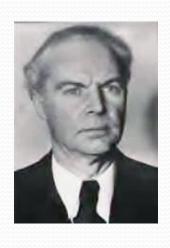
Manu Jääskeläinen, PhD

Gestalt Psychology in Context

Eino Kaila in the Context of Gestalt Psychology in the German-Language Cultural Area in Europe

Eino Kaila: Some Biographical Data



- *b. 1890, d. 1958
- *In his time, leading philosopherpsychologist in Finland
- *Founder of modern psychology in F.
- *Gestalt-orientation, dynamic psychology, empirist, experimental psychologist

Unity of Human Personality

- "Faust, as the prototype of man, found that striving for completeness was not merely an abstract matter. The only practicable condition of unity that he discovered was the seeking of specific objectives related to a life work." Gordon W. Allport: Personality, a Psychological Interpretation, 1937, p. 351. Allport is here discussing the unity of personality and uses Goethe's Faust as example.
- "It is erroneous to place verstehende psychology as an independent discipline in opposition to psychology as a natural science. There is only one unitary psychology ..." William Stern, Weltphilosophie, 1924. Citation from Allport, 1937, p. 542

The Litterary Production of Eino Kaila

- Philosophical writings
 - 1.a. Academic philosophy
 - 1.b. Writings on world-views and values
- 2. Psychological writings
- 2.a. Scientific-professional studies
- 2.b. Works of a popular & general nature
- 3. Political writings and essays
- 4. Writings on litterature & criticism
- 5. Speeches & talks
- 6. Translations, prefaces, and other essays

The Main Purposes of this Presentation

- 1. To study the personality-psychology of EK from a Gestalt-theoretical point of view.
- 2. To study the text of the textbook on personality psychology by EK.
- 3. To study the context of EK's personality psychology with the help of references used by EK in his book.
- 4. To assess critically the results of this analysis, and to continue the discussion of the personality psychology of EK with the help of other means, if needed.
- 5. To define the position of EK with respect to the various psychological traditions prevalent in early 20th century (the context).

The Structure of this Presentation

- 1. Introduction
- •2. A new dating of the Gestalt-change in the thinking of EK.
- •3. The textbook "Personality" (1934)
- •4. The contents of this book
- •5. Discussion of references used by EK in this book.
- •6. Some critical comments
- •7. Some conceptual remarks
- •8. Conclusions and discussion

Do We Understand Historical Texts in Psychology?

- 1. 1. Concepts and contexts are different
- 2. Concepts refer to different ideas & things
- 3. The experimental & empirical context is forgotten
- 4. 4. Different techniques are used in the written textss
- 5. 5. Bibliographies & references are different
- 6. 6. In some cases, references & notes are simply lacking
- 7. The writers presume that readers know certain references because they are "self-evident"

E.g. Concepts like apperception, avidity, structuralism, vector, valence etc.

When Kaila Became a Gestalt - Theorist?

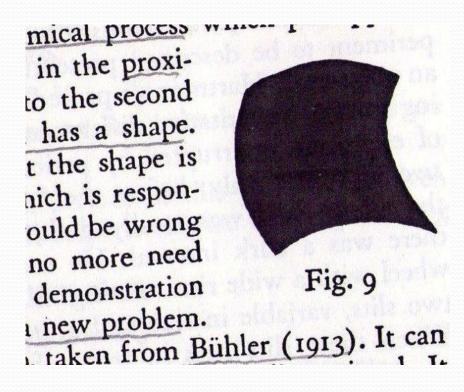
- In 1920, in a paper "Philosophical Remarks on the Theoy of Relativity"; Kaile refers to Wolfgang Köhler and his experiments with anthropoids.
- In the same paper, he refers to the active function of the perception.
- In a paper on "The Psychological Foundations of the Physical World-View" (1922), he uses a figure which may be interpreted in three different ways. This figure can found in Koffka 1934. He has taken it from Bühler 1913.
- New dating of the change: 1920, or early 1920's. My earlier definition: 1928 1932. This must now be changed.

Sail, flag, or parallelogram?

