

BEGINNING OF THE FIFTH PERIOD OF TEST DEVELOPMENT AND TESTING PRACTICES IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

PO ETAK PETOG RAZDOBLJA U RAZVOJU TESTOVA I POSTUPAKA TESTIRANJA U REPUBLICI HRVATSKOJ

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Abstract: *In considering the key moments in the development of psychological tests and testing practices in the Republic of Croatia, it is possible to determine five periods of this development. The paper briefly outlines each of the determined periods.*

Key words: *psychological tests, history of testing, applied psychology*

Sažetak: *Uzimaju i u obzir ključne trenutke razvoja psiholoških testova i postupaka testiranja u Republici Hrvatskoj, može se ustanoviti pet razdoblja toga razdoblja. U priopćenju se ukratko obrazlaže svako od navedenih razdoblja.*

Ključne riječi: *psihološki testovi, povijest testiranja, primijenjena psihologija*



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1. First period from 1912 to 1931

Test development and testing practices in the Republic of Croatia can be divided into five periods.

The first period began in 1912 with the publication of the first translation of the Binet-Simon (Goddard) test and ended in 1931 with the formation of the Counseling centre for career choice in Zagreb. Several versions of the Binet-Simon test were part of the nonsystematic publication of tests during that period.

Ramiro Bujas (1879-1959) was the founder of experimental psychology in the Republic of Croatia. In 1920 he founded the Laboratory for experimental psychology in Zagreb, the Department of Psychology in 1929 [1].

2. Second period from 1932 to 1948

Following preparations in 1931, the Counseling centre was opened on 2nd January 1932. One of the founding members was prof.dr. Ramiro Bujas. Dr. Zlatko Pregrad (1903-1983) began work as psychotechnician (as applied psychologists were called then). Psychological tests were developed and administered, primarily intended for measuring intellectual abilities. The Employment service building was constructed between 1935 and 1937, the project for which included a large testing hall. Dr. Zoran Bujas (1910-2004) began work at the Counseling centre in 1935 on a temporary basis and from 1937 on a permanent basis. Following early adaptations of existing foreign tests by Zlatko Pregrad and Ramiro Bujas, Zoran Bujas began developing the Centre's own instruments.

During the Informburo's attack on Yugoslavia which was backed by Stalin, students of psychology, who were members of the Communist party, organize an attack on 18th December 1948 on Ramiro Bujas, Adela Ostoj i (1908) and Zoran Bujas related to their ideological views and the use of psychological tests and the practice of testing. Despite the fact that the attack on tests appeared similar to the testing ban in the USSR in 1936, the reasons for the attack were completely different. The tests were merely an excuse for dealing with those not conforming to party politics. The Counseling centre for career choice was disbanded and the five psychologists found themselves unemployed overnight. Zoran Bujas managed to retain his professorship at the Faculty of Philosophy in Zagreb.

During the period between 1932 and 1948, the only testing in Croatia was within the framework of professional orientation, without other significant psychodiagnostic practices [1].

3. Third period from 1952 to 1991

As a result of international pressure, particularly from the International Labour Office, the Counseling centre for career choice was re-established in 1952.

The third period begins then and ends with the formation of the independent Republic of Croatia. The longest of the four periods, lasting almost forty years, cannot be analyzed as a uniform whole. There were at least two sub-periods. The first ended

with economic reforms in 1965, while the second lasted until the breakup of Yugoslavia in 1991.

During the 1950's, the number of psychologists was relatively small, less than one hundred. The Employment service, established in 1960, became the leading test publisher in the next 15-20 years.

During his career, until retirement in 1981, academician Zoran Bujas and colleagues developed about 40 tests, predominantly intended for intelligence testing [1].

Some of these tests were adapted and revised, making it impossible to give an exact number. Bujas' tests were, for decades, the fundamental psychodiagnostic instruments for professional orientation, industrial psychology and testing in schools. The Zagreb psychological circle, as they called themselves, never accepted the use of projective techniques because of their strict psychometric orientation and Bujas' personal opposition. Part of his tests were never used in practice, some have remained at the research level, while five instruments stand out for their anthological quality: "Z Series" by Ramiro Bujas and Zoran Bujas (1937), "R-II Series" by Z. Bujas and B. Petz (1944), "M-Series" by Z. Bujas and B. Petz (1953), "B-Series" by Z. Bujas (1966) and the Problem Test by Z. Bujas, S. Szabo and V. Kolesari (1966/1981).

