



Romanian Journal of School Psychology
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THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS



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OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS**

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Romanian Journal of School Psychology **Aims and recommendations for authors**

The Romanian Journal of School Psychology (ISSN 2248-244X; ISSN-L 2448-244X) is a semi-annual peer-reviewed journal, supported by *The National Association of School Psychologists* from Romania (*Asociația Națională a Psihologilor Școlari*).

The journal takes into consideration for publishing articles from the field of *school/educational psychology* or *related fields*, corresponding to one of the following categories: (1) research that entail the scientific method (experimental, quasiexperimental, correlational, metaanalytical, case study, etc.) in order to explain various aspects of human activity in the educational context; (2) theoretical syntheses which extend conceptual understanding, describe a new perspective/a set of ideas/ connections between theories and which emphasize the personal contribution of the author(s); (3) interviews with prestigious personalities from the field of School Psychology; (4) reviews of books and articles relevant for the field of School Psychology; (5) descriptions of scientific events (conferences, summer schools, specialization courses, round tables etc.) relevant for the field of School Psychology. The accepted articles will be published in one of the sections of the journal: *Studies and Research, Interviews, Reviews, Scientific Life*.

Manuscript preparation

The purposes of these recommendations are to facilitate the manuscript preparation and to set the premises for a real and consistent exchange of information between authors and readers.

The text should be written entirely in English, French or Deutsch, and edited in an A4 format with 4cm margins, Times New Roman, 12 point, and single spaced. The articles submitted for the *Studies and Research* and *Interviews* sections may not exceed 25 pages, and those for the rest of the section types may not exceed 8 pages, including the references (in both cases). The pages will *not* be numbered. To facilitate the review process, the first page of the article should include *only* the title, the word count for the entire article, the names and surnames of the authors and also the contact details for all authors (e-mail and/or telephone number, organizational affiliation). Further references to the author(s) should be done using the term *the author(s)*. The second page should begin with the abstract (150 to 200 words, in English) and keywords (up to 5), followed by the rest of the article. The effect sizes and/or the statistical power of the research should be reported, where appropriate, being an important criterion of manuscript acceptance.

Tables, graphs, pictures etc. should be inserted in the text of the article. They should be numbered independently in accordance with the order of

appearance in text and should be accompanied by an adequate title. The letters and numbers in titles and content of the tables and figures should be edited with Normal font, size 10.

References within the text will include the name of the mentioned author(s) and the year of the referenced source. The reference list at the end of the article will be edited according to the APA norms [*Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*® (2009), 6th Edition]. All citations should be listed in the reference list, with the exception of personal communications and classical works.

Reference examples:

1. Book chapter

McGuire, W. (1969). The nature of attitudes and attitude change. In G. Lindzey & E. Aronson (Eds.), *The Handbook of Social Psychology* (Vol. 3, pp. 136-272). Boston: Addison-Wesley Publishing.

2. Journal article

Hicks, D. (2012). Performance-based university research funding systems. *Research Policy*, 41(2), 251-261. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.respol.2011.09.007>

3. Book, authored

Papalia, D.E., & Wendkos-Olds, S. (1992). *Human Development* (5th ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill, Inc.

4. Paper presented at a conference

Saupe, J.L., & Eimers, M.T. (2010, May 29-June 2). Correcting correlations when predicting success in college. Paper presented at the 50th Anniversary Forum of the Association for Institutional Research "Charting our Future in Higher Education", Chicago, Illinois.

5. Article in an internet only journal

Winterton, J., Delamare-Le Deist, F., Stingfellow, E. (2006). *Typology of Knowledge, Skills and Competences: Clarification of the Concept and Prototype*. Luxembourg: The European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training. Retrieved September 15, 2013, from www.cedefop.europa.eu.

6. Webpage

World Health Organization (2003). Investing in mental health. Retrieved October 2013 from http://www.who.int/mental_health/media/investing_mnh.pdf

Manuscript submission

Please do not send previously published papers or articles that are sent for review to other journals. All efforts should be undertaken to submit manuscripts electronically to the executive editors (attached files via e-mail, rjsp@anps.ro). We accept .doc, .docx, .rtf or .pdf files. The first author will be notified via e-mail about the arrival of the article. At the point of acceptance,

all contributing authors are asked to give signed consent to publication, and to confirm that they have approved the final version of their manuscript, that the submitted article is the result of their own effort and that all sources are properly cited. Contributors must declare any commercial interests, such as directorships, share-holdings, consultancies, honoraria, grants, fees, gifts or travel expenses received from organizations whose product is used in a study or referred to in your article. Financial or personal interests in competing companies should also be stated. The Author Statements for Publication is available on our website, www.anps.ro, in the journal's section.

The review process

Each received article will be evaluated independently by two members of the editorial board, which will analyze the study without knowing the identity of the author(s). The review criteria are the following: (1) degree to which the manuscript corresponds to the objective of the journal; (2) the scientific quality of each section of the article (beginning with the title); (3) originality; (4) the scientific contribution to the field; (5) technical aspects (preparation of the manuscript etc.); (6) the clarity of presentation. The feedback will be sent to the first author and it may be one of the following: *accepted*; *requires minor revision*; *requires major revision*; *rejected*. The feedback will include the observations of the two independent reviewers.