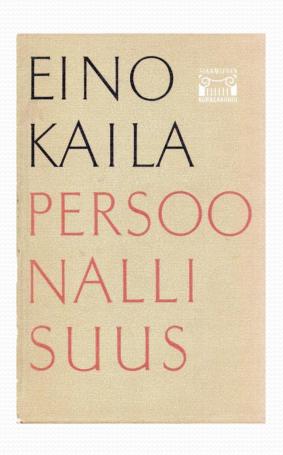
Kaila 1922

aan
ttayha se
nällä
alta oikeanpuolinen

Koffka 1934 (after Bühler 1913)



About the Book



- *First ed. 1934
- *Fourth ed. 1952
- *The book-cover is from sixth printing in 1964 (Everyman's University-Series)
- *First Swedish edition in 1935. Danish edition in 1948. Further editions and imprints were to come.

Chapter-Headings in "Personality"

- I. Leading Ideas: Verstehen Ganzheit, Gestalten, dynamics of p., biological basis, holism against mechanistic conceptions.
- II. The Meaningful Life of the CNS
- III. Biology of the Character.
- IV. Dawn of Higher Psychological Functions
- V. Dynamic Forces of the Mind
- VI. Social Ties and Bounds
- VII. Dynamics of Needs and Drives
- VIII. Human Personality as a Whole
- IX. Animal and Deep-Spiritual Life

My Main Sources in Gestalt Theory

- Max Wertheimer, Productive Thinking 1966; some articles; King&Michael Wertheimer(2007)
- Kurt Koffka, Principles of Gestalt Psychology (1934);Growth of the Mind (1924)
- Wolfgang Köhler, Gestalt Psychology (1947); The Mentality of Apes (1973); Selected Papers; Values ... (1966/1938)
- Kurt Lewin, A Dynamic Theory of Personality (1935); Field Theory in Social Science (1951); Vorsatz, Wille und Bedürfnis (1926)
- Kurt Goldstein (1995); Mitchell G. Ash (1998); Wolfgang Metzger (1954); Karl Duncker (1968); Mary Henle and W.D. Ellis; David Katz, Gestalt Psychology

Gestalt Arguments in "Personality"

- Some examples:
- 1. The Idea of holism, Ganzheit, Gestalt
- 2. The idea of psychological & social field
- 3. Biological roots emphasized, interest in CNS and animal study
- 4. Critique of Constancy Hypothesis (cf. Köhler, Koffka)
- 5. Lewinian ideas in personality dynamics
- 6. Integration of lower-level and higher-level functions
- 7. Structure and function
- 8. Psychology is analytic science, top down

