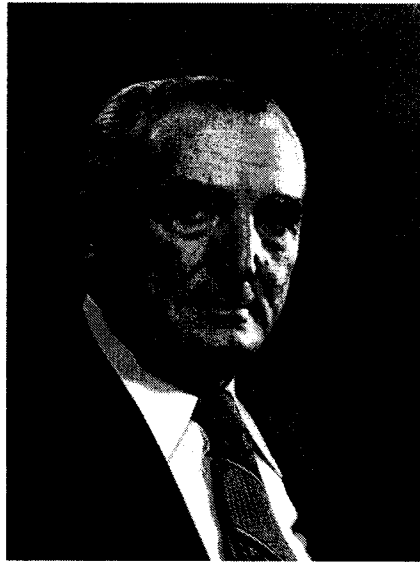


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## IN MEMORIAM



Zoran Bujas  
(1910-2004)

The Nestor of psychology in Croatia, Zoran Bujas was born on December 27, 1910 in Split. He attended primary school first in Zadar, and then in Dubrovnik, where he obtained his baccalaureate in 1928. He graduated in the psychological subject group from the Faculty of Philosophy in Zagreb in 1932, where he also received the PhD degree in 1933, by a dissertation in sensory psychology entitled "On successive contrast in taste". From 1933 to 1936 he continued his graduate studies at the University of Paris under the guidance of one of the best known 20th century European psychologists Henry Piéron. From 1936 he worked as a psychologist at the Institute for Vocational Guidance. He became an unsalaried lecturer (*Privatdozent*) at the Faculty of Philosophy in Zagreb in 1938, and in 1940 Professor of psychology at the Higher School of Education in Zagreb. In 1948 he was elected Associate Professor of Experimental and Physiological Psychology at the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics in Zagreb, and from 1954 to his retirement in 1981 he was Professor of Psychology and Head of the Department of Psychology at the Faculty of Philosophy in Zagreb. He was Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy (in 1955 and 1956) and Rector of the University of Zagreb (in 1957 and 1958).

He was elected a corresponding member of HAZU (Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts) in 1960, and a full member in 1968. He was Secretary of the Section of Natural Sciences from 1977 until 1985, and from 1989 until 1991 Vice-President of HAZU.

He was also a corresponding member of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, and member of the Board of Directors of the International Committee for Olfaction and Taste.

Zoran Bujas was the founder and the first Director of the Institute of Psychology and Physiology of work (1945 until 1947). He founded and guided for many years the Laboratory of Psychophysiology of Work at the Institute for Medical research and Occupational Health. In 1979 he founded the Laboratory for Investigation of the Structure and Function of Sense Organs at the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts. He was Head of the Laboratory and in it he pursued his research almost until his death.

In 1964 he was the organizer and Chairman of the XV International Congress of Applied Psychology in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

As a guest professor Zoran Bujas lectured at Sorbonne (Paris, 1951), Harvard (Boston, 1954), Brown (Providence,

1954), Moscow Academy of Sciences (1957), Rockefeller University (New York, 1971), and Yale (New Haven, 1984).

He lectured at the Department of Psychology in Ljubljana for a number of years, and actively contributed to the development of the Department.

When analyzing the scientific opus of Zoran Bujas, three outstanding features must be emphasized: the high quality, the exceptionally wide range of research areas, and an extraordinary creative scientific approach. It is well known that when discussing experimental designs with his collaborators, professor Bujas always asked "Is a different approach possible?"

One of the most pertinent characteristics of Zoran Bujas' scientific approach is its methodological rigor, i.e. the permanent emphasis on the notion that scientific data must be obtained through the most precise research methods and techniques which alone can guarantee the scientific validity and reliability of the research results. Only such research data may be used as the foundation of scientific data analysis and their appropriate generalization. This approach to science and profession was conveyed by Professor Bujas to all his students and followers, and it gave rise to the term "Psychological Circle of Zagreb".

The fields of Zoran Bujas' research interests range from zoopsychology to higher cognitive functions. But the main areas of his interest were sensory psychophysiology and psychophysics, psychophysiology of work, development of psychological measuring instruments, dokimology, and professional orientation. In a special issue of *Review of Psychology* (*Revija za psihologiju*, Vol. 21, 1991), published in honour of the eightieth anniversary of Zoran Bujas, his exceptional contributions to all these scientific areas were extensively analyzed. But Zoran Bujas has also been concerned with electrodermal reactions, readability of the Latin and Cyrillic alphabet, psychology of thought, and emotion. He has published his own conceptions on the structure of abilities, on the varieties of thought, on measurement characteristics of tests, on rational learning methods, etc.

