



Invitation to a guest-lecture by



Prof. Dr. Valentin Bucik, University of Ljubljana

Title: 80 years of eclipse of the research of basic intellectual processes
Day: Thursday, April, 9, 2009
Time: 10-12 am
Room: BIN-O-K.11, Binzmühlestrasse 14/7, 8050 Zürich
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Abstract

The revival of the elementary cognitive tasks and psychophysical measures in differential diagnostics of ability has been noticed in the last decades, partly due to development of different neurological measures. But the main idea about utilising these measures is more than a hundred years old; it has just been pushed out of focus in differential psychodiagnostics of intelligence for a long time. The focus shifted to the binetarian psychometric tradition of intelligence testing. Why? One reason could be a series of events and erroneous methodological steps in the research field at the time. C. Wissler created an academic uproar in 1901 with his doctoral dissertation by purportedly debunking some of the most influential intelligence theories of the time, mainly with discrediting the research of his mentor, J. McKeen Cattell, about the importance of psychophysical testing in assessment of intelligence. After that psychology gradually lost interest in psychophysical testing. Much later many critics have pointed out that Wissler's research was flawed. Some long lasting consequences of this events and errors in methodological steps for the history of research in the field of individual differences in intelligence are discussed.

Relevant references

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- Neubauer, A.C. & Bucik, V. (1996). The mental speed-IQ relationship: Unitary or modular? *Intelligence*, 22,23-48.
- Sočan, G. & Bucik, V. (1998). Relationship between speed of information-processing and two major personality dimensions - extraversion and neuroticism. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 25, 35-48.
- Sternberg, R.J. (1990). *Metaphors of mind: Conceptions of the nature of intelligence*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Short biography

Valentin Bucik studied psychology (and reached PhD in 1993) at University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. He teaches different courses at all three levels of study of psychology in Ljubljana, including *Test construction and test analysis*, *Multivariate data analysis* and *Assessment of intelligence and creativity*. As visiting professor he is giving regular lectures at the University of Sarajevo, Bosnia, as well as in postgraduate courses at the universities in Zagreb-Croatia and Graz-Austria. His main research areas are psychological methodology, psychological testing and different areas of differential psychology (structure of intelligence, function of speed-of-information processing in *g*, relationship between intelligence, temperament and personality structure) as well as methodological problems of knowledge assessment and examination in schools. He is one of the four associate editors of the *European Journal of Psychological Assessment* and secretary general of the *European Association of Psychological Assessment*, as well as member of the *International Society for the Study of Individual Differences* and the *International Society for Intelligence Research*. He works as full professor for psychological methodology at the Department of Psychology, Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana and was head of department and vice-dean. He is currently the dean of the faculty.