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PSIHOLOGIE

Emerging Trends in Psychology

Emerging Trends *in* Psychology



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and Resilience Society” (STAR)

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MODERN RESEARCH IN PSYCHOLOGY COLLECTION: A FEW RESULTS

Following the 19th editions which we carefully organized, we managed to publish 19 conference proceedings volumes, as you can see below:

- Marius Milcu, Michael Stevens, Saul Neves de Jesus (2024). *Trends and innovations in psychological practice*. Editura Universitară București.
- Marius Milcu, Michael Stevens, Saul Neves de Jesus (2023). *Exploring interdisciplinary field*. Editura Universitară București.
- Marius Milcu, Michael Stevens, Saul Neves de Jesus, Margarida Gaspar de Matos (2022). *The psychology of post-pandemic life*. Editura Universitară București.
- Marius Milcu, Michael Stevens, Saul Neves de Jesus, Margarida Gaspar de Matos (2021). *The psychology of pandemics: new trends and prospects*. Editura Universitară București.
- Marius Milcu, Michael Stevens, Saul Neves de Jesus (2020). *Rethinking applied psychology: research paradigms vs. practical approaches*. Editura Universitară București.
- Marius Milcu, Michael Stevens, Saul Neves de Jesus (2019). *Modern research in psychology. Rethinking research collaborative*. Editura Universitară București.
- Marius Milcu, Michael Stevens, Saul Neves de Jesus (2018). *Mind, Body and Behavior: New trends and prospects in Health, Education and Social Sciences*. Editura Universitară București.
- Marius Milcu, Michael Stevens, Iris Dahl (2017). *Modern Research in Health, Education and Social Sciences. From Evaluation to Intervention*. Editura Universitară București.
- Marius Milcu, Saul Neves de Jesus, Juan Tobal (2016). *Prospecting interdisciplinarity in health, education and social sciences: theory and practice*. Editura Universitară București.
- Marius Milcu, Margarida Gaspar de Matos, Ilie Puiu Vasilescu (2015). *Advanced Research in Health, Education and Social Sciences: Towards a better practice*, Editura Universitară București.
- Marius Milcu, Robert Wubbolding, Ines Testoni (2014). *Modern research in health, education and social sciences. Quantitative vs. qualitative research?*, Ed. Univ. București.
- Marius Milcu, Julian Achim, Saul Neves de Jesus (2014). *Individuals, social and work groups, organizations: modern research in applied psychology*, Ed. Univ. București.
- Marius Milcu, Hannes Krall, Peter Dan (2014). *Prospecting interdisciplinarity in health, education and social sciences*, Ed. Univ. București.
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SCIENTIFIC SECTIONS

**RESEARCH IN SOCIAL AND CULTURAL SETTINGS.
SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY**

- **Research design and data analysis**
- **Cross-cultural research**
- **Immigration issues**
- **Individuals and groups**
- **Interpersonal relationship**
- **Group behaviour**
- **Intergroup relations**
- **Norms and values**
- **Social discrimination and stereotypes**

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION. EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

- **Research for Lifelong Learning**
- **Research and education for entrepreneurship**
- **Curricula design for education**
- **Strategies for quality improvement in education**
- **Social and public responsibility in modern education**

**CAREER AND WORKPLACE ISSUES.
WORK AND ORGANIZATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY**

- **Aging in workgroups / organizations**
- **Health promotion in workgroups / organizations**
- **Balancing personal and professional life**
- **Self-regulation and affirmation**
- **Knowledge and skills. Performance and dynamic competence in workgroups and organizations**
- **Coping with dysfunctional people or groups**
- **Stress and emotions**
- **Risk perception in workplaces**
- **Communication. Social change**
- **Organizational culture**
- **Rules, regulations and values in organizations**
- **Social support, coping and wellness**
- **Innovation and creativity**
- **Leadership competences**

Sibiu, Romania, December 2025

**FORENSIC SCIENCES AND CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION.
FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY AND PSYCHIATRY**

- **Criminal personality**
- **Criminal behavior**
- **Civil disputes**
- **Criminal laws**
- **Government regulations**
- **Public health protection**
- **Criminal groups**

CLINICAL AND HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY. PSYCHOTHERAPY

- **Personality and health**
- **Illness perception**
- **Managing illness**
- **Family and health**
- **Occupational health**
- **Culture and health**
- **Health promotion in society**
- **Traditional and modern approach in health assurance**
- **Assessing the quality of life**

MISCELLANEOUS ...

REVIEWER RATING FORM

Thank you for agreeing to be one of our reviewers.

Our intention is to ensure a high standard of papers for our conference. The paper that is being sent to you has been submitted after a first selection process based on the author abstract. Considering the double-blind review, any comments you make will be passed to the authors on an anonymous basis.

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	1	2	3	4
1. Relevance to the Conference topic	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>
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4. Definition of the research goals (research questions)	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>
5. Accuracy of the research procedure (of the description)	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>
6. Accuracy of the research objectives / hypothesis	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>
7. Appropriateness of methods and instruments	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>
8. Clarity and relevance of discussions	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>
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10. Use of references to the literature	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>
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*The paper is highly innovative and very well organized. Consequently, it is accepted for the publication in Conference Proceedings with **no further changes**:*

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Thank you for your kind collaboration!

