

A B S T R A C T S

**Bruno Norcio, Lorenzo Toresini**

**Epidemiology of compulsory hospitalisation in the Alpe-Adria region**

Dr. Lorenzo Toresini is a psychiatrist-primarius working at the admission department (Servizio Psichiatrico di Diagnosi e Cura) of the general hospital (Ospedale Maggiore) v Trsttu. Dr. Bruno Norcio is a psychiatrist-primarius at the Mental Health Centre San Vito in Trieste.

The authors present their analysis of a joint research on the epidemiology of compulsory hospitalisation in the three Alpe-Adria regions (Trieste, Gorizia and Pordenone in Italy, Klagenfurt in Austria, and Ljubljana with surroundings in Slovenia) in 1992. The origin and the purpose of the Section for enhancing mental health of the Alpe-Adria Association and the historical development of psychiatric approaches in the three regions are briefly noted, before the description of methods, employed in the research, and the results are presented and discussed. It seems that in the region with an ongoing process of deinstitutionalisation there is a consistent decrease in the number of compulsory hospitalisations. The dynamics of these figures depend also on the legislation in an individual region. The research shows an international tendency to reform legislation as a consequence of the crisis of the traditional psychiatric paradigm.

**Bruno Norcio, Lorenzo Toresini**

**Italian law in the field of psychiatry**

The authors first describe the socio-political background of the legal changes from 1978 and then present in detail the part of legislation related to psychiatry. They consider the key theoretical issues redefined by the new law, i.e.: the question of danger, the relationship between the protection of society and patients' rights, and the relationship between a patient's cure and his/her social integration. Finally, the authors briefly compare legal measures in the field of psychiatry among the three Alpe-Adria regions, and conclude that the social development (reflected in the legal attitude of society to psychiatric patients as weak subjects), rather homogenous in the first half of this century, took rather different paths in the second.

**Vito Flaker**

**Risk analysis**

Vito Flaker is an assistant lecturer of social pathology and head of Community Mental Health Studies at the University of Ljubljana School for Social Work, and chairperson of ALTRA - Association for Innovations in Mental Health.

The author presents the procedure of risk analysis that has been developed to measure the probability of danger in cases of compulsory hospitalisation, as well as of community care. The procedure distinguishes between threat and danger as the components of risk. This distinction is important not only because it allows a more realistic assessment of the degree of risk, but also because it allows a better understanding of both the situation of risk and decision-making in such situations. The procedure may lead to less paternalism and to the considerations of the tactics of reducing risk. Paradigmatically, this procedure, introduced in particular by social work, is a significant step forward from the traditional quasi causal models of medicine and law.

**Danilo Sedmak**

**A contribution to management and analysis of the psychological content of the acute mental distress**

Danilo Sedmak is a psychologist-primarius at the Mental Health Centre in Nabrežina; he is also the responsible psychologist for the Slovenian socio-psycho-pedagogical service for children in Trieste.

The author describes his professional experience as a clinical psychologist in Trieste. The period of thirty years includes the three characteristic stages in the development of the Triestan psychiatry: the traditional stage, the stage of transformation, and the stage of territorial psychiatry. The author summarizes the specific features of these periods through an experiential approach and in describing the third, present stage, he considers some current projects of the Mental Health Centre in Nabrežina. He emphasises the so-called objectivation of psychiatric service users as a peril which in spite of conscious efforts on the part of psychiatric workers remains inherent in the professional and institutional confrontation with mental illness.

**Tanja Lamovec**

**Phenomenology and mental health**

Dr. Tanja Lamovec is a tenure professor at the University of Ljubljana Philosophical Faculty, Department of Psychology, and chairperson of the Advocacy section of ALTRA - Association for innovations in mental health.

The author presents the phenomenological approach to a deeper understanding of the acute mental distress and a more efficient help. First, she describes the historical development of phenomenological ideas and mentions a few key authors. Next, she explains the phenomenological views on the significance, place and value of immediate experiential communication

among people, which the author offers as an instrument in the process of learning about the person in mental distress. Some dimensions of phenomenological research are illustrated by way of the cases of typical phenomena at depression, mania and schizophrenia, and the article is concluded with a list of possibilities offered by the phenomenological view.

