

SUMMARIES IN ENGLISH

Peter Berliner: Democracy and Psychology

Democracy denotes an organising principle for making decisions of common interest as all voices will be heard and the choice will form a balance between different opinions. This principle requires equal access to participation, which includes equal admission to the resources needed for this involvement.

Today, democracy is challenged by the growth of political units beyond the limits of the nation (for instance, the EU). Another challenge emerges from non-democratic practices within the political debate and within institutions that do not promote solidarity with the target population of their services.

On the other hand, the performance of democracy may be enhanced through social movements for amplifying democracy within knowledge, research, art, and visions. Current psychology shows a growing interest in studying how the »logic« (as explanation, speech, narrative, reason, thought or concept) of the »psyche« (as consciousness, vitality or soul) may be impacted by a process of a weakening democracy and how it may be shaped by a process of extending democracy beyond the nation and into social practices of daily living. It is recommended that stronger efforts of psychology research should be directed at studying this.

Søren Hein Ramussen: Globalization and democracy

The article discusses the consequences of the globalization on democracy in the sense given by Robert Dahl's principles for collective decision-making. The article advocates a critical distance to current globalization definitions, as their claim on universality impedes analytic accuracy and promotes uncritical analyses of important political issues. After this the article discusses the possibilities of governance, the prospects of the democracy in the nation-state and finally the challenges following by the emergence of various international institutions.

Hanne Petersen: Democracy – and development of norms in world society

Democracy has been understood and practiced within a national frame. The challenge in the 21st century is to widen the frame to a global one – that of world society – and to develop democratic forms, attitudes and actions, which work within such a frame. Today national and local democracy often functions as a particularist system primarily caring about local interests. Regulation of participation and access to citizenship has consequences for the access to participation in a local/national community, and it often works in an excluding way. Democratic attitudes and practices may however, also be found in contexts and institutions, which are not democratically constituted, such as in families, religions and schools. Interdependence on a global level demands more participation and responsibility in the global decision making process. The UN uses the term 'democratic governance' as a way to focus on process and content rather than on institutional structure.

Rashmi Singla: A tale of two father/mother lands: The young south Asian diaspora in Scandinavia

With starting point in the concept of diaspora and plural identities in relation to migration and ethnic identity, this article throws light on the social psychological situation of youth who have two father/ mother countries, youth from South Asia (India/Pakistan/Sri Lanka) living in Scandinavia, primarily Denmark and to some extent Norway.

The youths' interethnic relationships and diasporic identities are delineated on the basis of an empirical project based on qualitative interview method, combined with an array of secondary sources. Most of the South Asian youth are becoming a part of the receiving society along with developing their complex diaspora identities through strategies in late modern society like forming relationships across ethnic borders, participation in the democratic processes, facing of racial discrimination through youth organisations, and transnational media consumption. Through a comparative angle similar results are seen for the South Asian youth in UK. The conclusions pin point the challenges for the Danish society, South Asian countries and the South Asian diaspora living in Denmark, which can also be applied to other diaspora groups in Denmark to some extent.

Johannes Lang: Genocide in the Shadow of Democracy. The Psycho-Politics of Modern Mass Murder

In this article, I argue that international politics (read: genocide) is a highly human affair and thus also psychological in its nature. Psychology definitely has a lot to contribute to both historical research and political science, since history is politics and politics is psychology. Psychologist shouldn't be wary of examining large socio-political processes. When we only focus on the individual in our globalised world, we risk trivialising our arguments in the contemporary debates. If psychology strives to do more than alleviate private suffering within the soundproof walls of the clinic, it needs to open its eyes further. It needs to go beyond studying the social aspects of human beings and also explore the psychological dynamics in the larger social systems of society. This article is intended to be an example of such an approach. It explores the psycho-political connections between democracy and genocide, both by outlining their historical and systemic links and through an investigation into the dangerous interaction between genocidal regimes and their democratic counterparts. It is clear that genocides are enormous historical and political processes, but this does not mean that they aren't also highly psychological events

Peter Olsén, Kurt Aagaard Nielsen, Birger Steen Nielsen: Development without experience

In the mainstream of work psychology there is an ongoing dilemma between on the one side a *humanitarian* engagement and on the other side an adaptation to *undemocratic* conditions. This dilemma has changed its appearance in the course of history. The article follows the dilemma with special attention to notions of *development* and *growth* – culminating in the new so-called knowledge-intensive work. Dominating notions of psychological development are critically discussed in relation to the material and organizational developments in work and everyday life – characterized by contradictions of power, discipline and resistance. The psychology has a tendency to get an *instrumental function*, not least when it is talking its most 'psychological' language.

