



**Csaba PLEH**

*Stay at Collegium de Lyon :  
From September 2012 to July 2013*

Csaba Pléh is a psychologist, linguist, neurologist, member of the [Hungarian Academy of Sciences](#) and member of the [Academia Europaeae](#). He is Professor of psychology at Eszterházy College, (Eger, Hungary).

Csaba Pléh's main research topics are history of cognitive approaches in different domains (philosophy, psychology, biology, linguistics), psychology of language including both language processing and language development. Lately, his specific interest has become the study of language development in impaired populations, especially in Williams syndrome and developmental language retardation.

**Research projet at Collegium de Lyon : « A new history of modern psychology »**

Why to write a new one? My motivation is based on several factors. First, I am trying to write a book that starts from a more multicentric vision of social science than usually presented. I situate developments of psychology in the framework other social sciences (anthropology, sociology, education , linguistics) and philosophical disciplines (logic, philosophy of science) as well as relate them to developments in natural science, mainly biology. As a second point, the book shows that European psychology was continuously present and active even after the early decades. In the usual treatment, psychology is seen from the 1920s on more and more Americo-centric.

Regarding the new social and biological theories of the mind the book tries to bring most of its substantial innovations providing chapters on the early social reductionist followers of Durkheim (such as Charles Blondel and Maurice Halbwachs), and the social debates about relativism in Lévy-Bruhl, early Piaget, the beginnings of ethology, the language based approaches of Karl Bühler and Lev Vygotsky, the importance of different early schools regarding the nature of human development.

A related substantial "new message" concerns a broader than usual treatment of the early impact of Darwinism not only on individual differences and American functionalism, but on early evolutionary treatments of cognition in Ernst Mach, James Baldwin, J. Piaget, Karl Bühler and its continuation in the evolutionary epistemology of Popper and Donald Campbell.

A further reason for writing the book concerns the issue of explanatory models in human and social sciences. The standard overall treatments still take an almost entirely internalist attitude, i.e. talking merely about the seemingly inherent changes of theories. I am trying to redress the balance in this regard, emphasizing a balance of the three layers determining the development of psychology: the intellectual, the personal, and the social should be treated together, as aspects of the real life of the scientist.

**Keywords** : history of psychology, interdisciplinarity in psychology, psychology and natural science, evolution of cognition.

## Major publications :

A full list of publications is at <http://www.mtakpa.hu/kpa/kereso/slist.php?kozid=80274>

Szendi I, Racsmány M, Cimmer C, Pléh Cs, Janka Z (2009) Two subgroups of schizophrenia identified by systematic cognitive neuropsychiatric mapping. *European Archives Of Psychiatry And Clinical Neuroscience*, . 258, 260.

Lukács Á, Leonard L B, Kas B, Pléh Cs (2009) The use of tense and agreement by Hungarian-speaking children with language impairment. *Journal Of Speech Language And Hearing Research* , 52: 1-20.

Anna Fedor, Csaba Pléh, Jens Brauer, David Caplan, A Friederici, B Gulyás, P Hagoort, T Nazir, W Singer What Are the Brain mechanisms underlying syntactic operations? In: Bickerton D, E Szathmáry (szerk.) *Biological foundations and origin of syntax*. London: MIT Press, 2009. 299-321.

Pléh Csaba (2008) : *History and theories of the mind* Budapest: Akadémiai Kiadó, 2008. 278 p.

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Krajcsi A, Lukács Á, Igács J, Racsmány M, Pléh Cs (2008) : Numerical abilities in Williams syndrome: Dissociating the analogue magnitude system and verbal retrieval. *Journal Of Clinical And Experimental Neuropsychology* 30, 1-8.

Lukács Ágnes, Pléh Csaba, Racsmány Mihály (2007): Spatial language in Williams Syndrome: Evidence for a special interaction?, *Journal of Child Language*, 34: (2) 311-343

Pléh Csaba (2006): Positive psychology traditions in classical European psychology In: Csikszentmihalyi M, Csikszentmihalyi I S (eds..) *A life worth living: Contributions to positive psychology*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2006. pp. 19-28

Lukács, Á., Pléh, Cs. and M. Racsmány (2004) Language in Hungarian children with Williams syndrome. In: Susanne Bartke and Julia Siegmüller (eds.) *Williams Syndrome across Languages*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins. 187-220.

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