level. Rural areas tend to preserve traditional values, in this environment operating a well-defined system of intergenerational support. Rural subjects benefit from stronger moral and material support of their children but also are more actively involved in the life, growth and education of future generations.

**Keywords:** aging; intergenerational support; family; depression.



**From Soft Power to Hybrid War: the image of the EU's Soft Power in Bulgaria at the Migration crisis and Info War times**

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**Objectives.** The purpose of this research is to define the public opinion of local youth communities in Bulgaria (Sofia) that benefit from policies, sources, and institutions (such as EU rural development agencies or NGO networks which are supported by EU programs like Erasmus +, EVS/ESC and the Creative Europe Program). The main theoretical framework uses the concepts of EU's Soft Power in the context of the migration crisis. The originality of this research is that the first time the image of EU's Soft Power will be assessed on the basis of the opinions of Bulgarian youth from universities and NGOs.

**Material and methods.** There was used the semiotic discourse analysis on the data collected during the in-depth interviews. There were carried out in-depth interviews with PhD, master and bachelor level forty-five students from three academic institutions in Sofia.

**Results.** As the main components of EU's image there was noticed the existence of the following: the future anxiety, less fear, unemployment, migration, only call-center job occasions, language barrier and negative image as the difficulties for EU integration, depoliticize, a kind of Stockholm syndrome for EU, demographic crisis, anti-Roma hatred, and EU's illegitimate anti-Russian propaganda. The findings of this study emphasize negative effects resulted from the transformation of some values from a Soft Power tool to a Hybrid War weapons which have the potential to become a new cult for Bulgarian youth.

**Conclusions.** From a historical perspective, Bulgaria is an ex-Ottoman Empire colony. As an ex-colony of Ottoman Empire this country could get a special remark/protection like the other ex-colonies. EU's Soft Power tool analysed in this case included the Erasmus student exchanges, EVS, working abroad and local development projects for the participants to this research. It showed a transformation of older values into new ones and the statute of Bulgaria as a country placed into a buffer zone.

**Keywords:** Hybrid War; Soft Power; EU, Bulgaria; Youth.

**Traditional studying the desired specialty may motivate for e-learning**

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**Objectives.** It is important to establish if motivation for studying a desired specialty is not only more long-lasting, but also more stimulating e-learning and job-related performance than motivation for studying an undesired specialty. It may be expected that studying the desired specialty would be related to greater motivation for acquiring the necessary knowledge and skills using diverse sources of information, including online learning. The vocational requirements related to the occupation may strengthen motivation for self-improvement, including by means of e-learning, in order to correspond to the job requirements. The learner enrolled in an undesired specialty may be not enough motivated to study and to search for additional information online related to this specialty. The objective of this study was to find out if studying the desired specialty expressed enhanced and stable learning motivation, including motivation for e-learning.

**Material and methods.** A survey was conducted in 2017 among 156 Bulgarian students. About 1/4<sup>th</sup> of them were part-time students and master's degree students. Most participants were full-time students and students in bachelor's degree. The participants were asked six questions about their behaviour, feelings and intents related to learning and their specialty. Information regarding behaviour contributes to revealing their motivation. Motivation includes feelings as enhanced motivation for learning related to a chosen future profession may lead to better results and higher satisfaction. Some questions were asked about intents in order to understand more about durability of motivation as a constant long-lasting state. These questions were based on several items from two self-report questionnaires measuring academic motivation and adaptation to university environment. Social-demographic data were also collected.

**Results.** Less proportion of students who wanted to study their specialty before being enrolled at the university preferred to change the specialty that they were studying ( $p < .001$ ), were not satisfied with their exam results ( $p < .05$ ), thought of giving up their studies ( $p < .01$ ), felt unpleasant when they learned ( $p < .05$ ), and did not regularly search for additional material on the Internet ( $p < .001$ ) than the students who did not want to study their specialty before being enrolled at the university. The participating part-time students more often searched for additional information online than the full-time students ( $p < .05$ ). More students in Master's degree preferred to change their studied specialty than the students in bachelor degree ( $p < .05$ ).

