

## **Examination Programme for Doctoral Applicants in Differential Psychology**

1. **From psychology of individual differences to psychology of individuality.** Approaches to studying individual differences in intelligence. Approaches to studying individual differences in personality.
2. **Personality and Individuality - an Ecological Approach.** Critical analysis of personality study. Is individuality a possible subject of scientific inquiry?
3. **Individuality and Its Internal World.** The process of personal internal world. Protection of the internal world. Building uniqueness. Integration and partialisation of the internal world.
4. **Personal System of Meanings.** Cognitive and personal meaning. Values. Meaning of life. Cultural basis of the personal system of meanings.
5. **Individualization of the Self.** Dimensions of the Self: Self-concept, Self-confidence, Self-efficacy, Self-actualization. Intentional building of uniqueness. Culturally specific construction of the Self.
6. **Structure of Behaviour.** Planned and spontaneous behaviour. Structure of goal-directed behaviour. Self-regulation of behaviour.
7. **Individuality and the Regulation of Behaviour.** Intellectual regulation. Emotional regulation.
8. **Individuality and the Regulation of Behaviour.** Regulation by the personal meanings system. Unconscious regulation.
9. **Personal Style.** The concept of individual style. Building an individual style: basic needs, basic beliefs and general conceptual framework of life. Dispositional style.
10. **Nature - Nurture Controversy.** Nature and nurture in intelligence. Nature and nurture in personality. Nature-nurture interactions.
11. **Gender Differences.** Attitudes towards gender specific roles. Gender differences in cognitive performance. Gender differences in aspirations and achievement. Gender and leadership style.

12. **Social Class Differences.** Social class structure of society. Social class specific values, parental styles, and aspirations. Culture and social class associated expectations.
13. **Cultural Differences.** Cultural differences in cognitive functions? Cultural differences and personality. Cultural differences in the global world.

### ***Basic Sources***

- Ashton, M.C. (2007). *Individual differences and personality*. Burlington, MA: Elsevier Academic Press.
- Cooper, C. (2010). *Individual differences and personality* (3rd ed.). New York: Oxford University Press.
- John, O.P., R.W. Robins, & L. A. Pervin (Eds.) (2008). *Personality: Theory and research* (3rd ed.). New York: The Guilford Press.
- Zinovieva, I. (2011). *Personality and individuality*. Sofia: LM Productions (in Bulgarian).
- Zinovieva, I. (1997). *Differential Psychology: From psychology of individual differences to psychology of individuality*. Sofia: Albatross (in Bulgarian).

### ***Further reading***

- Emmons, R. A. (1986). Personal strivings: An approach to personality and subjective well being. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 51, 1058–1068.
- Frankl, V. E. (1962/1980). *Man's search for meaning: An introduction to logotherapy*. New York: Simon & Schuster.
- Funder, D. (2010). *The Personality Puzzle* (5th ed.). New York: W.W. Norton
- Funder, D. C., & Ozer, D. J. (Eds.). (2010). *Pieces of the Personality Puzzle: Readings in Theory and Research* (5th ed.). New York: W.W. Norton.
- Higgins, E. T. (1996). Ideals, oughts, and regulatory focus: Affect and motivation from distinct pains and pleasures. In P. M. Gollwitzer & J. A. Bargh (Eds.), *The psychology of action: Linking cognition and motivation to behavior*. New York: Guilford, 91–114.
- Larsen, R.J., & Buss, D. M. (2009). *Personality psychology: Domains of knowledge about human nature* (4th ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill.
- Markus, H. R., Kitayama, S. (1991). Culture and the self: Implications for cognition, emotion, and motivation. *Psychological Review*, 98, 224-253.
- McCrae, R.R., & Costa, P.T. (1997) Personality trait structure as a human universal. *American Psychologist*, 52, 509-516.
- McCrae, R. R., Terracciano, A., and Members of the Personality Profiles of Cultures Project. (2005). Universal features of personality traits from the observer's perspective: Data from 50 different cultures. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 88, 547-561.
- Mischel, W., Shoda, Y., & Ayduk, O. (2007). *Introduction to personality: Toward an integrative science of the person* (8th ed.). Hoboken, New Jersey: J. Wiley & Sons.

Miserandino, M. (2011). *Personality psychology*. Boston: Pearson Academic.  
Unger, R. K. (2001). *Handbook of the psychology of women and gender*. New York: John Wiley & Sons.