

Review of the *International Thematic Proceedings Book from the 18th International Conference Days of Applied Psychology* titled "*Current Challenges in Psychological Science*" held in an online format on September 23rd & 24th, 2022.

The Proceedings Book is well-established output of international psychological conference organized yearly by the Department of Psychology at the Faculty of Philosophy at University of Niš, Serbia. Routinely, the Proceedings Book each year provides a platform for researchers not only from Republic of Serbia, but also from other countries, to present integral versions of their reports presented at the previous year's conference.

This year's edition is edited by Ivana Pedović, PhD, and Miloš Stojadinović, MSc, and consists of 190 pages on which the reader has access to the works of colleagues from Serbia and seven other countries: Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, India, Japan, the Republic of North Macedonia, Romania, and Slovakia. The twelve scientific peer-reviewed articles in the current conference proceedings cover studies from several broad areas that were presented in corresponding conference sessions and symposia.

Since the conference took place in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, four papers dealt with different aspects of the pandemic, from intentions and motivation to vaccinate (the two papers presented in the session *Protective Behaviours during the COVID-19 Pandemic* to studying (the paper presented in the session on *Educational Psychology*) and working (the paper presented in the session *Work, Organization, and Mental Health*) under the demanding circumstances of the pandemic.

The paper from the *Motor Behaviour and Sports Psychology* session examines the relationship between perfectionism and competitive anxiety in a sample of Serbian athletes, while the second paper from the *Work, Organization, and Mental Health* session deals with the relationships between work-family and family-work conflicts and employee turnover intention and tests the mediating role of optimism in these relationships. From the session on *Social Psychology* comes the paper, which deals with the mediating effect of four emotions in the relationship between subjective social status, health, and well-being. A meta-analysis that analyses the effects of cognitive behaviour therapy for people who deal with infertility was presented in the session on *Psychotherapy and Mental Health*. *Personality and individual differences* session brought out the paper that aimed to identify and analyse potential differences between criminal recidivists' and non-recidivists' scores for Machiavellianism and social desirability. Finally, the papers from the *Psychometrics* session present two new scales for the assessment of honesty and self-disgust.

The two papers were presented in the conference symposia. A paper named "Current Status of "Forest Bathing Without Forest" Research in Japan" presents interesting experimental studies on imitating forest bathing in laboratory conditions, and it was presented in the Symposium *Forest Bathing Without the Forest: The Urban Nature Experience*. The second paper, "Attitudes Toward Seeking Mental Health Services and Personality Traits in the "Dog Eat Dog World," comes from Symposium *Share Your Attitude: Mental Health Services, Asylum Seekers, and Nationalism: Under the Veil of Personal and Some Other Factors* and explores whether social dominance orientation could be predicted based on personality traits and attitudes toward seeking mental health services.

To summarise, the included papers present studies with a wide range of methodologies, from qualitative via multivariant to experimental, and even include one meta-analysis. All these studies provide different topics and perspectives on the current topics in psychology and enrich knowledge about the experiences and mental states of the individual person in everyday situations as well as in the crisis circumstances of the past COVID-19 pandemic.

In conclusion, it can be stated that the collection of papers in the Proceedings Book offers an insight into the 2022 year's conference as well as into the wide range of contemporary psychological research. The published articles contribute to the development of knowledge in the field and will provide valuable reading for fellow psychologists and professionals in related disciplines, as well as for practitioners and students of psychology both in Serbia, and internationally.



Prof. dr.sc. Gordana Kuterovac Jagodić

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Department of Psychology,

University of Zagreb, Croatia

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