FOREWORD: EMERGING TRENDS IN PSYCHOLOGY

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A Nineteen-Year Scientific Tradition

The volume the reader holds in hand marks a milestone in the history of an enterprise that has steadily grown into one of the most durable forums for psychological science in the Central and Eastern European academic landscape. The present proceedings, *Emerging Trends in Psychology*, are the outcome of the 19th edition of the International Conference on Modern Research in Psychology, held in Sibiu/Hermannstadt, Romania, on December 2–4, 2025.

Nineteen consecutive annual gatherings (the first of which took place in Sibiu in 2007) constitute a genuine scientific tradition: a tradition of rigorous inquiry, interdisciplinary dialogue, and steadfast commitment to applying psychological knowledge to the most pressing challenges of contemporary life (Milcu & Stevens, 2017; Milcu et al., 2018).

The conference was founded under the auspices of the Association for Qualitative and Intercultural Studies in Psychology (A.Q.I.S.P.) and has been led since its

inception by Professor Marius Milcu of the Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, whose sustained vision has shaped both the intellectual character and the institutional continuity of the event. Over the eighteen editions that preceded the present one, the conference has built an uninterrupted record of published proceedings, volumes that collectively document the evolution of psychological science across more than two decades. Those proceedings have covered an ambitious range of theoretical and applied themes: from early explorations of qualitative methodology and intercultural psychology, through the sustained examination of occupational stress, forensic assessment, and educational innovation, to the more recent engagements with digital society and global health crises (Milcu, 2020; Milcu et al., 2021).

Thematic Evolution of the Series

A brief review of the thematic arc traced by the series reveals the discipline’s own transformation. The earlier editions established

the methodological foundations: the second and third gatherings (2008–2009) centered on the construction and validation of assessment tools adapted to Romanian and cross-cultural contexts, while the fourth through sixth editions (2010–2012) broadened the focus to encompass clinical health psychology and the psychology of work and organizations. The seventh and eighth conferences (2013–2014) marked a turn toward interdisciplinary integration, juxtaposing psychological science with sociology, pedagogy, and medical sciences in a common analytical framework. By the ninth edition (2016), the series had consolidated its identity around the aspiration of prospecting interdisciplinarity in health, education and social sciences, a phrase that aptly captured the spirit of the enterprise (Milcu, Neves de Jesus, & Tobal, 2016). The tenth and eleventh editions (2017) deepened the methodological dialogue between evaluation and intervention, and the twelfth edition (2018), published under the title *Mind, Body and Behaviour: New Trends and Prospects in Health, Education and Social Sciences*, signaled the growing salience of integrative, biopsychosocial perspectives (Milcu & Stevens, 2018).

The fourteenth and fifteenth editions (2020–2021) were convened under circumstances that no academic forum could have anticipated. The COVID-19 pandemic forced the conference (for the first time in its history) from its Transylvanian home into entirely virtual formats. Rather than constituting a rupture, however, this transition demonstrated the resilience and adaptability that have defined the series from its beginnings. The 2020 proceedings, *Rethinking Applied Psychology: Research Paradigms vs. Practical Approaches*, kept intact what the foreword to that volume described as a 14-year tradition of uninterrupted publication of conference proceedings that feature integrative and applied research (Milcu, 2020). The 2021 volume, *The Psychology of Pandemics: New Trends and Prospects*, situated the conference squarely at the intersection of psychological science and the most consequential collective

stressor in living memory, demonstrating the series' capacity to respond with both speed and rigor to the demands of its historical moment (Milcu et al., 2021). The sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth editions (2022–2024) continued to develop these themes as the discipline grappled with the long-term psychological sequelae of pandemic exposure, the accelerating integration of digital technologies into clinical and educational practice, and the broader social transformations reshaping the contexts of human experience.

The Present Volume

It is against this rich background that the present volume must be read. The decision to title the 19th edition *Emerging Trends in Psychology* is at once a gesture of continuity with the series' enduring commitment to disciplinary renewal and a deliberate provocation: to ask not merely what psychology currently knows, but where it is heading.

As Haslam et al. (2020) argued in their influential analysis of concept creep in psychology, the very categories through which the discipline understands human suffering and flourishing are not static but expand and contract in response to social pressures and empirical discoveries. The papers assembled here engage this dynamic frontier with disciplinary seriousness and interdisciplinary openness.

Contributions Across Thematic Sections

The conference was organized around eight thematic sections (methodology and experimental psychology; educational psychology; work and organizational psychology; clinical and health psychology; forensic psychology and psychiatry; military psychology; social and cultural psychology; and a broader interdisciplinary category) each of which is represented in this volume. This architecture reflects a fundamental conviction shared by the organizing committee since the earliest editions of the series: that the most consequential advances in psychological science arise at the intersections of

specializations, not within their siloed interiors. The integration of computational methods with clinical judgment (Luxton, 2014), the convergence of neuroimaging evidence with psychotherapeutic frameworks (Insel et al., 2010), and the cross-fertilization between social psychology and behavioral economics (Thaler & Sunstein, 2008) exemplify the productive hybridity that has characterized the conference from its beginnings and that finds renewed expression in the present volume.