One Page from the Bibliography

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I. angew. Psychologie, 12. - * Ks. esim. Schilder, Medizinische Psychologie. - * Lewin, Psychol. Forschung, 7. - 10 James, Memories and studies, s. 209. - " PREYER, Die Seele des Kindes, 7. pain., s. 49. - 12 Lau, Zeitschr. für Kinderforschung, 36, s. 497. - 13 Pia-GET, Le langage et la pensée chez l'enfant. - 14 Sanoja ssignaalis ja «symboli» käytän suunnilleen samassa merkityksessä kuin Kara BUHLER, Die Krise der Psychologie ja Die Axiomatik der Sprachforschung, Kant-Studien 1933. --- 16 Ks. erit. YERKES, Almost human. - 16 Köhler, Zur Psychologie der Schimpansen; Psychol. Forschung, I. - 17 WILLIAM STERN, Helen Keller, Helen Keller, Elämäni (suom.). - 18 Sit. Gutzmann, Die Störungen der Sprache, 4. pain, s. 11. - 10 DESCARTES, Discours de la méthode, V, 17. - 20 Köhler, m. t. - Kaila, Die Reaktionen des Säuglings, s. 49; Charlotte BUHLER, Sinn und Gestalt, Bericht über d. XI Kongress f. exp. Psychol. - n Hussent, Logische Untersuchungen, 2. pain., II, 1, 8, 423. - n s Ks. esim. CH. BUHLER, Kindheit und Jugend. - n Vrt. seuraavaan Henny Head, Aphasia and kindred disorders of speech; GOLDSTEIN, Die Lokalisation in der Grosshirnrinde, Bethen Handbuch X; Gelb ja Goldstein. Psychologische Analysen hirnpathologischer Fälle, osa I myös eri teoksena, jatko aikakauslehdessä Psychologische Forschung; Woerkom, Monatschr. f. Psychiatrie und Neurologie, 59: BOUMANN ju GRÜNBAUM, Zeitschr. f. d. ges. Neurologie und Psychiatrie, 69 ja 96 GRÜNBAUM, sam. paik. 130; Ріск, Die agrammatischen Sprachstörungen. — 22 sas kreikassa kieltāvā etuliite; gnosis = tieto; praxis = toiminta. - * Kr. femi (fas jne.) = puhua. - 28 Ks. siitä erit. Goldstein, Monatschr. f. Psychiatrie und Neurol., 68. -- 26 GOLDSTEIN aikakauslehdessä Nervenarzt, 1931. - 27 Gelb ja Goldstein, Psychol. Forschung, 1924. GOLDSTEIN, Deutsche Zeitschr. f. Nervenheilkunde, 83. -28 Benary, Psychol. Forschung, 2. - 29 Ano, Muistatko, s. 30. --20 Placet, Le jugement et le raisonnement chez l'enfant. Sama, La représentation du monde chez l'enfant. - " Karz, Gespräche mit Kindern. - 22 WERNER, Einführung in die Entwicklungspsychologie; Zeininger, Magische Geisteshaltung im Kindesalter, Zeitschr. f. angew. Psychologie, Beiheft 47. - 18 SETÄLÄ, Suom.-ugr. Seuran Aikakauskirja XLIII. Suom. laitos. — M Tāmā māāritelmā ei tosin peitä koko taikuuden alaa, mutta esittää erään sen oleellisistu puolista. - 35 30sa kokonaisuuden edustajana. 3 - 36 Gosse, Father and son, crit. s. 45. - 27 PORTEUS, The psychology of a primitive people. - 38 Malinovski, Religion, science, reality. - 39 Maagillisia uskomuksia ja pitämyksiä koskevan lavean aineiston on teoksiinsa kerannyt Lévy-Bruhl, Les fonctions mentales dans les sociétés inférieures; La mentalité primitive; L'ame primitive ym. Vrt. myös Cassirer, Philosophie der symbolischen Formen, myyttiä koskeva osa; WERNER, m. t. Psykologille arvokas on WERTHEIMER, Über

One Page-Opening from the Bibliography

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NEWMAN, FREEMAN, HOLZINGER, Twins, A Study of Heredity and Environment, Chicago, 1937. - 12 Galton, Hereditary genius. -13 Lange, Das Verbrechen als Schicksal. - 14 Lehtovaara, Psychologische Zwillingsuntersuchungen, S. Tiedeakatemian Julk., 1938. -16 NEWMAN ym., m. t. - 18 SUGMALAINEN, Ajatus VIII, 1936. -17 Knerschmen, Korperbau und Charakter, lukuisia painoksia. -18 »Skitsofrenia» sananmukaisesti käännettynä = »pirstomielisyys». -19 Kreikan *kvklos* = kehā, sîitā *svkloidit*, koska maanis-depressiivinen sairaus usein aaltoilee kiihtyneen ja kohonneen ynnä lamaantuneen mielentilan »kehässä». — 10 Kreikan thymos = mieli (tunnepuoli). - 11 Ks. erit. Jaensch, Zeitschr. f. Psychologie, 116. -** *Ekstraversio* sananmukaisesti — *uloskääntö*; *introversio* — »sisäänkääntö». C. G. Jungin muodostamia termejä teoksessa Psychologische Typen. - 23 v. Fieandt vm. Tulkimuksia Kretschmerin typologiasta, Ajatus VII, 1934, VIII, 1936, ja siellä mainittu saksalainen kirjallisuus. - 24 PFAHLER, Vererbung als Schicksal. -25 KATZ, Hunger und Appetit, s. 30. - 26 Sclosłus siitā: Veli Verkko, Biologisluontoisten tekijäin vaikutuksesta henki- ja pahoinpitelyrikokslin, s. 104. - 27 Helasvuo, Ajatus VIII, 1936. - 28 Gang und Charakter, Zeitschr. f. angew. Psychol. Beiheft 58. - 20 PEARL. Voice and personality. Henzog, Zeitschr. f. Psychol, 130. - 30 Koski-MIES, Ajatus VIII, 1936. - " Seuraava perustuu Saudekiin, Experimentelle Graphologie. - 32 JISLIN, Zeitschr. f. d. ges. Neurologie und Psychiatrie. 98. - 18 ARVO LEHTOVAARA, Ajatus VII, 1934. -MKLAGES, Ausdrucksbewegung und Gestaltunsgkraft, Sama, Das Wesen des Bewusstseins. - 45 Hughes, Die Mimik des Menschen, s. 80. - 84 Ilmekuvat on lainattu Leaschin teoksesta Gesicht und Seele. Kun asianomaiset henkilöt on valokuvattu heidän tietämättään, on tunnistamisen vaikeuttamiseksi kasvot osittain peitetty valkoisilla läiskillä. - 27 Esim. BUHLER, Die Krise der Psychologie, s. 34. -38 Seuraava perustuu tekijan suorittamaan joukkokokeeseen. -* Esim. Buitendijk ja Plessner aikakauslehdessä *Philosophischer Anzeigere, I, ilmestyneissä tutkimuksissaan.