**Conclusions.** Motivation for studying the desired specialty seems being durable, because less students who wanted to study their specialty before being enrolled at the university preferred to change their specialty or thought of giving up their studies than the students who did not want to study their specialty before being enrolled at the university. Studying the desired specialty was related to greater motivation for acquiring the necessary knowledge and skills using diverse sources of information, including online learning. E-learning may complement traditional learning for acquiring knowledge and skills related to a chosen vocational field. Lack of interest in the studied specialty and the negative attitude to it seem to diminish learning motivation, including motivation for e-learning, too. Learning motivation is important for successful performance, striving for self-improvement and better preparedness for future profession.

**Keywords:** learning; motivation; profession; students; specialty.

**Analysis of the relationship between work engagement, emotional intelligence and burnout level of employees**

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**Objectives.** It is known that emotional intelligence is rooted in the abilities enabling individuals to understand others, to establish relations with other persons, to conform to the surrounding environment and to deal with stated environment. But this type of intelligence succeeds in providing individuals the capacity to meet the demands they receive from surroundings. The main purpose of this study is to explore, to measure and to present the relationship between emotional intelligence, work engagement and burnout in the call center sector.

**Material and methods.** The study consists of two major parts: the theoretical framework and the scientific research. In the first part, the literature is presented with an accent put on the examination of the concepts of emotional intelligence, work engagement, burnout and the relationship between these variables. The present research is a type of correlation study, which was performed cross-sectional on 150 employees in a call center in Albania. For the empirical study, in order to collect data there was applied a questionnaire to the sample of 150 individuals. Data were collected using Likert scale method. The statistical analysis was made with SPSS 17 software and used t-test and Pearson correlation with the significance level of 5 percent.

**Results.** The research questions refer to the relationship between emotional intelligence and work engagement, emotional intelligence and burnout, work engagement and burnout and all three of the above-mentioned variables with other demographic variables.

The results of the study showed that the relationship between emotional intelligence and work engagement is not statistically significant. Also, the results showed that the relationships between intelligence and the dimension of personal achievement of the burnout variable are significant and the links between work engagement and burnout are important from a statistical perspective. Also, in terms of demographic variables, there are differences between demographic variables such as gender, age, hierarchical position and work experience for each of the above-mentioned variables.

**Conclusions.** This study shows that there is an important negative relation between welfare dimension with absorption and the fact that the emotional intelligence has important positive relationships only with power dimension and no significant link to engagement at work.

**Keywords:** emotional intelligence; work engagement; burnout; gender; job tenure.

**Anexă -Programul conferinței / Annex -Conference Program**

"Francisc I. Rainer" Anthropology Institute of the Romanian Academy, Bucharest Romania  
 The Libera Università Maria SS. Assunta (LUMSA) Human Sciences Department, Rome, Italy  
 Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw, Poland

**International Conference**  
**INDIVIDUAL, FAMILY, SOCIETY - CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES,**  
**THIRD EDITION**

<b>Bucharest, "Francisc I. Rainer" Anthropology Institute of the Romanian Academy, Academy House, 13 September Avenue, No.13, 5th District, Bucharest, Romania, Zip Code 050711 (Casa Academiei Române, Calea 13 Septembrie, Nr. 13, C.P. 24, Sector 5, Bucharest, Romania) floor 3, rooms 3271 and 3244</b>
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Wednesday, <b>October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019, 9:00 am - 05:00 pm</b>
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Thursday, <b>October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019, 9:30 am - 01:30 pm</b>
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*Conference organized as a part of Interacademic Cooperation*

**Conference Presidents**

1. ISPAS Alexandru T., PhD, "Francisc I. Rainer" Anthropology Institute of the Romanian Academy, Bucharest, Romania.
2. RADA Cornelia, PhD, "Francisc I. Rainer" Anthropology Institute of the Romanian Academy, Bucharest, Romania.