A recurring theme across contributions is the profound ambivalence that psychological science maintains toward artificial intelligence, a theme that would have been marginal at the founding editions of this conference and that now commands central attention across every section of the program. On one hand, machine learning algorithms offer unprecedented capacity for pattern recognition in large clinical datasets, early risk detection, and the personalization of intervention (Torous et al., 2021). On the other hand, scholars represented in this volume raise pointed questions about algorithmic bias, the erosion of therapeutic alliance in technology-mediated care, and the ethical frameworks adequate to AI-assisted diagnosis. These tensions are productive rather than paralyzing: they position psychology as an indispensable interlocutor in the societal governance of intelligent systems, a role that the discipline is increasingly called upon to assume (Rahwan, 2018).

The sections devoted to educational and organizational psychology reflect awareness that the most consequential applications of psychological knowledge occur outside the clinic, a conviction the series has advanced since the third edition. The unprecedented reorganization of workplaces through automation and remote collaboration has generated new forms of stress, identity disruption, and relational complexity (Deci & Ryan, 2000; Twenge et al., 2022). In educational settings, the tension between personalized AI-driven learning and the developmental primacy of human relationship represents one of the defining challenges for

educational psychologists in the coming decade. Several contributions in this volume address this challenge empirically and conceptually, drawing on attachment theory, self-determination frameworks, and cognitive load research, thereby extending methodological conversations begun in earlier editions of this conference.

The clinical and health psychology section reflects a discipline grappling simultaneously with epidemiological urgency and therapeutic innovation. The sustained elevation of anxiety, depressiveness, and trauma-related presentations in general populations (WHO, 2022), combined with expanding evidence bases for psychedelic-assisted therapies, trauma-informed care, and telehealth delivery (Norcross & Lambert, 2019), creates a clinical landscape that is both pressing and promising. Contributors to this section examine these developments with methodological rigor and appropriate epistemic humility, acknowledging the distance between laboratory efficacy and real-world effectiveness, a concern that has animated the conference's applied orientation since the first editions.

The forensic and military psychology sections, consistently present in the program since the early editions and progressively enriched by each successive gathering, occupy a position of ethical importance. The application of AI-driven risk assessment tools in judicial and correctional contexts raises fundamental questions about due process, racial equity, and the nature of criminal responsibility, questions that cannot be answered by data science alone and require the normative resources of psychological ethics (Dressel & Farid, 2018). Similarly, the psychological demands placed on military personnel operating alongside autonomous systems and recovering from combat exposure with the aid of virtual reality platforms represent genuinely novel phenomena that the present edition addresses with the seriousness they deserve.

The social and cultural psychology section situates individual contributions within the broader fabric of collective life. The psychology of digital identity, the formation of

parasocial relationships with artificial agents, the mechanisms through which algorithmically curated information environments shape political attitudes and intergroup affect, these constitute an emerging research agenda that integrates classical social psychological theory with the empirical resources afforded by digital trace data (Bail et al., 2018; Valkenburg et al., 2022). Several contributors in this section engage explicitly with cross-cultural perspectives, reflecting the awareness that findings generated in Western, educated, industrialized, rich, and democratic samples do not automatically generalize across the full range of human social contexts (Henrich et al., 2010), an awareness that has been central to this conference's intercultural identity from its founding.

The Conference Community and Venue

The city of Sibiu (itself a space of centuries-long cultural encounter, home to communities of diverse linguistic and confessional traditions, and a site recognized for its European cultural heritage) has served as the near-uninterrupted venue of this conference across nineteen years. The return to Sibiu after the pandemic-imposed virtual hiatus of 2020 and 2021 was experienced by the community of participants as a reaffirmation of belonging: belonging to a place, to a discipline, and to a collegial tradition that has, edition by edition, woven the fabric of a genuine scholarly community. The gathering of researchers from multiple countries and disciplinary traditions in this historic Transylvanian city enacts, in miniature, the cross-cultural and interdisciplinary ethos that have distinguished the series from its very first meeting in 2007.

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It is the editors' hope that this volume will serve not only as a record of the scientific exchanges that took place in Sibiu in December 2025, but as a resource for researchers, practitioners, and students who seek to orient themselves within the rapidly evolving landscape of contemporary psychology.

Nineteen editions have demonstrated that the questions this conference asks (about method and application, about individual minds and social contexts, about the ethics of knowledge and the practice of care) are neither exhausted nor exhaustible. The trends documented here are genuinely emerging, which is to say they are neither fully formed nor predictable in their trajectories. Engaging with them requires the qualities that have always distinguished excellent psychological science, and that this conference has cultivated across nearly two decades: methodological rigor, theoretical creativity, ethical attentiveness, and genuine curiosity about the complexity of human experience.

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