IV. HENKISEN ELÄMÄN SYNTY.

JPLESSNER, Die Stufen des Organischen und der Mensch.

*ARISTOTELES, De anima, II, 12, 1. — * Tämä käsitys on käikkien
nykyaikaisten psykologien yhteisomaisuutta; vrt. esim. Jaknsch,
Kategorienlehre, Zeitschr. f. Psychol. 119, s. 84. — * Plaget, Le jugement et le raisonnement chez l'enfant. — * Kr. autos = itse; autlsmi
sairaalloinen sitseensä vaipuminen, niinkuin se erityisesti skitsofreeneillä tavataan. — * Koppka, The Principles of Gestalt Psychology.

— * v. Uekküll, Umweit und Innenweit der Tiere. — * Ihmisen maailmassa on vain ihmisen esineitä, sudenkorennon maailmassa on vain
sudenkorennon esineitä. — * Lewin, Die Kriegslandschaft. Zeitschr.

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f. angew. Psychologie, 12. - Ks. esim. Schilder, Medizinische Psychologie. — * Lewin, Psychol. Forschung, 7. — 10 James, Memories and studies, s. 209. - " PREYER, Die Seele des Kindes, 7. pain., s. 49. - 12 Lau, Zeitschr. für Kinderforschung, 36, s. 497. - 13 Pla-GET, Le langage et la pensée chez l'enfant. - 14 Sanoja »signaali» ja «symboli» käytän suunnilleen samassa merkityksessä kuin Karl BUHLER, Die Krise der Psychologie ja Die Axiomatik der Sprachforschung, Kant-Studien 1933. - 15 Ks. erit. Yenkes, Almost human. — 16 Köhler, Zur Psychologie der Schimpansen; Psychol. Forschung, 1. - 17 WILLIAM STERN, Helen Keller, HELEN KELLER, Elämäni (suom.). - 18 Sit. GUTZMANN, Die Störungen der Sprache, 4. pain, s. 11. - 19 Descartes, Discours de la méthode, V, 17. - 20 Köhler, m. t. - Kaila, Die Reaktionen des Säuglings, s. 49; Charlotte BUHLER, Sinn und Gestalt, Bericht über d. XI Kongress f. exp. Psychol. - " Hussent, Logische Untersuchungen, 2. pain., II, 1, 8, 423. - " Ks. esim. CH. BÜHLER, Kindheit und Jugend, - "Vrt. seuraavaan Henny Head, Aphasia and kindred disorders of speech; GOLDSTEIN, Die Lokalisation in der Grosshirnrinde, BETHEN Handbuch X; Gelb ja Goldstein. Psychologische Analysen hirnpathologischer Fälle, osa I myös eri teoksena, jatko aikakauslehdessä Psychologische Forschung; Woerkom, Monatschr. f. Psychiatric und Neurologie, 59; Boumann ja Grünbaum, Zeitschr. f. d. ges. Neurologie und Psychiatrie, 69 ja 96 · GRUNBAUM, sam. paik. 130; Ріск, Die agrammatischen Sprachstörungen. — 18 ма kreikassa kieltāvā etuliite; gnosis = tieto; praxis = toiminta. - * Kr. femi (fas jne.) = puhua. - 25 Ks. siita erit. Goldstein, Monatschr. f. Psychiatrie und Neurol., 68. - 26 Goldstein aikakauslehdessä Nervenarzt, 1931. - "Gelb ja Goldstein, Psychol. Forschung, 1924. Goldstein, Deutsche Zeitschr. f. Nervenheilkunde, 83. -28 Benary, Psychol. Forschung, 2. - 29 Ano, Muistatko, s. 30. -10 Plager, Le jugement et le raisonnement chez l'enfant. Sama, La représentation du monde chez l'enfant, - 31 KATZ, Gespräche mit Kindern. - 32 WERNER, Einführung in die Entwicklungspsychologie; Zeininger, Magische Geisteshaltung im Kindesalter, Zeitschr. f. angew. Psychologie, Beiheft 47. - * SETÄLÄ, Suom.-ugr. Seuran Aikakauskirja XLIII. Suom, laitos. — M Tāmā māāritelmā ei tosin peitä koko taikuuden alaa, mutta esittää erään sen oleellisista puolista. --- 35 iOsa kokonaisuuden edustajana.s -- 38 Gosse, Father and son, erit. s. 45. - 27 Porteus, The psychology of a primitive people. - 38 Malinovski, Religion, science, reality. - 39 Maagillisia uskomuksia ja pitämyksiä koskevan lavean aineiston on teoksiinsa kerannyt Levy-Bruhl, Les fonctions mentales dans les sociétés inférieures; La mentalité primitive; L'ame primitive ym. Vrt. myös CASSIRER, Philosophie der symbolischen Formen, myyttiä koskeva osa; Werner, m. t. Psykologille arvokas on Wertheimer, Über

