

GUEST EDITOR'S NOTE

For more than a half of a century attachment theory has been used as an explanatory framework for the occurrence and development of many psychological functions. Studies confirm the role of attachment in development during the life cycle and its relevance not only for infants and children but also for the psychological functioning of adults. When it comes to attachment researches, they are interested in explaining the importance of different kinds of children–parent relations as well as romantic partners' relationships as significant determinants of multiple aspects of adjustment. Results from an impressive number of researches confirm why attachment theory could be a relevant theoretical explanation applied in various psychological areas: e.g. developmental, social, personality and clinical psychology.

This special issue of the Psychological Topics is aimed at presenting a range of original research reports and theoretical reviews about the current state of knowledge and interests of research on attachment. The contributors of this special issue showed different approaches to the study of attachment and its implications across various psychological aspects: emotional and cognitive competence and academic efficacy of children, or information processing in adults. Authors considered the cultural universality of the most widely applied method for assessing attachment in infants, questioned the role of family relations in the quality of romantic or family attachment, or used attachment theory as a theoretical framework for the conceptualization of personality disorders. The presented studies differ in used methodologies (e.g. observations, interview, experiment or correlation analysis), measures (e.g. questionnaire of romantic or parental attachment), analyzed variables (e.g. anxiety and avoidance dimension of attachment or adult attachment organization), and in the type, size and cultural background of their samples (e.g. Cameroonian infants, Turkish school age children, adolescents, university students, adults). Despite their diversity the results of all the papers converge toward the conclusion about the importance of attachment as a determinant of broad aspects of psychological functioning.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all the authors for their willingness to contribute to this special issue and to the reviewers for their constructive suggestions. We hope that presented studies confirm the variety and width of possible interpretations of attachment that could be relevant for researchers and practitioners from diverse psychological areas.

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