If we want to democratize work we must develop other standards than experts' rationality or abstract growth. The article refers to experiences from the authors' projects with alternative forms of democratic cooperation between experts and 'ordinary people'. A notion of a 'free space' for communication and experiments are introduced and related to concepts of experience, life-context and social imagination.

Kurt Dauer Keller: The democratic attitude. On the political and the identity

The article treats a connection between modern democracy and social psychology that is about an understanding of what a democratic attitude is. The discussion is based upon a probing of notions within the critical theory, post-structuralism and phenomenology of democracy and of 'the political'. This leads to a short presentation of the phenomenologi-

cal concept of institution, which is the conceptualisation of a basic experience that does not imply any distinction between sociocultural field and sociocultural identity. Then, the political is discussed in relation to human identity and a notion of political identity is suggested that relates to our bodily existence and to elementary forms of meaning. The article is concluded in the drawing of a social psychological picture of the democratic attitude as a humanism.

Carsten René Jørgensen: Splitting in democratic societies

The well-functioning democratic society is based upon its citizens' capacity for mutual understanding and constructive dialogue and the general propagation in society of a democratic state of mind, as opposed to a fundamentalist one. Based upon primarily group analysis and object relations theory it is argued that democratic societies under severe pressure from external forces and societies under strain from internal upheavals are in danger of regression and of being dominated by unrelenting internal conflicts and conflicts with the surrounding world. The predominant state of mind of the masses and the social imaginary is overtaken by regressive notions and dominated by the primitive defence mechanism splitting. As a consequence of these regressive processes, possibilities of social dialogue, subtle mutual understanding, and mature dealing with conflicts are undermined. Situations like these require the existence of certain abilities in – and involve certain requirements from – democratic leaders which not all of them are able to meet.

Steen Visholm: The psychology of democracy

This paper is partly a discussion and an evaluation of the legacy of Kurt Lewin's and Donald W. Winnicott's concepts of democracy. It is partly a sketch of an extended psychodynamic organizational psychology - including a placing of democracy in organizational and societal life. The third part is a psychological reflected discussion of the fate of democracy in a world of ongoing globalization and modernization.

Benedicte Madsen: Democracy in Lewinian tradition

The present article pins down the democratic project of the Lewinian tradition, primarily focusing on the democratic values of educational activities and working life. According to Lewin's line of thought, democracy and scientific thinking are interrelated and social science is considered a decisive factor in the democratization of societies. Although the tradition dates from the middle of the 20th century, it is still topical and deserves renewed attention.

The set of values presented in the article includes freedom to move and freedom to choose between alternatives, consensus-oriented group decisions, leadership and cooperation on equal terms, active participation, transparent framework and the kind of organization in which everyone, irrespective of hierarchic ranking, is allowed time and space for reflection.

In the last part of his life Lewin coined group dynamics – a broader term for a scientific discipline as well as for a professional field. The laboratory method applied within adult education was an integral part of group dynamics and a specific meeting point for democratic and scientific values. In the article the method is introduced and a case from Lewin's hands is presented, exemplifying democratic conflict management at a workplace. Furthermore, the argument is presented that a close reading of Lewin's field theory, i.e. his contribution to general psychology may shed new light on the understanding of democracy and the interrelation between scientific thinking and democracy.

Svend Brinkmann: Individual, democracy and psychology in a pragmatic perspective

John Dewey is one of those psychologists, who have most thoroughly thematized the relationship between psychology and democracy. In this article, I seek to reactualize Dewey's pragmatic perspective on the relationship between the individual, democracy as a way of life, and psychology as a science. According to Dewey, a psychological individual, with a complex inner life, does not appear in history until the outer, democratized social forms demand certain deliberations and choices on behalf of individual human beings. In the article, I discuss Dewey's theory of democracy, which is closely connected to his social psychological understanding of social processes as dynamic and changeable. He rejected as insufficient what he called »democracy as a formal system« and would add to this a vision of democracy as a life form, embedded in communication processes. Furthermore, I describe Dewey's views on the role of psychology and the other social sciences as co-creators of an informed public. According to Dewey, psychology's task is not to passively mirror an unchangeable reality, but to engage with reality as a problem-solving tool, particularly in relation to enabling the democratic public to make decisions in practically reasonable ways.

Jens Berthelsen: Catch 22 in post modern democracy.

It seems as if society is approaching a period of strengthening norms. The 20th century was a period relax social norms. The industrial culture of the 19th century was slowly dissolved giving room to a democratic, flexible post modern culture. The youth revolt in 1968 meant a shift in personal values from obedience to personal responsibility corresponding to the new demands of global communication in neo capitalistic society.

