KEY NOTE:

The interference of scientific evidence and political values in psychiatric research of the XX century

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The interplay of values with psychiatric diagnosis has been subjected to long term debate over the past decade (Fulford, Thornton, Graham, 2006, Fulford and Stoyanov, 2015)

The scientific facts, or evidence have been considered as counterpart of values, such as cultural, religious, ethnic among others. Political values make no exception.
Proofs & Scientific Values - towards Values - based Practice
Aim

This presentation will be focused on two exemplar case studies at the intersection of the facts and values in psychiatric research examining their impact on adequate reasoning and judgement.
CASE STUDY I: Andrey Snezhnevsky

Snezhnevsky’s research into so called “latent” forms of schizophrenia, known as “nosos et pathos schizophreniae” has been claimed by some Western authors to have been instrumental in the repressions against dissidents in the Soviet Union and its satellite countries over the 1970s and 1980s.

It lead to the excommunication of Soviet Psychiatry from WPA and suspending the honorary membership of Snezhnevsky’s himself in RCPsych
There are many virtues of Snezhnevsky’s theory as robust scientific concept with many parallels to be discovered in Western psychiatry and its abuse by the system as political values interference in the theoretical concept.

His publications were peer-reviewed and accepted in outstanding Anglo-American vehicles of publication, e.g.:


PatoKinesis school
(A. Snezhnevsky, St. Stojanov)

- Course and outcome - bio-pathogenetic phenomenon, longitudinal course as a criterion for diagnosis and prognosis
- Syndrome as a function of the course
The “registers” of positive and negative symptoms
The extension of the diagnostic field of schizophrenia is associated with the S.S.Kety’s spectrum (1970) as well as with Snezhnevsky’s nosos et pathos. Hyperdiagnosis in USA sometimes is prevalent to the same in USSR.
Case study II: Claus Konrad

Introduced Gestalt views on the dynamics of delusional ideas and his “unitary endogenous psychosis” theory. There are considered the reservations in some of the modern psychiatric literature against Conrad, driven exclusively by political values bias, more specifically his commitment to the National Socialist German Workers Party since 1940. Although his party membership never brought Conrad into effective collaborationism with the regime and its T4 Euthanasia program, he is still regarded as persona non grata by many contemporary influential research groups.
Gastahlt and the sources of the patokinesis view (Konrad, 1960)

- Unitary psychosis concept
- Copernicus and Ptolomeus positions in the Konrad’s continuum of psychosis
- Apocalypses in gestahlt structural analyses
Delusional Dynamics according to Conrad

- Trema
  - Humor: dezaffectivation~hebefrenia, ~schizophrenia simplex
  - Depression: Initial delusional mood, confusion

- Apophenia
  - Anastrophe
  - Apocalypsis: Consolidation and residuum: Energetic potential reduction
Apophenia

- "Ego" catastrophe
- residual defect
- systematization
Gestalt as figure and context: the subject and the objective world
Narrative of the authors in blinded peer-review interactive forum:

- “Given our (Jewish, possible ancestors of the victims of Holocaust) background we prefer **to NOT** reference Conrad’s work, unless **INEVITABLY** necessary”

  - **Jewish** psychiatrist (Aaron Mishara) was the one, who translated and publicized Conrad’s legacy:

The “squeaky wheel principle” as applied to scientific values

- We discover the difference in values only when they enter a conflict.
- Presumably scientific and political values should co-exist peacefully.
- However, in both described cases they enter a conflict.
The conflict of scientific and political values in psychiatry

- Snezhnevsky’s research program and notably the nosos et pathos (sluggish schizophrenia) have been abused by the repressive Soviet political system with or without the consent of the author.

- Conrad’s scientific contribution is dismissed not on the grounds of scientific merit, but with political arguments, referring to his membership in NSDAP.

- However in the latter case there has been reported no abuse of the scientific concept, as it was produced much after World War II.
Conclusion

Comprehensive assessment of the interplay between facts and values in psychiatric research calls for revision of the scientific input of some politically controversial figures and movements in the 20\textsuperscript{th} century psychiatry in Europe