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ABSTRACTS

UNE RETROSPECTIVE CHRONOLOGIQUE SUR LES ETUDES AVEC FINALITE TYPOLOGIQUE DES POPULATIONS DE TRANSYLVANIE

MARIA VLADESCU, CRISTIANA GLAVCE

Chronological retrospective of the researches in the typology of the Transylvanian population. This is a historical review of the specific studies published during the 50-60 years on the anthropological typologies existing in Transylvania, one of the largest regions and former historical province of Romania. The scientists of the Anthropologic School in Cluj organized the data in a specialized framework for the interwar period, while providing for a specific pattern for the post war studies. Over the time, Transylvania was the object of study for a large number of anthropological researches, and the approaches had different perspectives. The authors selected therefore those studies with a particular focus on the cephalic and facial characteristic, pigmentation, stature, and weight. These are so-called “atlas-type” characteristics, and their analysis represents an important chapter in the Anthropological Atlas of Transylvania. The results are systematically presented according to authors and eco-geographical subregions, named by ethnographers regions or autonomous provinces. The largest number of publications deals with the Romanian ethnic group, without neglecting however other national minorities present in Transylvania: Magyars, Germans, Szekler, Gypsies.

ASPECTS OF THE NEWBORN’S PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT LEVEL BETWEEN 1990-1999

MARIA STIRBU, MONALISA STUPU, CATALIN-GEORGE FEDOR, ROBERT-SIMALCSIK

The studied material is represented by a number of 2,378 newborns located in Iasi municipality (1,206 boys and 1,172 girls) and 2,296 rural subjects in the Iasi county (1,192 boys and 1,104 girls). The processing of the anthropometrical data (weight, length, head and thoracic perimeters) was realized by series. The results confirmed no important differences in the newborn’s physical development between 1990-1999. Some aspects of a larger or lesser importance were noticed between the urban and rural series and these were a result of the rural or urban environment, of the mother’s civil status, instruction level and profession.

INTERREGIONAL VARIABILITY OF THE GLYCEMIA AVERAGE LEVELS IN SOME POPULATIONS FROM MOLDAVIA

MARIA ISTRATE

The author analyses the interregional variability of glycemia in three mountain zones in Moldavia, Romania, and the study material consists in 2,623 subjects. The age-related variability of glycemia is more oscillating for the general male series and presents an increase until 50 years of age. The same variability is registered in the Tara Dornelor series. For the general female series, glycemia presents an age-related increase, up to 70 years of age and a decrease over this age. The same variability is registered in the Neamt series. The glycemia average level in the female Trotus Valley series increases until the last life decade. The highest values are those registered in the Trotus Valley series in comparison with the Moldavian series in general. On the other hand, the lowest values are present in the Tara Dornelor series. The population in Neamt presents almost the same values as the standard series, for both sexes.

AGE-RELATED MODIFICATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL TYPE IN A SAMPLE OF CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

ANGELA SIMALCSIK, R.D. SIMALCSIK

This study is an analysis of the constitutional type in a sample of children (560 boys and 645 girls, age between 11 and 16) and adolescents from Chisinau, Republic of Moldova. The main is to demonstrate that age is the main factor that could influence the variability of the constitutional type. L. Brian's method, slightly modified, was used. As a whole, the studied sample shows a considerable variability of the constitutional type, which changes from a class of age to another, influenced by the growth factor. The boys present an average longiline constitution and the girls a breviline one, with a low rate of occurrence of the medioline type for both genders, in particular for boys. Age-related modifications of the constitutional type represent only a part of the complex research of the children and adolescents' growth and development process, in the urban and rural areas of the Republic of Moldova.