**Scientific Committee of the Conference:**

1. AVRAM Eugen, PhD, Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences, Department of Psychology, University of Bucharest, Romania.
2. BACIU Adina Brândușa, PhD, "Francisc I. Rainer" Anthropology Institute of the Romanian Academy, Biomedical Department, Bucharest, Romania.
3. BISTRICEANU PANTELIMON Corina, PhD, Department of Psychology and Educational Sciences, "Spiru Haret" University, Bucharest, Romania.
4. BLAZEVSKA-STOILKOVSKA, Biljana, PhD, Institute of psychology, Faculty of philosophy in Skopje, Macedonia.
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7. DE STASIO Simona, PhD, LUMSA University, Human Sciences Department, Rome, Italy.
8. KAY-FLOWERS Susan, PhD, Faculty of Education, Health and Community, Liverpool John Moores University, UK.
9. FALUDI Cristina, PhD, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work "Babeș-Bolyai" University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania.
10. FIORILLI Caterina, PhD, LUMSA University, Human Sciences Department, Rome, Italy.
11. GIANNOULI Vaitsa, PhD, Institute of Neurobiology, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia, Bulgaria.

12. IONESCU Daniela, PhD, Faculty of Political Sciences, Department of Psychology, National School of Political and Administrative Studies, Bucharest, Romania.
13. KUBIAK Anna, PhD, Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw, Poland.
14. MANOV Boris, PhD, South-West University, "Neofit Rilski", Department of Philosophical and Political Science, Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria.
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16. MILENKOVA Valentina, PhD, South-West University "Neofit Rilski", Sociology Department, Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria.
17. HURBO Tatyana, PhD, Institute of History of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, Minsk, Belarus.
18. OLSON David H., PhD, Family Social Science, University of Minnesota, USA.
19. PAVLICA Tatjana, PhD, University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Sciences, Department of Biology and Ecology, Novi Sad, Serbia.
20. POPA Clara L., Ph.D, Rowan University, Communication Studies Department, USA.
21. RADA Cornelia, PhD, "Francisc I. Rainer" Anthropology Institute of the Romanian Academy, Biomedical Department, Bucharest, Romania.
22. SMOCZYNSKI Rafal, PhD, Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw, Poland.
23. STAIGER Annegret, PhD, Associate Professor of Anthropology, Humanities and Social Sciences, Clarkson University, USA.
24. STOYANOVA Stanislava, PhD, South-West University "Neofit Rilski", Department of Psychology, Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria.
25. TARȚA-ARSENE Eugen, PhD, "Carol Davila" University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Bucharest, Romania.
26. URZEALA Constanta Nicoleta, PhD, National University of Physical Education and Sports from Bucharest, Sport and Motor Performance Department, Bucharest, Romania.
27. VASILJEVIĆ Perica, PhD, Faculty of Science and Mathematics, Department for Biology and Ecology, Niš, Serbia.

**Organizing committee of the conference:**

- CERCEL Sevastian, PhD, University of Craiova, Faculty of Law, Department of Private Law and Administrative Sciences, Craiova, Romania.
- RADA Cornelia, PhD, "Francisc I. Rainer" Anthropology Institute of the Romanian Academy, Biomedical Department, Bucharest, Romania.
- TURCU Mihaela Suzana, PhD, "Francisc I. Rainer" Anthropology Institute of the Romanian Academy, Biomedical Department, Bucharest, Romania.
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**Responsible for final proofreading / Technical Editor**

- TURCU Mihaela Suzana, PhD, "Francisc I. Rainer" Anthropology Institute of the Romanian Academy, Biomedical Department, Bucharest, Romania.
- URZEALĂ Constanța Nicoleta, PhD, National University of Physical Education and Sports from Bucharest, Romania.

After the reviewing process by two independent specialists, the abstracts written in English that was accepted are published in the online journal, *Studii și Cercetări de Antropologie* (ISSN 2344-2824; ISSN-L 0039-3886) [<http://www.journalstudiesanthropology.ro/ro/acasa.html>].

