

Editorial

The subject of ability and creativity is taken up in various scientific contexts. This multitude, however, does not limit the scope of research; on the contrary, scientists find more and more new problems that are worth exploring due to the cultural and social changes taking place.

Over the few past decades, we have observed a transition from a psychometric approach to ability through a systemic one, to the most current, a developmental (also called transactional) approach. Within the framework of modern theories of ability, the process of forming perfection has become more important. In addition to one's predispositions, conditions for achieving excellence are favorable circumstances and a supportive environment. When presenting their extensive models of abilities, researchers such as Francis Gagné, Rena Subotnik, and Jonathan Plucker try to capture those factors that are most significant in the formation of talents. Currently, that kind of perceiving that matter is especially important for pedagogy. That the importance of a person's cognitive potential is still emphasized, at the same time it is assumed that intelligence is one of many elements that contribute to the development of a young person's abilities. Therefore, psychologists and educators have different approaches to the issue: Psychologists prefer a psychometric approach, which allows talented people to be identified in psychological and pedagogical clinics, while educators attach greater importance to motivations and achievements, in particular those that occur in the educational space. Educators are closer to the egalitarian approach to ability, as it shows opportunities to empower students through appropriate interactions. The belief that it is possible to shape the potential of a young person through the right atmosphere, commitment, and stimuli for the family and school environment is deeply humanistic and provides a sense of agency to teachers, parents, and their pupils. At the same time, this belief opens up new ways of methodological and

cognitive research for scientists, which will allow them to study the determinants of the development of abilities. These pedagogical beliefs and needs are reflected in the research presented in this issue.

In the first part, which contains thematic articles, important issues in the fields of pedagogy of abilities, psychology of abilities, the social sciences, and the methodology of research on abilities and gifted students are discussed. There are also biographical threads of famous talented people. Despite the many articles and books in the literature on the subject, they are still relevant for educators, scientists, parents, and directors – mainly because talented students are capable in our country a group that is often overlooked or underestimated as part of the proper and beneficial functioning of public schools, which are still the dominant form of education in Poland. In the theoretical part, attention is paid to the profile of a talented student, taking into account the context in which they are found, the extent of their talents, achievements, and creativity, the support shown to them, and the nature of their interests. There is no shortage of analysis on students' assessments of their abilities, or more precisely, how they perceive geniuses. An extremely important issue of the emotional and social development of talented people and their contribution primarily to the development of the school and the local community was raised. The articles distinguish that a teacher who works with talented students and shows the family as the primary place of development of talented students. It was also pointed out that talented individuals are stereotyped.

The articles presented in this issue of the journal show the complexity of the issues of abilities and creativity and they draw attention to the fact that there is a constant need for further research in these areas. The diversity of topics taken up in these articles leaves the reader with a certain insufficiency and the feeling that another area worth scientific exploration is opening up.

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