**Vesna Švab, Nace Kovač**  
**Community care for persons with psychosis**

Dr. Vesna Švab is a psychiatrist at the Polje Psychiatric Clinic. Nace Kovač is a social worker at the Ljubljana Moste-Polje Social Work Centre and chairperson of the executive committee of ŠENT - Organisation for Mental Health.

The authors describe the established forms of care for mentally ill in Slovenia and assess their efficacy and developmental capacities. They present a model of community care for persons with psychoses, suitable to the circumstances and possibilities, and review the necessary elements of community care. The basis of community care is the link among various institutions, professionals, users and their relatives. The authors argue for the sectorisation of care. They describe the established coordinations and their efficacy in providing greater autonomy and normalisation of psychiatric patients.

**Darja Zaviršek**  
**Psychiatric ward between illness and its cultural manifestation - A case study (III)**

Darja Zaviršek is an assistant lecturer for anthropology at the University of Ljubljana School for Social Work.

Characteristic for the social situation of female psychiatric patients is that they have a meagre and scarce social network. Most of their social contacts are linked to the institution, yet these institution-linked contacts are ordinarily not extended to "private" contacts, that is, the patients do not habitually associate out of the hospital. Some results of a questionnaire applied by the author to a group of female patients are presented. They show, for instance, that almost half of the group have experienced physical violence from their relatives. In particular, the problem of isolation is scrutinized. The author finds discrimination in institution to manifest itself in the length of time spent on a patient by the staff, and concludes by linking her experience at research to Goffman's analysis of the psychiatric institution.

**Milko Poštrak**  
**Where have all subcultures gone? (III)**

Milko Poštrak is a junior researcher at the University of Ljubljana School for Social Work.

In the third part of his notes on subcultures the au-

thor attempts to place the notion of subculture within a wider framework of culture or even of everyday life. Before embarking upon an integral analysis, he makes a brief survey of the evolvement of research of, and ideas about, the juvenile, from - especially American - the theories of deviance since the first decades of this century and the related theories of youth culture, to the origins of, and later, to developed theories of subculture, to multilevel investigations of subcultures and youth cultures in the framework of modern culturological studies, based on anthropological and ethnological knowledge. The author also indicates some criticism to the recent approaches.

**Zoja Skušek**  
**Fathers: the right to pregnancy - Psychosomatic kuvada**

Zoja Skušek is an assistant lecturer for sociology of culture at the University of Ljubljana Philosophical Faculty, editor of *Studia humanitatis* and a publicist.

The author finds that most traditional cultures ritually regulate fathers' behaviour at the time of child expectancy. Our culture has suppressed the father's part in pregnancy and early childhood; there is no expression in the Slovenian for the man who expects a baby, and other languages coin just as awkward expressions, such as *expecting father*, *le devenir-pere* etc. However, the suppressed strikes back. The studies on the subject reveal that fathers in so-called modern societies react to child expectancy with different ways of behaviour. Some have been labelled "pathological" by psychiatry, and they have not yet been included by medicine among the "normal" signs of child expectancy.

**Srečo Dragoš**  
**Social work - a systemic view (II)**

Srečo Dragoš is an assistant lecturer of sociology at the University of Ljubljana School for Social Work.

Attention is paid mainly to three questions: the significance of the global social change for the profession of social work, the (in)significance of eclecticism in the theory of social work, and the (in)applicability of the systemic approach. Dealing with the first question, the author points out those influential global movements which concern the transformation of the dominant forms of power in a society, the mode of social integration, and the character of the state. He argues in favour of the other two questions, finding the eclectic approach useful (and necessary) and the system theory applicable in social work. Relating to some important distinctions introduced into social work by the system approach, the research *Normatives and standards in social work* by Bernard Stritih (published by School for Social Work, 1993) is reviewed.