

## **Psychology in the Czech Republic – Changes since 1993**

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### **Summary**

The Czech Republic was founded as a result of a split of the federated Czechoslovakia into the Czech Republic and Slovakia on January 1<sup>st</sup> in 1993. The present report refers to the years 1993 – 2001.

Information concerning interests of the Czech psychologists is provided by the divisions of the Czech-Moravian Psychological Society (ČMPS). Currently (May 2001) the society has 1060 members, grouped into 9 divisions. Their orientation and ranking as concerns the number of members is: 1. clinical (strongest), 2. counseling, 3. health, 4. developmental, 5. educational, 6. work and organisation, 7. general and theoretical, 8. forensic, 9. military.

Scientifically important psychological literature is published by Universities (Charles University in Prague, Masaryk University in Brno, Palacky University in Olomouc and University of Ostrava), and by the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic in Brno and Prague. Reviews of books as well as journal articles are given.

**Key words:** Tradition, universities, academy of sciences of the Czech Republic, other institutions, journals and international cooperation

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## Tradition

English translation (Brožek and Hoskovec, 1995) is available of journal articles and book chapters dealing with psychological topics written in the years 1880-1900 by Thomas G. Masaryk, professor at the Czech University of Prague and later president of Czechoslovakia (1918-1935). Kolaříková (1999) studied the personality of T. G. Masaryk by using the method of psychological interpretation of data obtained from personal documents. The data she obtained originate from authentic materials (autobiographic texts, letters etc.) and from the statements recorded (e. g. by Karel Čapek), as well as from information on T. G. Masaryk, included in texts of various authors. Another volume of translations (Brožek and Hoskovec, 1997) covers the contributions of former Czech students and professors associated with the Prague university since its foundation. The volume covers topics falling into abnormal, developmental, and educational psychology, mental hygiene and personality as well as pastoral, occupational and social psychology. Plháková (2000) wrote about history of psychology in general.

A volume on pictorial history of psychology in English contains a chapter on J. E. Purkyně (1787-1869), a physiologist with a life-long interest in psychology (Brožek and Hoskovec, 1997b). A chapter on outstanding Czech psychologists, enriched by photographs, closes a psychological atlas (Janoušek, Hoskovec and Štikar, 1993, pp.263-275). Cach (2000) wrote about the psychologist František Čáda (1865-1918), Musil (2000) about M. Habáň (1899-1984) and once more Musil (2001) about C. Stejskal (1890-1969).

Selected writings of authors such as S. Freud, A. Adler, C. G. Jung, H. Kohut and V. E. Frankl, have been published in Czech. Translators and commentators include psychologists as J. Dan, K. Plocek, Lea and J. Švancara. Jan Vymětal (1997) is active in clinical psychology and devotes also attention to its history. J. Kocourek wrote historical papers about Czech psychoanalysis, and L. Kostroň in Brno carried out a profound study of E. Brunswik.

## Universities (Prague, Brno, Olomouc, Ostrava)

Universities offering undergraduate and graduate programs in psychology are located in Prague, Brno and Olomouc.

At the Prague's Charles University the department of psychology, chaired by M. Rymeš, has six sections: General psychology and history of psychology, Psychology of work and organization, Clinical psychology, Social psychology and Educational psychology and psychology for teachers, Mathematical psychology and Informatics. The department incorporates a psychological guidance center for university students, an extensive library, archives, and a collection of diagnostic aids, together with a historical collection of psychological apparatus and of modern research equipment.

Recent publications of the department include Šulová's (1995) book on education to marriage and parenthood, Mikšík's (1999, 2001) books on psychology of personality, Macháčová's (1999) monograph on prevention of stress, a volume on the history of psychology (Hoskovec, Nakonečný and Sedláková, 2001), a textbook on psychology of work and organization (Štikar, Rymeš, Riegel and Hoskovec, 1996, 2000) and a collection of papers edited by Gillernová and Mertin (2001) on psychological problems of men in the process of transformation and globalization. In the framework of the Philosophical Faculty the best known encyclopedic author is Nakonečný (1995 a, b, 1996, 1997, 1998, 2000). Hartl and

Hartlová (2000), as well as Geist (2000), published psychological dictionaries. Prof. emer. J. Křivohlavý published a book on psychology of health.