L'ETAT DE SANTE NUTRITIONNELLE CHEZ LES ADOLESCENTS. PERSPECTIVE ANTHROPOLOGIQUE

ELENA RADU, LUMINITA OANA CIOTARU

Adolescents' nutritional health status from an anthropological perspective. The evolution on the nutritional health status during the last two decades, the latter representing a critical social-economic transition for the Romanian society, reveals two tendencies characterizing adolescents and young adults: an increase of underweight prevalence and a decrease of overweight. An underfed adolescent, prematurely pregnant, will give birth to a underweight newborn, who, continuing its malnutrition, will present a ponderal insufficiency during childhood, a low growing and maturation, affecting the entire adolescent and adult biological cycle. Anthropology, with its anthropometric technique, can early diagnose the negative aspects of adolescents' nutrition, the major risk factors, in order to prevent and

fight nutrition problems that would affect the future adult's health. A higher prevalence of underweight can be signalled in men, compared to women, both for 1980 and 1998 populations, which would explain the higher incidence of morbidity and mortality caused by cardiovascular diseases in men. Adolescence represents a unique occasion to stop the vicious circle of structural problems inherited from one generation to another: poverty, sexual discrimination, violence, precarious health and nutrition.

DONNEES CONCERNANT LA PATHOLOGIE DE LA POPULATION DU COULOIR BRAN (DEPARTEMENT DE BRASOV)

ELEONORA LUCA, C. VULPE, V. TOMA, M. RADU, MONICA PETRESCU

Data on the pathology of the population in the Bran-Brasov corridor. On the basis of a medical anthropological survey carried out during 2000 on 565 subjects, the present pathological profile of the population living in the Bran Corridor, Brasov county can be sketched in correlation with a series of environmental natural and anthropic factors acting upon this highland (700-1300 m) rural community. Analysis concluded to a high rate of cardiovascular, rheumatic and respiratory diseases. The most affected population is the elder one, especially people aged 60-80. A surprising finding, requiring a more thorough examination, is the occurrence of digestive, renal, respiratory, rheumatic diseases in the young population aged 20-30.

ENERGETICAL METABOLISM, PSYCHOINFORMATIONAL METABOLISM AND HUMAN RECENT ADAPTATION (I)

CORNELIA GUJA, LACRAMIOARA MURESAN, CALIN E. DOLCOS

The paper contributes to the elucidation of some problems raised by following fundamental questions about anthropological sciences: "What is the most important component of the physical context of life, which determined the evolution of the human being? How could the relative contributions of intra- and inter-species competition and climate changes to speciation be tested?" The air we breathe is in an electric state. The positive and negative ions in various proportions depend on: temperature, pressure, humidity and polluting impurities present in the respective air mass. The breathed in ionized air induces bioionization of the internal environment, transforming it and maintaining it through a cyclic process in a bioelectric state. This state depends on the hydric balance of the organism (hydro-mineral). The ionization and polarization degree of the internal environment (the acid-base substratum) lies at the basis of the neuroendocrine activity, of the ratio and equilibrium between the excitation and inhibition processes. The tegument reactivity tested electrographically by us is a projection of bio-endogenous electrodynamics at the interface of the organism with the external environment.

VARIABILITE DES DERMATOLYPHES DIGITAUX, PALMAIRES ET PLANTAIRES

CHEZ LA POPULATION DE SUMITA (DEPARTEMENT CARAS-SEVERIN)

CORNELIU VULPE, ELEONORA LUCA

Variability of digital, palmar and plantar dermatoglyphics in the population of Sumita (Caras-Severin county). Sumita village was founded in the XIXth century as a colony of the Czechs coming from Bohemia. The sample selected for our research is represented by 265 subjects (130 ? and 135 ?). The study of the dermatoglyphic characters (sexual dimorphism, symmetry, global repartitions) strongly suggests that the population follows the classical schemes of distribution. The registered pattern and frequency of digital prints (A=5.3%, B=57.5%, T=37.2%) enabled us to rank the inhabitants of this village among the populations from Central, Southern and South-Eastern Europe. A number of differences could be observed in a comparative study between the populations from Western and Northern Europe and our sample, namely a higher rate of loops (B=59-70%) and a lower rate of whorls (T=24-33%). As a conclusion we can state that the inhabitants from Sumita, the population sample of our study, could be ranked within the limits of variability specific to Europe.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DERMATOGLYPHIC DIAGNOSIS OF THE DOWN SYNDROME (TRISOMIA 21)

