

MAIN THEME:  
ADVANCING PSYCHOPATHOLOGY – INTERACTION  
OF BIOLOGICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTORS

**INTERACTION BETWEEN BIOLOGICAL  
AND PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTORS – A REMAINING  
CHALLENGE INTRODUCTORY REMARKS**

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Psychopathology was in the last decade considered to be in a basic crisis, and seemed to losing estimation by clinicians, the clinical approach in part even replaced by questionnaires. In the meanwhile psychiatric diagnostics is in a crisis, the main debate oscillating between categorical versus dimensional views or a turn back. Debates focus often on psychoses, repeating old discussions on dichotomy versus Einheitspsychose. After hundred years of the most famous term in psychiatry, schizophrenia, being introduced by Eugen Bleuler 1911, also this term is debated. A spectrum of new proposals is made to improve psychiatric classification ranging from combining categorical and dimensional approaches to new complex approaches, or to introduce prototype matching together with operational criteria, or to develop evolutionary psychiatry and evolutionary psychopathology. The influence of psychological factors onto the brain structure throughout life is a surprising recent experience. On the other hand, the diagnosis and classification of organic psychiatric disorders, especially those with minor psychiatric consequences, remains yet preliminary in

that operational criteria do validate results from the 'organic' methods like neuroimaging and laboratory methods. Thus, the questions about the interplay in between organic and psychological factors how certain psychopathologies are produced, remain a surprising challenge.

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