Introduction

The 29th Psychology Colloquium Series of the Committee on Psychological Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences was held on 15–16 June 2021. The colloquium was organized by the Faculty of Psychology of the SWPS University of Social Sciences and Humanities in Warsaw, Institute of Psychology of the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw, and the Faculty of Psychology of the University of Warsaw. The title of this colloquium series was “Implementation – bridging the gap between theoretical and practical psychology”. The practical (and socially beneficial) application of research findings plays a very important role in the contemporary world, and it occupies an important place in systems for evaluating research institutions. Poland has recently introduced a third criterion for evaluating research institutions (Description of the impact of scientific activity on the functioning of society and economy). This criterion has been modeled on the British Research Excellence Framework (REF), and it will be applied for the first time in the assessment process that began in January 2022.

Psychology is a science that solves practical problems, irrespective of advanced basic research in this discipline. In a broad sense, the main goal of psychology is to improve human welfare and quality of life. In practice, this aim is pursued in various ways and in many areas of life, as clearly demonstrated by the lectures delivered during the 29th Psychology Colloquium Series.

Due to the vast social implications of psychological research and the fact that colloquium series have a limited audience, the delivered lectures will be presented as scientific articles in two issues of Przegląd Psychologiczny – the Review of Psychology. These articles will demonstrate that psychological research has much to offer in the applied and practical domain. The benefits associated with research in the field of personality psychology, clinical psychology and cognitive psychology, observed in selected areas of social functioning, will be discussed in the articles included in this issue.

We hope that the presented articles are not only interesting to readers, but also inspiring. The authors’ and research teams’ experiences and achievements provide important information about the possibilities and challenges that accompany researchers’ efforts to make psychology a socially relevant science. They also testify to research accomplishments in this scientific discipline.

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