Details of One Page in Bibliography

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Kategorienlehre, Zeitschr. f. Psychol. 119, s. 84. — * Plaget, Le jugement et le raisonnement chez l'enfant. — * Kr. autos = itse; autismi
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- * v. Uekküll, Umwelt und Innenwelt der Tiere. — *Ihmisen maailmassa on vain ihmisen esineitä, sudenkorennon maailmassa on vain
sudenkorennon esineitä. • — * Lewin, Die Kriegslandschaft, Zeitschr.

Some Methodological Problems

- The bibliographic data are scanty
- 2. Difficulties in tracing a relevant edition
- 3. Sometimes only the name of author is given, possibly the name of the editor, but nothing more
- 4. There may be more than one document from one author
- 5. There may be a number of various authors in one reference
- 6. In some cases the translation of relevant concepts is difficult to interpret, (e.g. the concept of temperament which includes impressivity, psychological tempo (tahti), and expressivity)
- 7. Example: in Chapter II, reference 16: "See the writings by Bethe, von Weitzsäcker, Goldstein in the Handbook edited by Bethe, vol. X.In addition, Goldstein's writings in Archiv für Psychiatrie, Band 74, 76. Lashley, Nervous Mechanisms in Learning, Murchison, A. Handbook of General Experimental Psychology, pp. 456-496."

Some Difficult Concepts/Ideas/Methods

- The relationship between constancy phenomenon and constancy hypothesis:
- The various "errors" in cognitive processes;
- The concept of avidity;
- Use of "ressentiment" as a technical term;
- The various levels of personality (animal, deep-spiritual) and their isomorphic correspondences in CNS;
- Fast and flexible navigation between phenomenological, behavioral, biological, and social concepts in the text.

Top Ten References (Names)

- 1. Kurt Lewin (12)
- 1. 2. Ernst Kretschmer (12)
- 2. 3. Pierre Janet (12)
- 3. 4. Max Scheler (11)
- 4. 5. Arthur Schopenhauer (8)
- 5. 6. Kurt Goldstein (8)
- 6. 7. David Katz (8)
- 8. 8. Wolfgang Köhler (7)
- 9. 9. Sigmund Freud (7)
 - 10. Paul Schilder (6)

Top 13 References in the Text

- 1.F.Nietzsche(10)
- 2.S. Freud(9)
- 3.A.Schopenhauer(8)
- 4.Kurt Lewin(6)
- 5.Max Scheler(5)
- 6.Aristotle(5)
- 7.E.Kretschmer(5)

- 8.Henry Head (5)
- 9.J.W.von Goethe(4)
- 10.Descartes(4)
- 11.Ivan Pavlov(4)
- 12.G.W.F.Hegel(4)
- 13.William James (4)

Some More References in Text

- Three times: Alfred Adler, Plato, Rousseau, Rochefoucault, Schiller
- Two times: Victor von Weitzsäcker, Kurt Goldstein, Wolfgang Köhler, Taine Edouard Zeller, Bertrand Russell, Schjelderup-Ebbe, Augustinus
- SOME MORE STATISTICS:
- All in all, 196 various names in the text. In the text-references, there are 98 various names of authors.
- The total number of references is 334.