Two recent books from the Institute of Psychology of the Philosophical Faculty of Charles University are of importance: Břichcín's Will and Self-Control (1999) and Riegel's and coll. (2001) book about psychology of globalisation and transformation.

Standard, five-year undergraduate programs in the Czech Republic include the writing of a „diploma“ paper and terminate with a Master's Degree (Mgr.) as a professional degree in psychology. The Ph. D. is a scientific degree.

The initiation of a Bachelor's degree in psychology has been vividly discussed. In Prague it has never been introduced. For a time it was offered at Olomouc but was terminated in 1997.

V. Řehan, chairman of the Olomouc department of psychology and chief editor of the Journal *Addictology* (founded in 2001), contributed a monograph on Alcohol and Drug Dependency (1994), Plháková (1999) published her study on intelligence and Sobotková (2001) on psychology of the family. The collection of papers *Acta* of the University of Olomouc also contains *Psychologica*.

In Brno a standard, 5-year undergraduate program is given in the Institute of Psychology in the Faculty of Philosophy.

M. Svoboda serves as the chairman of the Institute. He is best-known for his psychodiagnostic methods of adults (1999). J. Švancara brought out a volume on terminology and documentation in psychology (1999). Separate conferences were devoted to personality in the context of normal and abnormal activity (Svoboda, Ed., 1996) and social processes and personality (Svoboda, and Blatný, 1998). A monograph on psychological mastering of life as an application of traditional buddhist approach was contributed by M. Frýba (1995). Recent volumes of *Annales Psychologici* appeared in print in 1996, 1998 and 1999. The volume of 1999 is dedicated to Mihajlo Rostohar (1878-1966), who significantly contributed to the development of general experimental and Gestalt psychology in Europe. The volume of 2000 (Vol. XLVIII, P4) is devoted to psychology of health.

In January 1998, a department of psychology was established in Brno in the new Faculty of Social Sciences. In addition to psychology, the new faculty covers six other fields: Political science, sociology, social politics and social work, journalism, mass media and human environmentalistics. I. Plaňava serves as chairman of the department of psychology. V. Smékal is best known for his personality studies. The department offers a Bachelor's program, calling for three years of study. It is double-headed, covering a principal field (such as psychology) and one of the other 6 fields, as a second „major“. The Bachelor's degree may serve both as an undergraduate terminal degree as well as a step toward the Master's degree, with a single major, focused on applied psychology. Some of the Masters continue to work towards a Ph. D. A recent publication of Macek (1999), Macek and Šafařová (2000) shows their orientation towards psychology of personality.

In Northern Moravia, at the University of Ostrava, in the framework of the Faculty of Philosophy, psychology is covered in the context of an interdisciplinary, five year study of „Social work, with emphasis on guidance“ leading to the degree of „Magister“ (Mgr.). In the Department of Psychology and Social work, directed by Karel Paulík, specialization is available in four areas: social work, education, economics and management. Recent publications of the staff include Paulík's foundations of psychology (1998), psychological aspects of teachers' job satisfaction (1999), Zášková's children, youth and drugs in Ostrava (1997). The series of *Acta Psychologica, Philosophica, Sociologica* are published at two-year intervals.

### **Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic (Brno and Prague)**

In Brno, at the Psychological Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, attention has been focused on lexicographic researches on personality (Hřebíčková, 1997). The relationship between global self-assessment and interpersonal personality characteristics were studied by Blatný and Osecká (1997). Achievement motivation was examined by Filo, Osecká and Řehulková (1994). Actual and normative selves during adolescence were topics of researches of Macek and Osecká (1993), while human aggression was considered by Čermák (1999). Viewegh (1999) devoted his study to psychology of art. The use of factor and cluster analysis in the study of personality was elaborated by Osecká (1999). Outside of university and academy a book on cognitive psychology appeared by Chalupa (2001).

In the Prague branch of the Academy Institute, five main topics were studied:

1. Theory and research in psychology (Heller and Sedláková, 1997),
2. Theory of mind and mental representation (Sedláková, 1998),
3. The use of metaphor in politics (Chrz, 1999).
4. Civic culture and civility in the Czech republic (Klicperová – Baker, 1999), and
5. The issues of Roma in the Czech Republic (Říčan, 1997).

As concerns methodology, the Prague branch of the Psychological Institute of the Academy of Sciences published quantitative and qualitative research in psychology (Heller, Sedláková and Vodičková, 1999).