The acceptance rate of the manuscripts sent for publication in the Romanian Journal of School Psychology, volume 7, no. 13, was 65%.



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EDITORIAL.
DYNAMICS OF LIFE AND MOVING IN TO THE FUTURE

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At any time in history, we examine things around us, intellectually, emotionally and if we are smart we go back to the origin of these behaviors and evaluate their cause and validity. This trip back in the past and then into the future will be both stressful and educational. Most people don't make mistakes in rational judgment, but in emotional territory. As in the past there were small villages and tribes with a "chief", a medicine man and an elder, it is obvious that many decisions were based on past experience, and not on science. The actual command structure came from the perceived power that men had, and the fear of not breaking the rules, fear of punishment and just fear of the unknown.

I want to take a journey from the past and move forward, and I will try to help with this transition offering a way to reason with some of the thoughts coming up.

The Power of Communication

In the time of villages and tribes, there was no universally defined language, and the number of expressions was limited, and mostly sufficient. Trust amongst the tribe members was also limited. Humans have needs, some of them very simple, called modest, but others loved power and wanted to rule. Nature itself has created the rule of the fittest, not necessary a bad thing, but by today's standard not democratic. The inner tribe communication created a level of ruling by effectiveness, just like inside a team a leader will emerge even if he is not formally appointed. If he is effective he will maintain his position and maybe grow in power and position. This is not like an election, but a logical succession, not without politics.

The positive part of this is that the tribe will take care of its members and even the weak ones will have their place; and there will be mistrust regarding outsiders. Will they have the same value system? Do they have

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more knowledge (power), different gods, greater needs or power hungry members who hurt others?

Nature itself has created this “undemocratic” system, which before mankind interfered had a somewhat stable constellation, that does not fit the modern way of “One person = 1 vote”.

The problem with an equalized system is that modern information the amount of it and some of the details are beyond the comprehension of people. So the same things mean different things to different people, and this is an invitation for trouble.

In the past things were simpler, not SIMPLE, but with fewer variables. Great empires like Greece and Rome were bound to go under, they were just too big, no longer controllable and with great differences between the powerful or the rich and the “working class”. This we actually experience even today; and there is no easy solution.

The rich are already “overtaxed” and have little appetite to invest and great risk; if successful they pay a premium for the result; and if they don’t invest they get yelled at as being unsocial. Not a good situation. It all goes back to the lack of information and conversation, honest conversation amongst the relevant parties and the alliance of some parties with the unions to buy more votes eventually. So as I stated, communication, or lack of open honest communications is a big negative factor. We like the personality of our politicians but not their decisions. They cause fear, which brings us to fear, how to understand it and conquer it.

The Fear Factor

There are many forms of fear. For most people and animals the fear of death is the strongest one, followed by the fear of the unknown as it may result in death. The first is hard to battle. All of us have a beginning and an (physical) end. I don’t want to touch the religious factor here as this leads away from the more common fear of failure. If I exclude the first more dramatic kind of fear, there is the fear of failure.

Having passed many examinations in my life, from school to medical evaluations, also job interviews when I came just from the university, or on the other hand, having made decisions for companies with billions in sale, I must admit this comes with a lot of pressure. As we grow up, many of our decisions have less impact on others, mostly on us. Later when we are responsible for many families, things get more complex, there are short and long-term decision and some in between.

In life there is prestige and drive, a healthy one and a dangerous one; and there is convention. Convention, right or wrong, sets certain standards. Some are strong, can afford to be “eccentric” whereby I believe a certain eccentricity is necessary to be emotionally and intellectually successful. To stay in a shell is unproductive and gives no insight in the world. There is also courage needed to make (small I hope) mistakes, easily correctable.

Life needs boundaries, boundary conditions, both in the job and in private live.

Being wealthy or rich doesn't have an absolute meaning. It is relative to someone else, or an abundance of money and power. We are driven by our character and personality. Look at lottery winners. They can barely handle their overnight wealth as they never learned how to deal with this. Some of us are afraid of success, shining success, presents from friends, being publicly recognized. All of this requires preparedness, a stable non corruptible character and a hand full of competent friends or a sanity check. To refuse any of these signs of success indicates a troubled past, but to have only these signs of success in mind produces real trouble in the future. The key to deal with fear is to be prepared. Like a difficult exam or complex decisions, the best is preparation.

The biggest enemy of fear is education and preparedness. The government frequently changes existing law for convenience. Our Russian friends have called this decadent, and the German Government has learned this too, to change things retroactively. The world today is dynamic; it has its always changing rules and instabilities we have to deal with. An experienced manager will foresee these things to come, maybe not perfectly. The needs of the industry have destabilized many things. Rather to have managers with good foresight, they get high pay if they are ousted, they are not made responsible, and the workers get time limited contracts, which makes planning on their part impossible.

There is only one way out. Get the best education in life, work on continuing education, do good things in your area of expertise and don't hide it. Just the opposite, make your abilities known. Life is full of competition and more and more will compete for the same job.

What Is The Conclusion?

We are no more driven by stable values. Neither the Churches nor the political establishment are a pillar of stability or hope. We are in charge of us, with our beliefs, proactive or destructive, education, taking small risks, making ourselves known and selecting our trusted friends and advisors.

This is not always easy, but it may become successful. Be grateful for help, don't reject it, but value it first, and above all have a good plan and execute it.

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