After the reviewing process by two independent specialists, the full papers written in English that are accepted will be published in the online journal, *Anthropological Research and Studies* (ISSN 2360-3445; ISSN-L 2360-3445). Full papers Submission Instructions can be found at: [<http://www.journalstudiesanthropology.ro/en/authors-guidelines.html>].

**Full papers, written in English word-processed was sent as an attachment until 31<sup>th</sup> July 2019 ONLY TO ONE**

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- Cornelia RADA (biomedical anthropology, medicine, psychology): [corneliarada@yahoo.com](mailto:corneliarada@yahoo.com)
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**Participation in the conference, publication of the abstracts in the journal *Studii și Cercetări de Antropologie* and publication of the full papers in the journal *Anthropological Research and Studies* are free of charge.**

#### CONFERENCE PROGRAM

<b>Bucharest, "Francisc I. Rainer" Anthropology Institute of the Romanian Academy, Academy House, 13 September Avenue, No.13, 5th District, Bucharest, Romania Zip Code 050711 (Casa Academiei Române, Calea 13 Septembrie, Nr. 13, C.P. 24, Sector 5, Bucharest, Romania) Wednesday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019, 9:00 am - 05:00 pm</b>	
<b>Please do not overpass 10 minutes for your conference communication ! Your presentation speech should not exceed 10 minutes.</b>	
<b>Floor 3, Room 3271 (On the right when you get out of the elevator)</b>	
<b>09:00-09:20</b>	<b>Registration of Participants</b>
<b>09:20-09:30</b>	<b>Welcome and opening</b> BUONOMO Ilaria, LUMSA University, Human Sciences Department, Rome, Italy.
<b>09:30-13:30</b>	<b>First session, Floor 3, Room 3271</b>
<b>Moderators</b> <b>BISTRICEANU PANTELIMON Corina</b> , PhD, Department of Psychology and Educational Sciences, "Spiru Haret" University, Bucharest, Romania. <b>RADA Cornelia</b> , "Francisc I. Rainer" Anthropology Institute of the Romanian Academy, Bucharest, Romania.	

1	BUONOMO Ilaria, FIORILLI Caterina, BENEVENE Paula, <b>The impact of emotions and hedonic balance on teachers' self-efficacy - testing the undoing effect of positive emotions</b> , LUMSA University, Department of Human Sciences, Communications, Education and Psychology, Rome, Italy.
2	SKRYHAN Halina (1), MARFINA Volha (2), <b>Dynamics of family composition in Belarus (20<sup>th</sup>–21<sup>st</sup> centuries)</b> , (1) Belarusian state pedagogical university named after M. Tank, (2) Institute of History, The National academy of sciences of Belarus.
3	HURBO Tatyana, <b>Dynamics in the mean age at marriage of the population of the central Belarus (through the example of the Minsk Region)</b> , Institute of history of the National academy of sciences of Belarus.
4	FERDOHLEB Alina, SPINEI Larisa, <b>Estimation of the impact of disability on children in the context of service reform</b> , "Nicolae Testemitanu" State University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova.
5	ALBU Adriana (1), CEBANU Serghei (2), NECHITA Adina Iustina (3), DIMA Florin (4), <b>Assessment of social relationships and free-time activities in a group of pupils from Moldova</b> , (1) (3) (4) "Grigore T. Popa" University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Iasi, (2) "Nicolae Testemiteanu" State University of Medicine and Pharmacy Chisinau, Republic of Moldova.
6	DIMOVA Elitsa, <b>Family values in Bulgaria in the context of the global crisis</b> , South West University "Neofit Rilski", Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria.
7	MILENKOVA Valentina, MANOV Boris, <b>Challenges to the family and upbringing of children in the conditions of digitization</b> , South-West University "NeofitRilski", Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria.
8	POLINA Natalya, <b>Dynamics of adaptation potential at Belarusian school students over time</b> , Institute of History of the National academy of sciences of Belarus.
9	MINAKOWSKI Jerzy Marek (1), SMOCZYNSKI Rafal (2), <b>Mapping Homogamy of Noble Descendants in Poland</b> , (1) Dr. Minakowski Publikacje Elektroniczne, Krakow, Poland, (2) Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw, Poland.
10	MESTER Béla, <b>Mutilation, Self-mutilation and Sexual Aberration. Representation of the Bodily Experiences of the Great War in the Hungarian dystopias of the interwar period</b> , Institute of Philosophy of the Research Centre for the Humanities, Budapest, Hungary.
11	SZABADOS Bettina, <b>From Theory to Praxis, i.e. What Does it Mean to "Philosophize" The Philosophical Possibilities of the Young Georg Lukacs</b> , Institute of Philosophy of the Research Centre for the Humanities, Budapest, Hungary.
12	SABBAGH Rajaa, <b>Palestinian Child Participation in Israel, Cross-Cultural Perspective</b> , University of Applied Sciences, Potsdam, Germany, Master student of Childhood Studies and Children's Rights.
<b>09:30-13:30</b>	
<b>First session, Floor 3, Room 3244</b>	
<b>Moderators</b>	
<b>SMOCZYNSKI Rafal</b> , PhD, Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw, Poland.	
<b>MILENKOVA Valentina</b> , PhD, South-West University "Neofit Rilski", Sociology Department, Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria.	
1	BACILE Chiara (1), ADDUCI Benedetta (2), <b>The mediation effect of decisional autonomy on life satisfaction in preadolescence</b> , (1)LUMSA University, Rome, Italy, (2) Humanitas Graduate School in Psychotherapy, Rome, Italy.

