

## **Review of the International Thematic Proceedings “Current Challenges in Psychological Science”**

Based on the theme “Current Challenges in Psychological Science”, the Proceedings Book of the 18<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Applied Psychology compiles a curated selection of papers presented at the online conference held on September 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

Since 2005, the Department of Psychology at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Niš, Serbia, has organised this conference to gather researchers and practitioners to address the gap between theory and application in different areas of psychological science. Over the years, the conference has attracted participants worldwide, emphasising cultural and professional diversity.

With authors coming from different countries, the twelve rigorously reviewed original scientific papers cover the eight main topics of the Conference: Personality and Individual Differences, Work, Organization & Mental Health, Protective Behaviors during the COVID-19 Pandemic, Psychometrics, Educational Psychology, Social Psychology, Motor Behavior & Sports Psychology, Psychotherapy & Mental Health. There are also two symposia: “Forest Bathing Without the Forest: The Urban Nature Experience” and “Share Your Attitude: Mental Health Services, Asylum Seekers and Nationalism – Under the Veil of Personal and Some Other Factors”.

The first topic, **“Social Psychology”**, compiles a study that delves into the interplay of social status, emotions, and health. The paper “Subjective Social Status and Health – The Mediating Role of Negative Emotions” underscores the role of negative emotions in linking social perceptions to health outcomes.

In the second theme, **“Psychotherapy & Mental Health”**, the paper “Effectiveness of Cognitive Behavior Therapy on Stress Among Infertile Women: A Meta-Analysis” highlights the potential efficacy of therapeutic interventions in addressing stress among this specific population, contributing to evidence-based mental health practices.

In the third section, **“Protective Behaviors during the COVID-19 Pandemic”**, two papers examine public health behaviours. “Sharing is (Not) Caring! Predicting Intent to Vaccinate Against COVID-19 by Emotional and Cognitive Factors” focuses on the relationship between emotions and cognition in predicting vaccination intent, while “Fear of COVID-19 and Personality Traits as Predictors of Motivation for Vaccination” examines the dynamics between psychological attitudes and vaccination motivations.

In the fourth topic, **“Motor Behavior & Sports Psychology”**, the paper entitled “Perfectionism in Sports as a Predictor of Sports Anxiety” deepens our comprehension of how perfectionism and anxiety are interconnected within the realm of sports.

The fifth section, **“Work, Organization & Mental Health”**, showcases two papers investigating the dynamics involved in the thematic areas. While the paper “Work-Family Conflict and Turnover Intention: The Mediation Role of Optimism” shows the interplay between work-family dynamics and the intention to leave a job, with optimism playing a mediating role, the paper “Job Demands, Job Resources and Personal Resources as Determinants of Burnout of Healthcare Workers During COVID-19 Pandemic” delves into occupational burnout experienced by healthcare personnel during the period in question.

The sixth topic, **“Educational Psychology”**, was elucidated by the paper “Barriers of Effective Study in Higher Education: Content Analysis of Students’ Reports,” which explored the challenges students face and offered suggestions for designing educational interventions to foster effective learning.

The seventh section, **“Personality and Individual Differences”**, includes the paper “Psychological Factors Involved in Criminal Recidivism”, which investigates criminal psychology and

explores the intricate interplay of psychological attributes contributing to repeated criminal behaviours.

In the eighth but no less important topic, “**Psychometrics**”, two papers elaborate on measuring themes such as honesty and disgust. “On Measuring Honesty: The Challenges of a Psychometric Approach to a Multidimensional Construct” underlines the complexities involved in measuring honesty, while “Short Self-Disgust Scale” represents a significant step in operationalising this emotion.

Aside from the thematic explorations above, two **symposia** were also organised. The symposium entitled “Share Your Attitude: Mental Health Services, Asylum Seekers and Nationalism – Under the Veil of Personal and Some Other Factors” features a paper examining “Attitudes Toward Seeking Mental Health Services and Personality Traits in the Dog Eat Dog World” illuminates the intricate interaction between attitudes towards mental health and personality traits within a sociopolitical environment.

On the other hand, the symposium “Current Status of ‘Forest Bathing Without Forest’ Research in Japan” delves into the psychological effects of urban-nature interactions during a period characterised by urbanisation. Furthermore, it clarifies the emerging domain of urban nature experiences and their capacity to enhance psychosocial well-being.

The diversity and richness of the accepted papers shed light on the current challenges in psychological science. This volume provides a welcome and invaluable contribution that enriches the current body of knowledge for students, practitioners, and researchers. The publication likewise is a call and invitation to the scientific community to participate in the next organised conference.

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*Rocco Servidio*

Prof. Rocco Servidio  
Department of Cultures, Education and Society  
University of Calabria (Italy)