ANA TARCA

Finger dermatoglyphics were studied from the pathological point of view, for a sample of 54 children in Moldavia, with Trisomia 21 (Down Syndrome) (33 boys and 21 girls). The purpose of the study was to find out the most important distortions with clinical implications, specific for this disease, with a particular regard on the latest matter of direct observation. The patients' somatical, physiological and neurophysical malformations are illustrated for both sexes through many abnormalities (distortions) with serious medical implications. These complete the finger dermatoglyphics nomogram used until now for the diagnosis of this serious disease. Through this method, a dermatoglyphic exam could prevent the Down Syndrome and sustain prophylaxis, in the process of identification of the mosaic or balanced translocated Trisomia 21 carriers, that are mostly normal phenotypically, but stigmatized dermatoglyphically. They present the risk of giving birth to descendants with complete Trisomia 21.

LA b-THALASSEMIE EN ROUMANIE. CARACTERISTIQUES DEMOGRAPHIQUES DES SUJETS ATTEINTS DE b-THALASSEMIE MAJEURE

**CORINA VALENTIN, CRISTIANA GLAVCE, GIL BELLIS, IRINA POPESCU, CRISTINA
CIOVICA, FLORENTINA VLADAREANU, NATHALIE GERARD, RAJAGOPAL
KRISHNAMOORTHY, MARC DE BRAEKELEER**

β -thalassemia in Romania. Demographic characteristics of patients with β -thalassemia major. In this

article we analyze the demographical characteristics of a sample composed of 68 patients with β -thalassemia major, coming on a regular basis to receive medical treatment at the National Institute of Hematology, in Bucharest. A molecular analysis was done for each patient at Hopital «Robert Debre», Paris, France, in order to describe the mutations and genotypes. Our results show that 85% of the patients are not family related, 73% are under 20 years and 63% of them are male. We could describe three different family profiles which are important to consider for further data gathering. The distribution of genotypes by age groups shows significant differences between the average age of the patients presenting the homozygous genotype IVS I-110/IVS I-110 and the average age of the patients presenting other genotypes (Wilcoxon significance test). Although these results are only preliminary, they represent important steps for establishing a β -thalassemia prevention program which was the aim of our research.

LIFE HISTORY AS AN ETHNOGRAPHIC METHOD IN STUDYING THE “GRIGORE CERCHEZ” SCHOOL IN BUCHAREST

MARIN CONSTANTIN

The paper focuses on the life-history relevance in characterising the social and cultural profile of the pupils from the “Grigore Cerchez” school in Bucharest. The biographic interview is understood here as an ethnographic method meant to accurately represent the evolution of personality at the level of a micro-community. The life-history method is correlated with the biographic cycle described in psychology as marked by psychosocial conflicts specific to each age. The conclusion of our research refers to the teenagers’ oscillation between their kinship belonging and the search for new social patterns of association and integration.

NOMOGRAM FOR THE QUICK GRAPHIC ESTIMATION OF FATNESS

LIVIU DRAGOMIRESCU

The paper presents a nomogram built for the quick determination of a subject’s fatness class. Only the subject’s height and the weight are used here. The classes of fatness are the ones defined by the World Health Organisation (WHO) using Body Mass Index (BMI). This nomogram can also be used for the quick estimation of the weight limits for normality or any other class of fatness. The information, friendly graphically presented in only one page is equivalent to the one from the numeric table of almost 3 pages in the annex A 3.10 of the work (1). The nomogram was made with a computer program specially conceived by the author. A colour version can be found on the INTERNET at the addresses http://briefcase.yahoo.com/liviu_dragomirescu; http://www.geocities.com/liviu_dragomirescu