Non-material theory of the psyche: historical prerequisites, argumentation and practical implications

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In this paper, traditional views on the relationship between mental activity and the brain activity are reviewed, and the hypothesis of brain as the biological interface, which was suggested by the author in 2008, is developed. Approaches to research of the psyche in the areas of physiology, psychology, psychotherapy and psychiatry are summarised, and their implications to therapy of patients with mental disorders are analysed. Two models of mental disorders are suggested, which are based on clearer differentiation of organic (the brain-related) pathology and mental disorders as such, which result from informational non-material influence on the psyche as the informational system rather than on the brain. Difference between nervous and psychic functioning of the organism and the personality is outlined; mental activity is viewed as an acquired programmed function, which is formed in a social informational environment. The question of aim of psychopharmacological influence is raised, as well as a number of other questions, which do not have unambiguous answers. The author substantiates the theory of the brain as the biological interface and outlines its historical prerequisites in the literature.

Recent Publications


Biography

Mikhail Reshetnikov, MD, PhD, Meritorious Scientist of Russian Federation, is the Rector of the East-European Psychoanalytical Institute (University, since 1991), Past-President of the European Confederation of Psychoanalytical Psychotherapies (ECPP, Vienna, Austria) and President of its Russian National Branch (St. Petersburg, Russia); Past-President of All-Russian Council in Psychotherapy and Consulting (Moscow, Russia), a member of World Council of Psychotherapy (Vienna, Austria); a board member of Russian Psychotherapeutic Society (St. Petersburg), Russian Psychological Society (Moscow, Russia); a member of International Non-Governmental Organization “Bridge between Eastern and Western Psychiatry” (Rome, Italy). He is a member of Council of University Rectors (St-Petersburg, Russia); a member of Scientific Council at Philosophy Department and Psychology Department of St. Petersburg State University and Scientific Council at Institute of Emergency and Radiation Medicine (St. Petersburg, Russia); a member of Expert Council at Ministry of Emergency Services (Moscow, Russia); a member of the St. Petersburg’s Club on Psychology of Politics (St. Petersburg), a member of the Board and Chair of the Psychological Department of the St. Petersburg House of Scientists of the Russian Academy of Science, a member of editorial boards at a number of Russian and international journals on psychology, psychotherapy and psychiatry, on ecological catastrophes, techno-genic and social crisis.

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