Science is in a dilemma, caught between positivistic and constructivist paradigms. Psychology is closely bound to the 20th century's concept of the individual, devoid of a relation to society. New theories and methods combining psychology and sociology are needed to explain behavior in a confusing and unpredictable world. The interplay between the powers of economics, politics and the media makes people blind to principal questions and turns attention to the immediate surroundings.

Political events (e.g. 9/11 and the Mohammed drawings) place the whole population in a dilemma situation. A normal defense reaction to this situation, is 'splitting' into; 'us' (the truth), and 'them' (the -invisible- enemy). And the neo-liberal politicians use people's dilemma reactions.

The psychology of dilemma – both in individual and in national culture – can be a tool to understand the situation, to avoid demagogic pressures, and can provide new perspectives on the political situation. Psychologists can play an important part in the future both by exposing manipulative, political dilemmas, and in supporting people in coping with the doubt that comes with being in dilemma in making a choice between conflicting ideas, which is at the core of democracy.

Erik Schultz: Democracy as natural value

This article is about the relation between democracy and psychology. It is claimed, that psychology has natural values amongst its subject matters, and because democracy can be regarded as a natural value, psychology cannot deal with democracy in a neutral way; but has to work professionally to further it.

First a concept about natural values is defined. Then it is shown that psychology has these values amongst its subject matters, although it was not always explicitly conceived that way in psychological mainstream. After this the relation between democracy and paternalism is defined. Engelsted has made some consideration about power used in ones own interest, in the interest of others and in mutual interest. Based on these ideas the problem of the relations of democracy to various forms of power is discussed, and

it is explained, why it took humanity such an awful long time to make unions in a natural, democratic way instead of the usual inhuman ways seen in the past. At last some perspectives in regard to the process of making The International Society are discussed.

Preben Bertelsen: Democracy and Democratization – from the view of Psychology.

The article presents an overall description of a *psychology of democracy* as a sub-discipline to political psychology. It is presumed that the primary objective of *psychology of democracy* undertakes our psychic capacity and will to (a) as a citizen be able and willing to form an existence according to the values (material as well as immaterial), as a given political system within the framework of existence makes available, and (b) as political actors (in government, in civilian and everyday life) conformal and/or critical in participating in the initiation of, maintenance and development of the political system and its activity regarding values. As citizens and political actors in both cases, we face managing and acting on such political values and problems and possibilities, that are connected with these. Psychologically we are faced with being able and to act upon political value tasks – in this particular case – democratical value tasks. A fundamental concept in the definition of what kind of discipline *psychology of democracy* is, is thus (a) these political values and value tasks together with (b) our capacity and will to understand and act in regard to these. I emphasized in the article, that the silent and implicit (contrary to deliberative and reflecting) everyday managing values and value tasks make up a rather important moment of society's democratization process.

Leif Jacobsen: Symbolic citizenship and residential care

Since it was established in 2003 the Local Residential Care Unit Ladbyhus in the municipality of Næstved has been endeavoured to develop a local, open and flexible local care unit for 8 children between the of 8 and 14. The intentions have been to develop a residential care programme as 'an extended, therapeutic room', where the exclusiveness of classical treatment is abandoned/reduced and the focus is oriented towards the rehabilitation of the social network, including extended cooperation with the parents, the schools, social workers and others. In doing so the local residential training programme may be characterized as being on 'low theory'-level, as it so pronounced aim for involving several forms of layman's knowledge and perspective (parents in relation to other parents, parents relations to their own children, parents relations to or just their 'simple' importance as an active member of the local community; 'the extended therapeutic room').

The endeavour has included an opening towards the social arena of which the Local Residential Care Unit Ladbyhus is a part. Among others things the intention has been to emphasize the symbolic citizenship of children and parents, i.e. the right to behold, to be recognized as and respected within an encompassing group or network. The membership of a group as a phenomenon has been an invisible truism for the well established and well integrated individuals and groups of modern society. But for the parents of children in residential care experience that their membership are being tested and even burst as the opinion of the local authorities and professionals regard them as 'unfit parents'. They must bear to be marginalized – and may even experience statutory assistance as problem increasing and a litigation from the symbolic citizenship.

The article is based upon a number of interviews gathered during the first months of 2004.

Grethe Kragh-Müller: Children and democracy

Over the past 30–40 years, society has developed in many areas. The increased individualisation and democratisation in society as a whole means that we also wish to involve children in the democratic process, both in terms of values and legislation. This article addresses these issues from a critical psychological point of view based on the research project – »Children’s every day lives and boundary setting«, in which 26 children, their parents, and teachers were interviewed on their views of the child-adult relationship, on upbringing and on children’s influence on everyday life at home and at school. This article is based primarily on the interviews with children in order to shed light on the issue from their perspective and give them a voice in relation to the subject of children and democracy.

