

## **Developmental figures in the person's lifetime in the context of contemporary sociocultural trends**

The issue of the social aspect of human development has been investigated by many researchers, but the dynamic changes associated with globalization and glocalization, and recently with the COVID-19 pandemic, still shed some new light on the meaning of interpersonal relations. Paying attention to experiencing the complexity, diversity and rapid changeability of events, and above all to changes related to the pandemic, brings to mind an observation about the universality of the need for close interpersonal relations and the importance of social support in coping with difficult situations. At the same time, the recent restrictions have caused closeness to be sometime in excess, to be even wearing, and maintaining social distance to be a prerequisite for protection against contracting the disease. The diversity of contacts and people in the person's environment introduce an important balance into the person's life. This balance has been recently disturbed. The lecture will be devoted to significant others in the person's development. I suggest defining, analogically to the attachment figure or transition figure, an individual who has a significant meaning for the person's psychosocial development, the developmental figure. In my view, it is any individual whose influence has an impact on the direction of the person's development. I consider interactions with significant others to be frequent and deep, to constitute a source of bond, whereas developmental figures also have an influence through indirect and sporadic contacts. What developmental figures can be distinguished in the person's lifetime? What is their influence? Which of them create a developmental chance, and which of them pose a risk of disturbances? Answers to these questions, among others, are an invitation to the reflection on interpersonal relations in human development.

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