Types of Referencess

- Scientific and professional
- •1.a. Biological & b iomedicaal
- •1.b. Psychological & sociological
- •1.c. Physics
- Classics (e.g. Greek tragedies)
- 3. Philosophical
- 4. Historical (Taine, Burchard)
- 5. Biographical (William James)
- 6. From litterature
- 7. Other

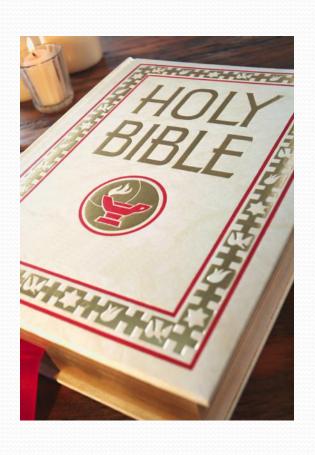
Number of References According to Type

- 1.a. N = 63
- 1.b. N = 85
- 1.c. N = 7
- 2. N = 7
- 3. N = 55
- 4. 4. N = 14
- 5. N = 14
- 6. N = 8
- 7. N = 8
- •Sum total = 336

Example of a Reference

- In bibliography for Ch. I, Leading Ideas, reference 21:
- Planck, Forschungen und Fortschritte 5,2
- This refers to: Planck, Max : Aus der neuen Physik. Forschungen und Fortschritte 1929;5:16-17.
- Possible idea that Kaila noted: "The physical world is not simply a sum of spatial and temporal single worlds running one besides the others, and many phenomena escape the understanding when one does not consider a physical object as a whole." Citation after Drack, Apfalter & Pouvreau 2010

A Surprising Addition: the Bible



• <u>Citations</u>:

Genesis

Matthew 4

Colossians

1 Corinthians 9

2 Corinthians 1

Sum total: 16

Some Comments on the Sources Used by Kaila

- Total number of different names/authors is 191.
- The scale of these names is wide: from Charles Darwin to Claude Lévy-Bruhl, from Bertrand Russell to Max Scheler, from Rene Descartes to Sigmund Freud and Alfred Adler.
- In the references one finds many different sources, and in the statistics Gestalt theory is not dominating. However, in the argumentation & in the theoretical background GT is a dominant factor. Statistical approach has its limitations even if it provides some useful information.

Gestalt Principles in "Personality"

- •1. Criticism of the constancy-hypothesis
- •2. Adoption of the constancy principle
- •3. Adoption of holistic and Gestalt-perspective
- 4. Critique of the concept of "unconscious"
- •5. Structure and function
- •6. Personality dynamics based on needs (and drives)
- •7. Person and environment
- •8. Experience vs. behavior
- •9. Biological roots

A Poet Looks at Human Personality

 Des Herzens Wege schäumte nicht so empor und würde Geist,
 wenn nicht der alte stumme Fels, das Schicksal, ihr entgegenstünde." - Hölderlin, citation from "Persoonallisuus" (1964) by Eino Kaila, p. 278

Some Contributions of Eino Kaila

- Expanded use of Gestalt principles to cover the structure and dynamics of human personality
- 2. Integration of Gestalt principles with dynamic psychology
- Generalization of Gestalt principles & Lewinian psychology to cover both human & animal psychology
- 4. Integration of psychological & biological viewpoints, including sociological perspectives and cultural studies
- 5. Integration of research-oriented scientific psychology with humanistic psychology

What Was Not Discussed in This Presentation?

- Eino Kaila and values in "Personality";
- Some detailed descriptions of religious processes and beliefs;
- Philosophy of science and methodology in "Personality";
- Heredity, anatomy of CNS and its relationship with the mind's structures (isomorphism);
- Neuroses according to Kaila;
- Animal psychology and its relationships with human psychology, evolutionary viewpoints, etc.