

Review of the International Thematic Proceedings “Psychology in the function of the well-being of the individual and society”

The present proceedings of the 17th International Conference DAYS OF APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY 2021, entitled “Psychology in the function of the well-being of the individual and society” covers research presented within the conference held online on September 24th-25th 2021. As usual, the collection provides a platform for researchers not only from Republic of Serbia, but also from other countries, and in this edition the reader has access to the works of colleagues from Portugal, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Greece. The fifteen scientific peer-reviewed articles in the current conference proceedings cover a field of research interests in several broad areas: Psychology of Personality and Individual Differences, Clinical Psychology and Mental Health, Developmental and Educational Psychology, Organizational Psychology and Cognitive Psychology. The articles in the collection can be characterized as interesting and present original quantitative and qualitative research, respecting a high professional standard.

The discussed topics pose important questions, starting from a global one - the personal well-being and the role of values for societal welfare, for human rights, for preservation of life, health, environment and nature. Interested readers are given the opportunity to deepen their knowledge on a variety of topics, such as how the humor a person uses is related to socially unacceptable Dark Triad personality traits; the need for approval from others, which results in oversensitivity to the treatment one receives and a tendency to neglect oneself, raises questions about the role of the body image, especially when the body is rejected, not accepted and does not bring satisfaction, on entering and building interpersonal relationships; what personality traits are connected to parenting attitudes among young adults in Bulgaria; and in the field of cognitive psychology - the effect of stimulus congruence on divided attention is researched.

On the field of clinical psychology and mental health, a variety of research is presented. One paper focuses on reproductive assistance and the experiences of going through an in vitro procedure on women's mental health. Another study examines the connection between injunctions, self-criticism, self-reassuring, and resilience, and the possibility of the prediction of resilience based on the concepts of injunctions, self-criticism, and self-reassuring. The effects of time perspectives on fear of death in consumers of psychoactive substances is explored in another

research. Three studies are presented in the Organizational Psychology section of the collection, offering a variety of topics and addressing essential issues. The international nature of the conference, as well as of the proceedings, is clearly evident in the fact that the research presented is from three different countries - Portugal, Slovenia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. One of them, explores joint contribution of personality and personal values for predicting citizenship performance at work in Portugal, using a time-lagged design with multisource data. Another study, conducted in Slovenia, focuses on the relationship between health-related nutritional behavior and work-related outcomes, along with general life satisfaction, and determining its role in predicting employee efficiency, employee engagement and absenteeism. Another study examines whether there are differences in the work-life balance depending on the socio-demographic characteristics and job-related characteristics of healthcare workers in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The relevance of the proposed topics in the proceedings can be emphasized given the fact that four of the publications address issues related to psychological problems and difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects on the individual and the community. How psychological factors including fear and beliefs towards COVID-19 are connected to vaccination attitudes is explored in Bulgarian population; the perception of teachers from three universities in Serbia about the challenges they face in terms of transitioning to e-learning due to the pandemic; as well as two case studies concerning the peculiarities and difficulties faced by distance learning— one of a Roma student in Serbia, and the other regarding special education in a secondary school in Greece. All of these studies provide different perspectives and enrich knowledge about the experiences and mental states of both the individual person and the communities they affect.

In conclusion, it can be stated that the collection offers a wide range of contemporary psychological research and the published articles contribute to the development of knowledge in the field.

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