



The 10th Alps-Adria Psychology Conference

September 27th - 29th, 2012

Lignano Sabbiadoro, Italy

The Alps-Adria Psychology Conference is held every second year. Last two years had gone by pretty fast, my memory of Klagenfurt Conference was still fresh, and Lignano Sabbiadoro has already happened.

This conference, organized by University of Trieste, Department of Life Sciences, seems to be different from the previous ones in one important segment: the venue. It was a relatively small tourist place between Trieste and Venice - Lignano Sabbiadoro. All conference activities were held at an isolated place - one sports center (Ge.tur resort) that provided all the necessary services for the conference. This was a difference compared to previous Alps-Adria conferences. All participants were accommodated in hotels in the same location and had meals at the same restaurant. For this reason they saw each other and communicated with each other more than is usual for most conferences. I found such circumstances very acceptable and desirable. As it was the end of September, the tourist attractions of this little Italian place had somewhat fallen into the background. Therefore, participants were additionally encouraged to attend presentations and not to discover the peaceful and small tourist town, or swim in the cold sea (for many still an unacceptable temperature).

The working part of the conference was not significantly different from the usual structure: there were oral and poster presentations, organized symposia and roundtables, and invited lectures. As usual, invited lectures were organized so that each member of the Alps Adria region had its repre-

sentative. I was part of the audience on all of these lectures, and I can say that all were very attractive, as in how they were prepared as in the way they were presented. From Austria, Karin Landerl had a lecture titled *Associations and dissociations of learning disorders*. Croatian lecture was held by Meri Tadinac and was titled: *Disease and Aging: What can we learn from Darwinian medicine?* From Italy, Mario Zanforlin gave a lecture *Stereokinetic phenomena and the minimum principle*. From Hungary, it was Beatrix Labadi with *Development of body representation in early ages*. From Slovenia, Greg Repovš' talk was *Neuroimaging working memory*.

Additionally, it should be noted that there were even two symposia from the field of sports psychology, which is primarily the result of targeting domestic (Italian) colleagues in the field. Number of presentations was the usual one for the Alps-Adria conferences: There were over 200 presentations. At this conference there were also a "few" of those who did not attend, but significantly less than there were in Klagenfurt 2010. At this conference in Lignano, one other practice from Klagenfurt was retained: Abstracts were published in the special issue of the *Review of Psychology* (Vol. 19, No. 1). Also, as it was done in a similar way at the last Alps Adria meeting in Klagenfurt, organizers here in Lignano provided prizes for the authors of four papers that were judged most outstanding in the young scientists competition. Their works have been published in extenso in the same volume of *Review of Psychology*. These are:

Sebastiano Costa and Patrizia Oliva (*Examining relationship between personality characteristics and exercise dependence*); Mauro Murgia, Fabrizio Sors, Rossella Vono, Alessandro Franco Muroi, Laura Delitalia, Donatella Di Corrado, and Tiziano Agostini (*Using auditory stimulation to enhance athletes' strength: An experimental study in weightlifting*); Raffaella Pellegrini and Maria Rita Cicero (*Listening to and mimicking respiration: Understanding and synchronizing joint action*); and Maša Tonković (*Are there personality traits that predisposed applicants to fake noncognitive measures in personnel selection?*).

The organization of the conference was very good, but in the Italian casual style. The opening of the conference was delayed somewhat, but at the end of this opening ceremony, which ended on time, Tiziano Agostini, the Chair of the Organizing and Scientific Committee, simply confirmed shortly: "We are in Italy, but still on time!"

The next conference will be held in Hungary 2014, again in the early autumn time. The event will be organized at the same venue as for the last Hungarian Alps Adria conference (1999), in *Pécs, Hungary*. Person in charge will again be János László, and preparations for organization will begin June this year.

Tiziano Agostini stated in the preface of the Book of Abstracts of the conference in Lignano: "It was the starting point of a challenge currently being issued by our colleague Janig Herbert, who had a dream, the dream to have a permanent network of Alps Adria psychologists and a recurrent occasion in which they could meet." For now, I am confident everything is under control, and further conferences have prospective futures.

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