As the article shows, it is of great importance to children that they have an influence on their own lives, but also for better or worse it reveals that children depend on the influence adults allow them to exercise. The article also shows that some children experience that their lives are determined by external influences, and that they have no influence themselves. This makes it more difficult for them to tune in to their own emotions and interests as the basis for taking action. It therefore becomes more difficult for them to recognise the opportunities available for participating in and influencing both their own lives and the courses of action in a context shared with others. However, if involved in the democratic process, children can understand themselves and the world around them, and thereby, long term, play a fully active part in the democratic process in a democratic society.

Anne Kvale Havig, Audhild Hagen & Søren Willert: Psychotherapy with a democratic attitude

The subject of this article is not ‘democracy’ in a formal-political sense, but rather a discussion of how a therapist may encounter a non-western client with a democratic attitude; a kind of ‘mind democracy’. The article is a rewriting of a candidate thesis, and one of its main assumptions was that psychotherapy may be challenging, mainly because of the therapists and the clients different cultural backgrounds. However, the thesis’ qualitative interviews with experienced therapists, brought into focus the importance of the nonspecific factors in the therapeutic relationship, and that these are independent of the clients’ cultural background. The article illuminates these data, and describes two students’ growing acknowledgement of being a psychotherapist is basically a matter of being ‘a professional fellow human being’.

Bodil Pedersen & Christel Stormhøj: Gender, Vicious Circles and (Dis)Empowerment – On Societal and Personal Meanings of Rape.

A study of the personal perspectives of women who have contacted Centre for Victims of Sexual Assault at Rigshospitalet is the empirical basis of this article. Questions concerning the gendered personal and overarching societal aspects of the meanings of rape are only rarely explicitly examined in psychological studies. Also questions of gender are often disregarded or distorted in folk psychological discourses.

For these reasons we wish to analyse how questions of gender, power and participation are interrelated in the overarching societal and personal meanings of this psychosocial problem. We present and discuss three main themes: 1) The relative relationship of dominance and oppression within gender relations and its connection to the risk of women being exposed to sexualised coercion. 2) The meanings of this risk for women, and 3) The meanings, that instances of coercion and the concrete situated forms that overarching societal conditions take on, may have for the women involved.

The analysis indicates that these conditions can bring forth »vicious circles« which underscore the loss of power and agency that women suffer through the instances of coercion. In this fashion the analysis highlights the necessity of conceptualising the relations between gender, sexual coercion, agency and (dis)empowerment. It may thus avoid contributing to »vicious circles« through individualisations and pathologisations of the women involved. Instead it may contribute to empowerment through more inclusive support initiatives that further women's individual and collective possibilities of comprehending, controlling and dealing with different kinds of resources.

Arthur Stroud: The Humane and Technological Death

State of the art: The fundamental idea of the research project, *The Humane and Technological Death*, is to explore the significance of the development of specific scientific technologies in the US with respect to: a) the legitimization of the practice of the death penalty; b) the way in which the very design and execution of the death penalty is perceived and experienced.

The basic idea is to enable us to find new ways of considering the practice of the death penalty scientifically by bringing a scientific focus to bear on "knowledge technologies« (death penalty methods and scientific actors and methods) that are instrumental in upholding the notion that the practice of the death penalty is humane.

The theoretic relation between the human and non-human actors will be discussed in a specific as well as in a general theoretical perspective.

Results of the investigation: It can be shown with a good degree of probability that the current development of death penalty technologies has importance for maintaining and justifying the death penalty as we know it today in the USA. Furthermore, the procedures for how the death penalty is carried out are of great importance for the way in which we perceived and experienced the death penalty.

Theoretical perspectives: The theoretical perspectives chosen to conceptualise dimensions A and B are as follows: – Actor-Network Theory, – Discourse analysis – Constructionism – Narrative theory

Faezeh Zand: Exposure method in the treatment of PTSD: A successful course.

The article presents the case formulation approach to treatment of PTSD, based on the Cognitive-Behavioural Theory (CBT). The patient, a refugee who participated in 25 therapeutical sessions, suffered for 10 years from persistent symptoms of PTSD after her flight. Four key points in the case formulation approach are discussed: (1) The theoretical background of the clinical problem, (2) utility of the CBT- methods in reconstructing dysfunctional thinking and behaviour, (3) difficulties of therapy with traumatized refugees suffering from chronic conditions, and (4) the central role the interpreter plays during treatment.