Zoran Bujas published more than 160 papers, mainly in the most prestigious psychological journals in the world (e.g. *Journal of Experimental Psychology* and *Perception & Psychophysics*), eight books, among which *Psihofiziologija rada* (*Psychophysiology of Work*) and *Uvod u metode eksperimentalne psihologije* (*Introduction into the Methods of Experimental Psychology*) are the best known and extensively used. In addition, he published about fifteen professional articles.

His papers and scientific results, especially those in the field of sensory psychophysiology, are cited in some of the most important textbooks, e.g. Fessard: *Organes des sensés* (1939); Schaefer: *Elektrophysiologie I* (1940); Le Maguen: *Le goût et les saveurs* (1951); Geldard: *The human senses* (1953); Piéron: *La sensation guide de vie* (1955);

Coumetou: *Les examens sensoriels* (1959); Pfaffmann: *Handbook of Physiology I* (1959); Beidler: *Handbook of Sensory Physiology IV* (1971); Marks: *Sensory processes* (1974); Carterette, Friedman: *Handbook of Perception VIa* (1978); Dawson, Enoch: *Foundation of Sensory Science* (1984); Pfaff: *Taste, Olfaction and the Central Nervous System* (1985). They are also quoted in some of the best known handbooks of experimental and applied psychology, e.g. Stevens: *Handbook of Experimental Psychology* (1951); Woodworth and Schlosberg: *Experimental Psychology* (1954); Fraisse et Piaget: *Traité de Psychologie* (1963); Maier: *Psychology in Industrie* (1965); Candland: *Psychology – the experimental approach* (1968).

Since 1959, after the passing of Ramiro Bujas, founder of the periodical *Acta Instituti Psychologici Universitatis Zagradiensis*, Zoran Bujas had been the editor of this renowned journal in which articles of highest scientific quality were published mainly in English, but also in French and German. This journal was distributed worldwide and was met with great responsiveness in the psychological scientific community.

However, Professor Bujas was not only a great scientist, but also a renowned university professor and educator, founding father and long-term head of many psychological institutions, a professional who has greatly contributed to the development of applied psychology and to the popularization of both psychological science and profession. He takes special merit for the introduction of psychology in Croatia to the world in general, and for the enrichment of the Croatian language with the appropriate psychological terminology.

In Zoran Bujas' approach, experimental psychology represents the basis of every psychological education. The firm methodological background enables the psychologist, regardless of his/her actual job requirements (be it research or practical work), to solve successfully the problems related to his profession, which are well known as potentially quite varied. Only the psychologist who has acquired the mastery of his tools, of his general and specific methods and techniques, who is familiar with their possibilities and drawbacks, may cope successfully with the multitude of everyday professional problems and decisions. Such an education postulates the continuous objective evaluation and re-evaluation of the results achieved and of the efficiency of the decisions reached. The professional conduct of this type does not provide for spectacular developments of the field, but makes the foundations of those developments much firmer and more secure instead.

How successfully professor Bujas founded his approach to the education of psychologists is also demonstrated by the document issued by the European Federation of Psychologists' Associations, comprising the principles of the study of psychology in Europe, which will make possible the acquisition of the European diploma in psychology.

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These principles are very similar to Bujas' approach.

Ramiro Bujas was the founder of scientific and applied psychology in Croatia. Zoran Bujas framed it by shaping the study of psychology at the Faculty of Psychology in Zagreb, and by actively influencing, with his authority as an educator and scientist, the development of psychology as a science and profession. Almost all psychologists in Croatia (there are more than two thousand of them) are direct or indirect students of Professor Zoran Bujas. Other departments of psychology in Croatia were founded and

headed by direct students of Zoran Bujas. After W.W.II there was a vigorous development of scientific and applied psychology in Croatia, and this development was hall-marked by the personality of Zoran Bujas.

The passing of Zoran Bujas constitutes a permanent loss to psychology in Croatia, but at the same time, undoubtedly, he will be continuously present in the work of his students, as scientists or professionals, by all the knowledge he transmitted to them.

*Vladimir Kolesarić and Silvija Szabo*