2	BUCCHI Eliana, RAGNI Benedetta, DE STASIO Simona, ALTEA Giulia, <b>The predictive role of school burnout, friendship quality and parental caregiving on the use of social networking sites in adolescence</b> , LUMSA University, Rome, Italy.
3	CARISSIMO Francesco Maria, <b>Psychopathy traits and Alexithymia in a group of addicts and offenders</b> , "Cristo Re" Hospital, Rome, Italy.
4	CARTA Giulia (1), BOLDRINI Francesca (2), DE STASIO Simona (3), RAPPAZZO Maria Cristina (4), <b>Adoptive families and resiliency</b> , (1) (3) (4) LUMSA University, Rome, Italy, (2) "Sapienza" University of Rome, Italy.
5	CVETKOVIĆ Milena (1), VASILJEVIĆ Perica (2), <b>Cognitive performance of students in relation to hand laterality, gender and age</b> , (1) Elementary School Sreten Mladenović Mika Niš, Serbia, (2) Department of Biology and Ecology, Faculty of Sciences and Mathematics, University of Niš, Serbia.
6	DAUNISI Francesca, CHONDROGIANNIS Sara A., <b>Burnout's protective factors in secondary school students: the role of emotional skills and flourishing</b> , "Pontificia Salesiana" University, Rome, Italy.
7	DE STASIO Simona (1), BOLDRINI Francesca (2), RAGNI Benedetta (3), BEVILACQUA Francesca (4), BUCCI Silvia (5), GIAMPAOLO Rosaria (6), GENTILE Simonetta (7), <b>Familial factors of sleep quality in children with congenital heart disease</b> , (1)(3), LUMSA University, Rome, Italy, (2) "Sapienza" University of Rome, Italy, (4)(5)(6)(7) Children's Hospital "Bambino Gesù", Rome, Italy.
8	DESIDERIO Maria Rosaria (1), BUONOMO Ilaria (2), <b>Predictors of work engagement in a sample of young Italian workers</b> , (1) Meschini Institute for lifelong professional learning, Rome, Italy(2), LUMSA University, Rome, Italy.
9	GUDIPATY Nagamallika, <b>The representation of 'modern' woman in New Age Indian advertising</b> , The English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad, India.
10	ERDES KAVECAN Djerdji (1), BEARA Mirjana (2), ZOTOVIĆ KOSTIĆ Marija (3), FEHRATOVIĆ Mirsen (4), BELIĆ Milena (5), <b>Health assessment and presence of mental health problems in young people in Novi Pazar</b> , (1)(2)(4)(5), State University of Novi Pazar, Study group of Psychology, Novi Pazar, Serbia, University of Novi Sad, Department of Psychology, Novi Sad, Serbia.
11	GERGOV Teodor, <b>Family as a resource of psychological balance in old age</b> , South-West "Neofit Rilski" University, Department of Psychology, Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria.
12	GOLUBOVIĆ Ninoslav, RADIVOJEVIĆ Aleksandar , BRATIĆ Marija, <b>Determinants of demographic development of Southeast Serbia</b> , Faculty of Science and Mathematics, University of Niš.
<b>13:30-13:45</b>	
<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>	
<b>13:45-17:00</b>	
<b>Second session, Floor 3, rooms 3271 and 3244</b>	
<b>13:45-17:00</b>	
<b>Second session, floor 3, room 3271</b> <b>(On the right when you get out of the elevator)</b>	
<b>Moderators</b>	
<b>BACIU Adina Brândușa</b> , PhD, "Francisc I. Rainer" Anthropology Institute of the Romanian Academy, Biomedical Department, Bucharest, Romania.	
<b>MARINESCU Valentina</b> , PhD, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, University of Bucharest, Romania.	
1	MEHRNISSA Bella Yasmin, <b>Heteronormativity Gender Norms in Early Childhood Education</b> , University of Applied Science Potsdam, Germany.
2	GIANNOULIS Konstantinos (1), GIANNOULI Vaitsa (2), <b>Religious beliefs, self-esteem, anxiety, and depression in older adults: A preliminary study in Greece</b> , (1)School of Theology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Thessaloniki, Greece, (2) Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia, Bulgaria.