In former Yugoslavia, 1965 sees the beginning of *economic reforms*, resulting in the decentralization of economic decision making [2]. The demand for psychological tests increases. The Slovenian Department of Work Productivity increases production of psychodiagnostic instruments after 1964. Around thirty tests are translated and adapted there, mainly by American and some European publishers, with some French psychotechnic instruments. The Department of Work Productivity and the Croatian Employment service held the central positions in servicing the need of psychologists for psychodiagnostic instruments until the breakup of Yugoslavia.

Apart from Zoran Bujas, there were other psychologists active in the translation, standardisation and evaluation of tests in Croatia. Beside those tests entering the practice sphere, various personality questionnaires were developed, translated or adapted through scientific research projects and theses. The majority of these have remained at the research level and mentioned in project reports or journal articles.

During the mid 1960's, dr. Mirko Drenovac began with the production of his CRD (Complex Reactimeter Drenovac). The CRD is a completely computerized testing system, which was, at one time, produced in Germany. From the early 1960's to the mid 1980's, occasional discussions were held concerning organizational and qualitative advances through the publication, administration and interpretation of test results [3].

4. Fourth period from 1992 to 2013

The international recognition of the Republic of Croatia on 15th January 1992 marks the beginning of the fourth period of test development and testing practices [1].

Changes in the socio-economic system which moved from socialist to capitalist orientation, also caused changes in laws governing publishing. Publishing became available to the private entrepreneur. Apart from the Croatian Employment Service

which was active for a full 80 years, publishing psychodiagnostic instruments during that period [4], new publishing companies emerged. Among these, Naklada Slap has grown to become the leading regional publisher of psychodiagnostic instruments and has become a member of the European Test Publisher Group in 2007.

The Croatian Psychological Society was founded in 1953 by around 35 psychologists and has remained a working, non-government psychological society. In 2003, the Croatian government voted in an Act concerning psychological practice, which was followed by the founding of the Croatian Psychological Chamber [5]. Clause 25 of the Act expressly mention psychological tests, which led to the categorization of psychodiagnostic instruments by the Croatian Psychological Chamber in 2005, covering all tests used in psychodiagnostic practice in the Republic of Croatia.

Since 1997, the EAPA bodies concerned with tests were joined by the delegate of the Croatian Psychological Association.

Alongside the three psychology departments existing in former Yugoslavia, three more departments have been established in the Republic of Croatia. Approximately 300 students enroll each year, while the Croatian Psychological Chamber has about 2800 members. Membership is obligatory for all practicing psychologists.

The Croatian Psychological Chamber has adopted the A-B-C model for test categorization. At the present moment, the test catalogue of the CPC includes about 100 tests [6].

Naklada Slap has grown into a leading publisher of psychological tests and literature, with approximately 300 bibliographic units.

Adaptations of the WISC IV HR, MMPI 2, MMPI A, 16PF, DAT-V, etc. have been published [7].

In 1998, Naklada Slap established the journal *Suvremena psihologija*, primarily intended for the evaluation of psychodiagnostic instruments. The journal does, however, publish other scientific content as well. In 2013, Naklada Slap hosted the annual conference of the European Test Publishers Group, which was held in Dubrovnik.

Members of the Croatian Psychological Association have participated in two separate polls of the European Federation of Psychological Associations regarding the use of psychodiagnostic instruments in their daily duties [8, 9].

5. Fifth period began in 2013

The Republic of Croatia has been accepted into the European Union on 1st July 2013, which also marked the beginning of the Fifth period of test development and testing practices. It is still too early for the assessment of this historical political event, but it is certain to have an influence on test development and testing practices in our country.

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Photo 049. Look at Holy Trinity Square / Pogled prema Trgu Sv. Trojstva