

Diagnosis at the individual and social level

Summary

The monograph deals with the interdisciplinary issue of diagnosis at the individual and social level. The discussions here situate the diagnostic process in extremely varied fields of science and problem areas, such as pedagogy, psychology, sociology and medical sciences. At the same time, there is also an attempt to show how this process can be applied both in terms of individual and social groups. This book proposes a serious debate on the role of diagnosis in interpreting individual fates, and social phenonema and processes. It contains analyses, theoretical concepts and ideas, which we believe will become a promising starting point for further discussions by theoreticians, empiricists and practitioners.

The monograph opens with Sławomir Banaszak's general introduction to the essence and characteristics of diagnosis with reference to types of empirical research in the social sciences. The author discusses whether identifying, along with evaluating the present state of things, constitutes a stage in every research plan, or whether it is only a particular kind of research. With reference to these issues, he places the emphasis on the evaluations that diagnosis involves, and on diagnostic features.

Stanisław Kowalik's chapter touches on the issue of psychological diagnosis and its variations: scientific and humanistic. His study provides a summary of the approach that is opposed to the common assumption that the researcher's consent to a particular solution means it is correct. The author provides an accurate and exhaustive analysis of classic scientific diagnosis, drawing attention to the numerous imperfections and threats stemming from the lack of a flexible approach and their unquestioning acceptance by some analysts.

In his article, Zbigniew Woźniak discusses the relations between post-truth and social diagnosis, at the same time pointing to the dangers posed by lies levelled at diagnostic-expert scientific analysis. The author pays particular attention to the attempts made in various countries to root out lies in the media, particularly those on the internet. The text proves to be an interesting academic study critiquing the erosion of knowledge based on truth in the sense of positivistic science and social diagnosis.

The text by Krzewińska and Kretek-Kamińska presents one deliberative technique in detail (cafe conversation) as an effective diagnostic tool. The authors make a successful

attempt to show the philosophy behind this research method. The article gives a thorough presentation of both the possibilities and limitations of applying deliberative techniques (in group discussions based on deliberation) as a diagnostic tool. The discussion in the article is based on evaluation research conducted among students using one of the deliberative techniques – cafe conversation.

Tomasz Juńczyk presents a review of the ways of diagnosing intelligence. In his article he refers to Carol Dweck's groundbreaking concept of a growth mindset, which assumes that the key factor in educational achievement is not intelligence, but the child's beliefs regarding intelligence. The author provides an in-depth and exhaustive analysis of the principles of Dweck's concept, as well as in terms of its practical application in the diagnosis process, with the use of numerous research findings.

The aim of Sławomir Pasikowski's article is to present the issues related to the respect scale and the threats that an insufficient sample can pose for measurement accuracy. The author places emphasis on bipolar respect scales and the controversy regarding the significance of the middle values on the scale. His text is a competent study of applied statistics, as well as containing a novel approach to the difficulty and even the impossibility of capturing the views of ambivalent respondents.

The chapter by Adam Czabański regards the problem of social diagnosis conducted in the aftermath of a school pupil's suicide. The article describes the signs of suicidal behaviour among young people, which often provide a starting point for social diagnosis. In the text the author presents his own algorithm for the behaviour of a school's staff following a pupil's suicide and also the elements of social diagnosis that can be applied in such a situation. This is one of the particular merits of this study.

The chapter by Włodzimierz Piątkowski and Patrycja Zalewska deals with the important topic of non-medical healing and amateur health diagnosis. It is worth noting that medical diagnosis is regarded as a classic issue that involves diagnosis from the general perspective. The authors provide an interesting review of unconventional healing sources, at the same time seeking to show individuals' motivation for using it. They accurately contrast both issues with the results of evidence-based medical research.

Justyna Śmietańska's text takes up the issue of the complexity of the diagnostic process performed in pedagogical and psychological counselling services. The aim of the article is also to analyse this process, identify particular factors within it and present the opportunities and threats that appear during the course of this process. The author's many years' experience as a public pedagogical and psychological counselling specialist provide the basis for her analysis. She places the emphasis on the need to apply interdisciplinary principles and the benefits of doing so. There is also a discussion of modern analysts' approach and culturally neutral diagnosis.

Jolanta Twardowska-Rajewska's chapter deals with the particularly important issue of shifting the boundaries of possibilities to date in diagnostics and therapy alike. This kind of diagnostics and therapy is deemed intractable and is evaluated as ethically reprehensible. The text touches on the ethical and legal aspects of the profession of doctor in difficult situations, and there is a discussion of documents related to patients' rights (including the right to consent to examination and treatment, the right to the truth, the right to refuse treatment) and the participation of the family in decisions connected with the latter stages of an ill person's life.

Robert Bartel proposes an in-depth methodological study of the visual aspects of diagnosis used in art therapy. Furthermore, the text is supplemented by evocative, interesting illustrative material. The author combines many academic and artistic competences, presenting original diagnosis methods in terms of the subject matter in question. He describes this interesting diagnosis formula, which balances on the border between art and science, in a distinctive and competent way. He skilfully discusses interesting issues of interpretation and diagnosis in therapy using art, and locates the issues being discussed in a broader context of practice.

In her article, Tatiana Busygina-Wojtas presents suggestions for diagnostic methods that could be implemented in family therapy in the case of couples from different cultures. Fundamental to the method she puts forward is the idea of the partners' ethnocommunicative competence and their potential in this area. The author emphasises the need to study this distinct method due to the specific nature of the interaction processes in cross-cultural relationships, and competently discusses the challenges associated with this situation. She also draws attention to the marginalisation of mixed couples in therapy practice.

The aim of Kamila Potocka-Pirosz's article is to focus attention on the need for diagnosis and speech therapy in those suffering from Alzheimer's (chA). The author discusses the specificity of this condition, pointing to the important practical aspect of identifying speech disorders effectively, which enables communicative abilities to be maintained longer and those that are lost to be compensated for. Diagnostic tools that can be used wholly or partially to evaluate dysfunctions in speech and language. In addition, the author suggests her own diagnostic tools: a short test to evaluate naming disorders and a questionnaire for family/ guardians of Alzheimer's sufferers.

The final text is by Agnieszka Nymś-Górna. It deals with the issue of penitentiary diagnosis in terms of resocialization. As a theoretical review it emphasises how in the conditions of prison isolation diagnosis is of key importance for the possibility of designing the appropriate impact on prisoners. The author indicates key elements of diagnosis and individual impact programmes. She gives a sound presentation of the different dilemmas experienced by analysts. Findings from academic sources, appropriately selected literature and practical experiments provide the background to the discussion.

By way of conclusion, the monograph includes original articles devoted to the concept of diagnosis and its significant role in the social sciences, as well as practical suggestions regarding the daily activities of different groups of specialists. Particular emphasis is placed on the pragmatic dimension of interdisciplinary diagnosis, which is why this publication contains numerous reflections and practical implications related to the current application of the diagnosis process in scientific research and in the educational, preventative, therapeutic and social spheres.

Translated by Rob Pagett