3	MARINESCU Valentina, <b>E-health and Romanian seniors. An exploratory study</b> , Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, University of Bucharest, Romania.
4	BISTRICEANU PANTELIMON Corina, <b>Stereotypes of childhood in Romanian culture</b> , "Spiru Haret" University, Department of Psychology and Educational Sciences, Bucharest, Romania.
5	BACIU Adina, <b>The role of the family in triggering and treating illicit drug use</b> , "Francisc I. Rainer" Anthropology Institute of the Romanian Academy, Bucharest, Romania.
6	CRÎNGUȘ Costin (1), PETLAK Victoria (2), <b>Forms of adaptation in Romanian penitentiary</b> , (1)"Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu, Sibiu, Romania, (2) Baltijas Starptautiska Akadēmija, Riga, Letonia.
7	NICULIȚĂ Zenobia (1), KORNIEJCZUK Victor (2), <b>Post conflict coping strategies for couple partners</b> , (1) Adventus University, Faculty of Theology and Social Sciences, Cernica, Romania, (2) Montemorelos University, School of Education Sciences, Montemorelos, Mexic.
8	MARFINA Volha (1), SKRYHAN Halina (2), <b>Formation of the sociodemographic composition of the Belarusian family</b> , (1) Institute of History, The National academy of sciences of Belarus, (2) Belarusian state pedagogical university named after M. Tank.
9	KAY-FLOWERS Susan, <b>Giving 'voice' to childhood experiences of separation and divorce: introducing a framework to support practitioners working with children and families</b> , Liverpool "John Moores" University, Liverpool, UK.
10	KAY-FLOWERS Susan (1), FALUDI Cristina (2), <b>Recent trends in the public discourse regarding the sex and relationship education (SRE) in schools from a comparative perspective. The case of UK and Romania</b> , Liverpool John Moores University, Liverpool, UK, "Babeș-Bolyai" University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania.
11	KOTHERJA Ortenca (1), SKILJA Marsela (2), <b>Employees' motivation and satisfaction at work</b> , (1)"Aleksander Xhuvani" University of Education, Albania, (2)"Faculty of Law" University of Education, Albania.
12	CROITORU Cătălina, <b>Questionnaire on global warming knowledge, abilities and practices of the population -pilot study test research</b> , "Nicolae Testemitanu" State University of Medicine and Pharmacy; National Agency of Public Health, Chișinău, Republic of Moldova.
<b>13:45-17:00</b>	<b>Second session, Floor 3, room 3244 (On the left when you get out of the elevator)</b>
<b>Moderators</b>	
<b>BUONOMO Ilaria</b> , PhD, LUMSA University, Human Sciences Department, Rome, Italy.	
<b>TURCU Mihaela Suzana</b> , PhD, "Francisc I. Rainer" Anthropology Institute of the Romanian Academy, Biomedical Department, Bucharest, Romania.	
1	KOVÁCS Gábor, <b>Values, elites, intellectuals in the interwar Hungarian cultural criticism</b> , Institute of Philosophy, Research Centre for the Humanities of Sciences, Budapest, Hungary.
2	NICULIȚĂ Zenobia, <b>Anger mechanisms in the couple. A literature review</b> , Adventus University, Faculty of Theology and Social Sciences, Cernica, Romania.
3	PANICO Antonio, <b>The Fragility of the Families Today and the Responses of the Catholic Church Magisterium</b> , LUMSA University, Department of Law, Political Sciences, Economy and Modern Languages, Rome, Italy.
4	PAVLICA Tatjana, RAKIĆ Rada, <b>Total body skeletal muscle mass in children and adolescents</b> , University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Sciences, Department for Biology and Ecology, Serbia.

