

REPORTS



XVI. Psychology Days in Zadar

May 29th – 31st, 2008

A traditional international scientific conference, *The Psychology Days in Zadar*, was held May 29th – 31st, 2008, at the University of Zadar for the sixteenth time.

There were about 450 participants at the conference who, according to the evaluation surveys, were very satisfied with the presented papers. A total of 114 papers were presented by authors from Croatia and abroad in the following areas of research: perception, cognition, educational psychology, psychology of work, psychology of personality, developmental psychology, and social and clinical psychology.

The conference started with a plenary lecture held by Professor Izabela Sorić (the head of the Department of Psychology at the University of Zadar) on the topic of thirty years of psychology study in Zadar. She used the opportunity to present the development of the Department of Psychology in Zadar and the celebration program of this anniversary.

The invited lecture named *Psychoneuroimmunology – yesterday, today, tomorrow* was held by Professor Mlad-

enka Tkalčić from the Department of Psychology, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Rijeka. In this lecture the most significant results of research in this area during the last thirty years were presented to the participants. The results of the research show that immune-regulation processes are under the influence of the brain, and conversely, that the immune system effects neural and endocrinal functions and behaviour. The aim for the future research is to prove that the changed submissiveness to diseases is a direct result of biologically relevant changes in the immune-competency stimulated by stressful experiences.

Two thematic symposiums gathered a large number of speakers and interested listeners. Within the scope of the first symposium (convenor Nataša Jokić Begić) results of validations of the psychological measuring instrument CORE were presented (*Clinical Outcome in Routine Evaluation*), it being a triad instrument for observing the impacts of counseling and psychotherapy. The second symposium (convenors Anita Vulić-Prtorić and Igor Kardum) was dedicated to the psychosocial determinants of health and it in-

cluded 10 papers which presented researches on various risk and protective factors in the emergence and development of health difficulties (in adults and children).

Great attention of practitioners was paid, and a very interesting discussion generated, at the round table about the standardization of WISC-IV in Croatia, led by Krunoslav Matešić and his colleagues from the publisher 'Naklada Slap'.

The students' section was especially active at this year's Psychology Days, not only in terms of the number of presented papers, but also in terms of very interesting round tables – one with the theme of students' opinions about sexual education in schools and another about dilemmas and difficulties of studying according to the Bologna process.

The important part of every Psychology Days are the presentations and promotions of the new books of our authors. Special attention was attracted by the book of the author Katica Lackovi-Grgin *Loneliness – phenomenology, theories, and research* which has shown that a construct such as loneliness, which is a product of the modern age, could be described and analyzed not only essayistically, but

also professionally and scientifically. The *Book of Selected Proceedings* from the 15th Psychology Days (editor Vera Čubela Adorić) and the fourth *Collection of Psychological Scales and Questionnaires* were also presented. These books contain works of many authors and a vast amount of scientific and professional information from various areas of psychology. The book *A forensic interview with a child* may well become a necessity to colleague practitioners dealing with a very sensitive area of work. It was published by the Croatian Psychological Society from authors that are respected professionals in this area: Melanija Grgić, Dražen Kovačević, Ljiljana Mikuš, Vesna Rakoci and Jadranka Zorić (the editor).

In conclusion, 16th Psychology Days gathered a significant number of speakers from Croatia and abroad and they, as shown by the number of participants and quality of presented papers, once again confirmed the attractiveness and the success of this international scientific conference.

Anita Vulić-Prtorić