### **National Institute of Public Health in Prague**

In the institute special attention is being given to social support studied in the context of stress and disease (Šolcová and Kebza, 1999). Supplementary studies include psychoneuroimmunology and coping with stress as well as burnout syndrom (Šolcová and Kebza, 1998, Kebza and Šolcová, 1998).

In 1999, M. Havlínová was designated as a national coordinator of the program “Healthy School”, operating in the framework of the World Health Organisation. Havlínová and Schneidrová (1995) published a paper on stress, educational strategies, and school climates.

### **Prague Psychiatric Center**

Psychology is well represented in the Prague Psychiatric Center. The center includes a *Laboratory of Psychometric Studies*, directed by J. Kožený. The report for the years 1990-1995 (Dytrych, et al. 1995) contains a list of publications of the staff. Since 1995, attention has been focused on prediction of the academic performance of medical students of Charles university (Höschl and Kožený, 1997) as well as validization of personality questionnaires (Kožený and Höschl, 1999).

The Center also includes a *Laboratory of Family Research*. A technical treatise on maltreated, abused, and neglected children was published by Dunovský et al. (1995). Matějček and Dytrych (1994, 1997a) wrote informative volumes on the joys and woes of

grandparents. They also addressed the topic of how and why children envy their parents (1997b). Matějček et al. (1999) wrote on substitutional family care.

### **Kroměříž Psychiatric Hospital**

In the Moravian town Kroměříž, S. Kratochvíl is the author of systematic accounts of psychotherapy (1998), experimental hypnosis (1999) and of clinical hypnosis (2001). Since 1970 Kratochvíl directs outstanding training courses on clinical use of hypnosis in Kroměříž. As a professor, he teaches at Palacký university in Olomouc.

### **Hradec Králové Faculty of Informatics and Management**

In this faculty teaches Zbyněk Vybíral, also founder of the psychotherapeutically oriented journal „Confrontation“. He is the author of several psychological books, among them a psychology of man's communication“ (2000). The book is dealing with traditional areas as verbal and non-verbal communication, public communication and disturbances as well as with current approaches of research on communication.

### **Main journals**

The principal journals are four in number:

- 1) The general journal, *Československá psychologie* (Czechoslovak Psychology), in 2000 in its 45<sup>th</sup> volume, covers the field of psychology as a whole and continues to serve both the psychologists of the Czech Republic and of Slovakia.
- 2) *Psychologie v ekonomické praxi* (Psychology in Economic Practice) serves applied psychologists. In 2000 it was in its 35<sup>th</sup> volume.
- 3) *Čtvrtletní Zpravodaj* (Quarterly Newsletter), is published by the Czech-Moravian Psychological Society since 1990.
- 4) *Psychologie dnes* (Psychology today) is a semipopular monthly published journal since 1998.

### **Cooperation with colleagues from abroad**

International cooperations have been developed rapidly on personal and institutional levels. Elsewhere (Brožek and Hoskovec, 1998), we have reported on international meetings held in Prague and on collaborative Czech-American research on the reduction of cardiovascular and cerebrovascular disease and on Czech -American socio-political research.

The growing interest in neurosciences is reflected in the fact that a textbook on neuropsychology (Diamant and Vašina, 1998), first published in 1993, appeared in Brno in a second, revised edition. Diamant works in the Netherlands.

A cooperative Czech-American study of motivational structure of alcoholic and nonalcoholic Czech men was carried out by psychologists associated with South Bohemian University (located in České Budějovice) and the Morris Branch of the University of Minnesota (Man, Stuchlíková and Klinger, 1998).

A Czech version of the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator has been developed and validated (Hoskovec and Casas from Canada, 1998).

Research on the effects of political and economic transition of society (after 1989) in the countries of Central Europe was carried out by Z. Pechačová (Department of Psychology, Czech Agricultural University in Prague) in cooperation with colleagues from the USA.

Effective cooperation has developed between the Department of Psychology, Charles University, section work and organisation, and the Department of Psychology, University of Tilburg, Netherlands, and with the German Hygiene Museum in Dresden.

The 10th Congress of the European Association of Work and Organisation Psychologists was realized in 2001 in Prague. Fragments of the 80 years of history of psychology of work and organization in the Czech Republic and Slovakia were published by the Czech Association of Work and Organizational Psychologists.

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