5	PEPE Catia (1), DESIDERIO Maria Rosaria (2), GERACI Maria Angela (3), <b>Effectiveness of ABA Verbal Behavior in a group of Italian patients</b> , (1) (3) Humanitas Clinical Center, Rome, Italy (2), Humanitas Graduate School in Psychotherapy, Rome, Italy.
6	PILIEGO Luigi (1), GERACI Maria Angela (2), <b>Effectiveness analysis in the treatment of reading-writing disabilities in primary and secondary school children</b> , (1) Humanitas Graduate School in Psychotherapy, Rome, Italy, (2) Humanitas Clinical Center, Rome, Italy.
7	POPA Clara Laura, <b>Intercultural Bridges: A Case Study of a Peace Corps Volunteer in Moldova</b> , Rowan University, Department of Communication Studies, Glassboro, NJ, USA.
8	RADA Cornelia, <b>Factors associated with depression in the elderly</b> , "Francisc I. Rainer" Anthropology Institute of the Romanian Academy, Biomedical Department, Bucharest, Romania.
9	RAGNI Benedetta (1), BACILE Chiara (2), CARISSIMO Francesco Maria (3), BOLDRINI Francesca (4), <b>Subjective well-being, reflective function and offline emotional disclosure as protective factors for problematic use of internet in adolescence</b> , (1) (2) LUMSA University, Rome, Italy, e-mail: (1) b.ragni@lumsa.it, (3) "Cristo Re" Hospital, Rome, Italy, (4) "Sapienza" University of Rome, Italy.
10	RIZOU Eleni (1), GIANNOULI Vaitza (2), <b>An in depth investigation of the experience of trainee Integrative psychotherapists on Therapeutic Alliance in the light of their Attachment Style</b> , (2) Mediterranean College Thessaloniki, School of Psychology, and University of Derby, Greece.
11	ROMANO Luciano, <b>Risk and protective factors of school burnout in Italian high school students: the role of trait emotional intelligence and academic anxiety</b> , LUMSA University, Rome.
12	ROSATI Nicoletta, <b>Parent-led school tutoring: a new opportunity for inclusion</b> , LUMSA University, Department of Human Studies, Rome, Italy.
<b>The second day of the conference, Thursday October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019, 09:30 am - 01:30 pm, Bucharest, "Francisc I. Rainer" Anthropology Institute of the Romanian Academy, Academy House, 13 September Avenue, No.13, 5th District, Bucharest, Romania Zip Code 050711 (Casa Academiei Române, Calea 13 Septembrie, Nr. 13, C.P. 24, Sector 5, Bucharest, Romania). Floor 3, Rooms 3271</b>	
<b>Please do not overpass 10 minutes for your conference communication! Your presentation speech should not exceed 10 minutes.</b>	
<b>Moderators</b> <b>URZEALA Constanța Nicoleta</b> , PhD, National University of Physical Education and Sports from Bucharest, Sport and Motor Performance Department, Bucharest, Romania. <b>FALUDI Cristina</b> , PhD, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work "Babeș-Bolyai" University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania.	
1	IBRAHIMI Silva (1), SHEHU Artemis (2), DERVISHI Eglantina (3), IBRAHIMI Ervin (4), <b>The psychological phenomenology of being within time: the <i>Leib</i>, the <i>Psyche</i> and the <i>Geist</i></b> , (1)(2)(3) Department of Psychology, Albanian University, Tirana, Albania, (4) Security Council, Italy.
2	SPADAFORA Chiara, <b>The Neonatal Intensive Care Unit: psychological and emotional aspects related to the infant's taking charge by the medical team</b> , LUMSA University, Rome, Italy.
3	STOYANOVA Stanislava, <b>Interest in one's appearance</b> , South-West University "Neofit Rilski", Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria.

