

Editorial

It is a great honor for me to have been asked to be Editor-in-Chief of *Psychopathology* as of January, 2012. Christoph Mundt has done a magnificent job during the last 11 years of fostering the Journal's scope and aims as a record of research centered on findings, concepts, models, and diagnostic categories of experimental and descriptive psychopathology as well as clinical psychiatry. Throughout the transition within the last months, his thoughts have continuously been with the journal and he has worked graciously and faithfully with me to ensure a smooth transfer and the continuation of the mission of *Psychopathology*. I do not intend a drastic redirection for the journal. The journal will continue to serve as a publication platform for empirical clinical research and issues of classification which will gain additional impetus by the upcoming DSM-5 and ICD-11. It aims at including works on psychopathological antecedents and perionset stages of psychiatric disorders in young people and mental health issues during transition to adulthood. I want to encourage contributions of experimental psychopathology which deepen our understanding of both, observable phenomena and subjective experiences that appear in the context of psychiatric disorders. And, *Psychopathology* will resume providing a forum for phenomenological psychopathology including philosophical and hermeneutic perspectives. As neurobiological research in psychiatry can register spectacular progress within the last decades, increasing effort is needed to bring psychopathology and neuroscience – or to put in other words – mind and brain closer together promoting a new quality of interdisciplinary work through the linking of scholarly cultures. The more complex the psychic functions,

the more do neuroscientists need a theoretically founded careful phenomenological description and definition of the phenomena whose biological bases they intend to detect. *Psychopathology* intends to provide such a platform for intensive exchange between philosophy, phenomenology, experimental psychopathology and neuroscience aiming at an increment of convergence between clinical (objective and subjective) phenomena, data on neurobiological underpinnings and the elaborate conceptualization of psychiatric disorders. The validity of concepts that are applied in the neurosciences of mental functions and dysfunctions should be evaluated by means of both hermeneutic and heuristic methodologies in order to closely bring together mind and brain. A further focus will be to reconsider the complex interplay between biology and social environments in the development of psychiatric disorders which are characterized by derailments in interpersonal dysfunction, whether they occur in adults or in adolescents with their rapidly maturing brains.

The topics I have explained above will be managed by editors in the respective field. Thomas Fuchs (Heidelberg) with his double career in psychiatry and philosophy, who can refer to an already longstanding excellent work for *Psychopathology* as both an associate editor and an author of a number of exciting papers represents the field of 'Phenomenology' including the endorsement of philosophical perspectives. Vittorio Gallese (Parma) with his broad expertise in neurophysiology, social neuroscience and philosophy of mind will inspire the interdisciplinary dialogue between psychopathology and neuroscience and will handle all manuscripts within the field close to the 'Interface between Mind and Brain'. Patrick

McGorry (Parkville/Melbourne) with his degree in child and adolescence psychiatry and his unique expertise in the field of ‘Developmental Psychopathology’ will be responsible for all works on mental health during transition to adulthood, and I myself will do the job of the field editor for ‘Experimental Psychopathology’.

I am very glad to announce that Hagop S. Akiskal (San Diego) who has already supported Christoph Mundt as one of the editors of *Psychopathology* for many years will continue his longstanding endeavor for the journal in the position of Honorary Consultant Editor.

I want to thank Christoph Mundt for all the work he has done for the journal. I thank several distinguished members of our editorial board who will be stepping down. I am pleased that many editorial members will continue their commitment for the journal and I am particularly happy to welcome several new members to the editorial board: Arnoud Arntz (Maastricht), Anna Buch-

heim (Salzburg), Franz Caspar (Bern), Andrew Chanen (Melbourne), John Gunderson (New York), Martin Härter (Hamburg), Sabine Löber (Heidelberg), Corinna Reck (Heidelberg), Knut Schnell (Heidelberg), Larry Siever (New York), Kenneth Silk (Ann Arbor), Corrado Sinigaglia (Milano), Alison Yung (Melbourne). Also, I want to thank Shirin Neidlein who has quickly worked herself in the various tasks of the editorial assistant and has best assisted me through some early challenges. I want to thank the publisher, Gabriella Karger, for her confidence and valuable advice. To the readers of *Psychopathology*, I am looking forward to your continuing interest. I will be happy to receive manuscripts from those colleagues who have contributed earlier to the journal and I would be particularly thankful to work together with the high-quality referees who have supported us in the past.

Sabine C. Herpertz, Heidelberg