

SOCIAL GERONTOLOGY AS AN APPLIED SYSTEMS BEHAVIOR AND THEORY

Prof. Emer. Dr., Dr. **Matjaž MULEJ**

University of Maribor, Slovenia, Europe, IRDO Institute for the Development of Social Responsibility,

<http://www.irdo.si>

IRDO, head of research unit, Maribor, IASCYS vice-president

matjaz.mulej@um.si

Borut Ambrožič,

B.S. in law, doctoral student of social gerontology,

IRDO Institute for the Development of Social Responsibility, Maribor, Slovenia

borut.ambrozic@triera.net

According to Bertalanffy, the essence of systems theory is the effort of academics and practitioners to help humankind overcome the usual and often dangerous one-sidedness caused by over-specialization into single professions and by related oversights of (often crucial) attributes. Wiener created cybernetics on the same basis, i.e. by creative interdisciplinary cooperation, which changed over-specialization into cooperating specialization. *Mulej's Dialectical Systems theory* adds a focus on selection of all and only crucial viewpoints or specializations in a synergy called a dialectical system; it denotes their interdependence due to their mutual differences with which they complete each other up toward the requisite holism (replacing the fictitious holism typical of a single discipline, while a total, i.e. real holism including a synergy of totally all disciplines reaches beyond human capacities, even in a team work).

Such a change toward a dialectical system approach became necessary also in dealing with elderly people. Population's ageing and increasing longevity is a global issue. Social Gerontology as interdisciplinary science is studying the mechanics and mysteries of longevity, aging and population health. A wide range of disciplines are engaging academics and practitioners working on quality ageing. Social gerontologists are human service specialists who advocate for older adults. Today there are many publications on every aspect on social gerontology.

A multidisciplinary understanding of population's ageing is crucial, but not enough, since it may mean application of several disciplines with no or poor cooperation, which is included in an interdisciplinary approach via a dialectical system. Choosing the really crucial viewpoints/disciplines and enabling their creative cooperation is a crucial task of the involved persons. This process can enjoy support from social responsibility's three crucial concepts: one's responsibility for one's impacts over society, i.e. humans and nature, interdependence, and holistic approach, supported by the seven principles, i.e. accountability, transparency, ethics, respect for stakeholders' interests, rule of law, international norms, and human rights.

Matjaz MULEJ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matjaz_Mulej

Matjaz MULEJ, after his Doctorates in Economics/Systems Theory and in Innovation Management, used to work at the University of Maribor, where he still works with doctoral students. He works also in other Slovene higher education institutions. He retired in 2001 as Professor Emeritus of Systems and Innovation Theory. For the recent 10 years he has applied systems theory also to social responsibility as personal and organizational attributes – ethics of responsibility, interdependence and requisite holism. He published more than 1.800 publications in over 40 countries. He was visiting professor at foreign universities for 15 semesters, mostly in US, including Cornell (as Fulbright scholar), also in Austria, China, Germany, Mexico, and gave talks in about 50 further universities around the world. He consulted to organizations in 6 countries about 500 times. He is author of the Dialectical Systems Theory, Innovative Business Paradigm and Methods for transitional countries and enterprises; many millions of innovation results value are reported. He is a member of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts, Salzburg (2004), European Academy of Sciences and Humanities, Paris (2004), International Academy for Systems and Cybernetic Sciences, Vienna, now in France (2010; establishing former head, now vice-president). He was president of IFSR, president of the Slovene Systems Research Society (since 1991), head of the research unit of IRDO Institute for Development of Social Responsibility. Under his impact University of Maribor became 'Sustainable and Socially Responsible University of Maribor' with an action program for 2014-2020. He was granted all available official awards for his work on non-technological innovations in Yugoslavia, Slovenia, Maribor and University of Maribor. In 2013-2016 he published and edited 9 books, 3 collections of articles (in Systems Research and Behavioral Science, Kybernetes, Systems Practice and Action Research) with more than 100 authors from 30 countries, and 4 conference proceedings, all about **systemic behavior via social responsibility**. His most recent award is HORUS platina award for 60 years of volunteering as a practice of social responsibility.