4	HABILI SAUKU Valbona (1), IBRAHIMI Silva (2), A longitudinal analysis of the recruitment and selection process for teachers in Albania, (1) Department of Psychology and Pedagogy, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana, Albania, (2) Department of Psychology, Faculty of Social Sciences, Albanian University, Albania.
5	SZALMA Ivett (1), TAKÁCS Judit (2), FALUDI Cristina (3), <b>Childless but not childfree? Comparative study of female childlessness in Romania and Hungary</b> , (1) Centre for Social Sciences, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest, Hungary, "Corvinus" University of Budapest, Hungary, (3) "Babeș-Bolyai" University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania.
6	TOPINO Eleonora, <b>Self-confidence and emotional regulation in classroom: a study on a group of Italian preadolescents</b> , LUMSA University, Department of Human Sciences, Communications, Education and Psychology, Rome, Italy.
7	TRAGANTZOPOULOU Panagiota (1), GIANNOULI Vaitsa (2), <b>Body Image Disturbances and Eating Disorders in men and women: Exploring the experiences of therapists with different psychotherapeutic orientations</b> , Mediterranean College Thessaloniki, School of Psychology, and University of Derby, Greece.
8	TURCU Suzana, <b>Psychosocial Aspects of Aging</b> , "Francisc I. Rainer" Anthropology Institute of the Romanian Academy, Bucharest, Romania.
9	YOLDAS Deniz, <b>From Soft Power to Hybrid War: the image of the EU's Soft Power in Bulgaria at the Migration crisis and Info War times</b> , École supérieure de la Francophonie pour l'administration et le management, Sofia, Bulgaria.
10	YOVKOV Lambri, <b>Traditional studying the desired specialty may motivate for e-learning</b> , Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski", Bulgaria.
11	ZHILLA Eralda, DIKA Julinda, <b>Analysis of the relationship between work engagement, emotional intelligence and burnout level of employees</b> , Department of Psychology\ Pedagogy, Faculty of Social Science, University of Tirana, Albania.
13:15-13:30	<b>Conference closing - Suggestions for the next edition</b>

"Francisc I. Rainer" Anthropology Institute of the Romanian Academy, Bucharest, Romania    The Libera Università Maria SS. Assunta (LUMSA) Human Sciences Department, Rome, Italy    Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw, Poland

## International Conference INDIVIDUAL, FAMILY, SOCIETY - CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES - THIRD EDITION



**Conference Presidents: ISPAS Alexandru T. & RADA Cornelia**  
"Francisc I. Rainer" Anthropology Institute of the Romanian Academy, Bucharest, Romania  
Bucharest, "Francisc I. Rainer" Anthropology Institute of the Romanian Academy,  
Academy House, 13 September Avenue, No. 13, 5<sup>th</sup> District, Bucharest, Romania, 050711, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, rooms 3271 and 3244  
Wednesday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019, 9:00 am - 05:00 pm & Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019, 9:30 am - 01:30 pm