

INTRODUCTION TO THE SPECIAL ISSUE ON CYBERPSYCHOLOGY

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With great pleasure, we present the special issue of *Annals of Psychology* dedicated to cyberpsychology. The work on this issue has been an inspiring journey for us, as it turns out that in the lively discourse on technology, artificial intelligence, and their impact on the quality of human life, there is a dearth of adequate psychological research conducted on this subject in Poland. This is understandable, as cyberpsychology is still a relatively young subdomain. Its relationship with other fields (e.g., human–computer interaction, computer science, engineering) and its research program require further clarification. Focusing attention on the study of the human mind in the context of interaction with and through technology, examining how such innovations influence human behaviours and dependencies (Harley et al., 2018), cyberpsychology remains under the strong influence of innovations whose functioning is relatively unfamiliar to most people, including psychologists (Fortuna & Gorbaniuk, 2022). By dedicating a special issue of the *Annals* to cyberpsychology, we aim to emphasize the importance of conducting research in this area and the societal significance of its results.

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Cyberpsychology investigates humans in specific environments filled with technology in their work, education, and entertainment. According to the *Digital 2023* report, in January 2023, 64.4% of the world's population constituted Internet users (with a 1.9% increase in one year), and 59.4% of the global population were active users of social media (a 3% increase). The COVID-19 pandemic has made remote work the norm, and even those previously hesitant to use the Internet have become its users (Phillips, 2020). The industry is making the environment dense with technology by utilising it for production automation (the third industrial revolution) and designing interactions with rational agents capable of machine learning (industry 4.0; Ghislieri et al., 2018). Meanwhile, successive startups are delivering increasingly advanced innovations to users, exemplified by ChatGPT, which was introduced for wide use by OpenAI in November 2022. The efficiency of artificial intelligence-based agents is impressive. In a study involving over 1.5 million players engaged in anonymous two-minute chat sessions with either another human or an AI language model, participants correctly identified the identity of their partners only 68% of the time. In the subset of games where users interacted with an AI bot, correct guess rates dropped to 60% (Jannai et al., 2023). The applicability of the Turing test to these types of systems is questioned, which motivates the use of benchmarks to assess performance in specific skills such as linguistic knowledge, common sense reasoning, and mathematical skills (Biever, 2023).

The articles presented in this special issue comprehensively represent the heterogeneous and dynamically evolving aspects of cyberpsychology. The articles are mostly research reports. However, the first article, "Cyberpsychology and Media Studies: Contemporary Research Directions and Sources of Mutual Inspiration" is theoretical as it examines the relationship between cyberpsychology and media studies in the context of common research fields, paradigms and concepts. The author also analyzes methods of phenomena associated with the media sphere and cyberculture. The dynamics of change in thinking about the broadly understood media and digital transformation are indicated. It also shows that cyberpsychology is embedded in a broader cultural context related to media development and interaction between the media and its users.

The authors of the second article, "Ready or Not? Examining Acceptance and Fears of Robots in the Labor Market: A Survey of a Polish Sample", attempted to answer the question of whether there were any distinct gender-based differences in the levels of acceptance and concerns about robots in the workforce. The authors also compared views on robots between individuals in physical work and those in other professions. The authors also analysed the relationship between familiarity or expertise in robotics and general perceptions of robots, especially regarding the

acceptance of robots in professional roles and any concerns about potential changes in the market.

Research on the relationship between technology and the user rarely focuses on individuals with disabilities, so we are pleased to present an article titled “The perspectives of people with disabilities on the characteristics and conditions of remote work—the thematic and dual sentiment analysis”, which addresses the issue of individuals with disabilities working remotely. Through qualitative research methodology, the authors got to the topics raised by employees with disabilities in the context of their remote work.

Additionally, in the context of individuals with disabilities, Readers are invited to read “The Test of Problematic Using of the Internet—Adaptation of the Instrument for a Group of People With Mild Intellectual Disability and a Preliminary Analysis of Its Psychometric Properties”. This article presents research on an adaptation of the Test of Problematic Using of the Internet (TPUI; Poprawa, 2011) for individuals with mild intellectual disability. Such people can benefit from the use of new media, but there are risks involved in Internet use (see Glencross et al., 2021). Therefore, there is a great demand for methods dedicated to this group of users that can serve as screening tools for problematic Internet use.

Finally comes the article “Measuring Technology Interference in Parent–Child Relationship: The Polish Version of the Disrupt Scale”. It describes the development of the Polish version of the Distraction in Social Relations and Use of Parent Technology questionnaire (DISRUPT), which is a short 4-item measure created by McDaniel (2021). The questionnaire assesses technology interference during the parent–child common time. The parent–child relationship is important in a child’s development. However, an excessive use of the smartphone and other mobile devices can negatively affect parent–child interactions. Therefore, a screening tool for assessing this disruption will be helpful for researchers, and for practitioners who provide child therapy to young children. Additionally, it should be noted that parent–child interaction can shape behavior related to the new media use in later developmental periods (see Alvarez-Monjaras et al., 2019; Cudo et al., 2020, 2022, 2023).

We present this special issue on different shades of cyberpsychology, hoping that these different contexts of cyberpsychology will inspire Readers to reflect on the behavior of humans in specific environments abounding in technology at work, school, university, and during entertainment.

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