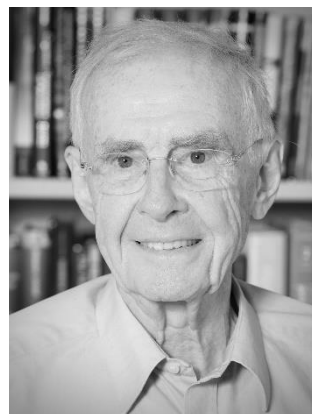


In memoriam Kurt Pawlik (1934-2022)

Gebhard Sammer

Kurt Pawlik was Professor of Psychology from spring 1966 to 2002 and Professor Emeritus at the University of Hamburg until his passing at the age of 89 on August 14, 2022.

"As is true of any scientist... he can best convey his thoughts to us by his own work, his own word," wrote Kurt Pawlik in the introduction to a facsimile reprint of William Stern's "Methodological Foundations of Differential Psychology" (Pawlik, 1994). In more than 190 individual publications in manuals, anthologies and scientific journals, 15 books as editor, 3 books as author, and as editor and co-editor or founder of numerous scientific books, series and journals, Kurt Pawlik shares his thoughts, ideas and insights with us. In addition, he left an impressive, unfussy autobiographical account of important aspects of his personal, scientific, and academic development (Pawlik, 2016)¹.



Academic Career

Born in Austria, he studied psychology, anthropology and philosophy at the University of Vienna. He became a research assistant and doctoral student with the self-chosen topic "Die Fähigkeit zur Bildung getrennter Teilintentionen im Bewußtsein"² with Hubert Rohracher, a strictly empirical and biologically oriented scientist who had already set up an EEG laboratory for psychological research. Encounters with outstanding scientists such as Hans Asperger or Viktor Frankl, the first reading of "foreign specialist literature" (a seminar by Erich Mittenecker) and unrestricted access to the institute's library as a research assistant had had a strong influence on him at the beginning of his career (Pawlik, 2016).

He completed his awarded doctorate in 1959 with the top grade "sub auspiciis praesidentis rei publicae", which included the offer of a full-time assistant position.

¹ The facts in this article were selected subjectively by the author and are incomplete. The comments represent his memories and perspectives.

² "Separability from the hypothetical educational ability of individual partial intentions into consciousness"

Through the mediation of Gustav A. Lienert, he was able to take up a position as a research assistant at the University of Illinois in the "Laboratory of Personality Assessment and Group Behavior" under the direction of the great factor analyst and personality researcher Raymond B. Cattell (1960-62). The inspiring environment of scientific excellence there and the opportunity to use factor analysis to search for the "elements of personality" shaped him, as he said himself, both scientifically and personally (Pawlik, 2016). Kurt Pawlik was fascinated by the availability of modern computer technology - after all, he had "cranked down" all factor analysis for his dissertation with a mechanical calculator Brunsviga. Perhaps that's why powerful computing has always been an issue for him. When I came to his department in 1989, there was a separate terminal room connected to the university's mainframe and already had an IBM XT PC and access to Gopher (the precursor to the WWW) via an acoustic coupler. I also remember a lecture in Hamburg in 1994 in which he complained that although considerable computing capacity was being funded for weather and climate research, the IT needs of psychology were not being sufficiently recognized. Long before that, he had gradually digitized his EEG laboratory and initiated the development of a program library for psychological data processing. Latter was his first application for DFG individual research grants (Pawlik, 2016).

In 1962 he returned to Vienna to complete his habilitation in 1965. He habilitated with his factor-analytical work "Elementarfunktionen psychomotorischer Übungsverläufe"³ (Pawlik, 1965) and "Dimensionen des Verhaltens"⁴ (Pawlik, 1968). I think he was proud of this important book. Once he gave me a copy in the original paper wrapping. I have two copies, and in writing this "in memoriam" I removed the paper from this still-wrapped copy and let the freshly printed pages run through my fingers.

In the same year (1966), Kurt Pawlik, at the age of almost 32, was appointed full professor of psychology at the University of Hamburg. Despite further appointments to professorships (according to CV, University of Hamburg: Australian National University/Canberra, University of Vienna, University of Bonn, University of Mainz, University of Düsseldorf), he remained true to this position throughout his life. When he started in Hamburg, the subjects were divided between him and the previous sole professor for psychology, Peter R. Hofstätter. His chair was called "General, Differential and Applied Psychology", however, included psychodiagnostics, methodology, experimental psychology and later biological psychology and clinical neuropsychology as well.

³ "Elementary functions of psychomotor exercise processes"

⁴ „Dimensions of behavior"

Research

In biopsychological research, he saw the need to reintroduce animal research. He began to work with planarians (Pawlik, 1973) then from 1974 his research group focused on protein biosynthesis and LTM coding and later longitudinal research on the development of memory over the lifespan in rats until his emeritation.

In the 1990s, Kurt Pawlik recognized the deficits in patient care after diseases or disorders of the CNS, in exchange with the clinical departments of the Hamburg University Hospital Eppendorf. In the Anglo-Saxon-American countries, this development had already progressed further since the 1960s. He built up a neuropsychological research focus with courses on clinical neuropsychology, a neuropsychological outpatient clinic and research on (neuro)psychological diagnostics and therapy. He was also involved in the "Joint Commission for Clinical Neuropsychology" (German Society for Psychology, Professional Association of German Psychologists, Society for Neuropsychology and German Society for Neurology), as a chairman (1992-2000), which had a significant influence on the further development of the Clinical neuropsychology in research, teaching and patient care in Germany.

Since his doctorate, Kurt Pawlik has been continuously involved in differential psychology and its methodology, in particular with studies on intelligence, personality and learning. His own studies of the Australian Aborigines and criticism of other studies on this population published at the time drew his attention to the (psycho-)ecological representativeness of psychological research. He therefore called for a research methodology that relies not only on laboratory experiments but also on field research (Pawlik, 1978). Early on he also showed interest in psychological dimensions of global climate change (Pawlik, 1991). Finally, the DFG priority program "Umwelt und Verhalten"⁵ (Pawlik & Stapf, 1992) was initiated, which focused on ambulatory research into experience and behavior in normal everyday life. This research area was also a pioneering achievement for current psychological field research (ambulatory assessment) insofar as the technical equipment for such an approach was not yet ready. While smartphones or other cellular-connected devices are now available in any size and with sufficient battery capacity, Kurt Pawlik's research group had to develop innovative handheld devices ("Verhaltensdatenrekorder"⁶) that were almost the size of a brick. It had a 2-line LCD display and you could even record psychophysiological parameters. Repeated measures design over several weeks allowed the study of within-subjects variability and error-corrected state-trait analyzes of traits under everyday living conditions (Pawlik & Buse, 1982). The tests were later made available as an AMBU test battery (Pawlik & Buse, 2002). A buzzword that was ubiquitous in the working group was "trans-situative behavioral consistency".

⁵ "Environment and Behavior"

⁶ "Behavioural data recorders"

International Merits

Kurt Pawlik saw himself expressly as a generalist in the science of psychology, "as a generalist beyond all necessary specialization in research" (Pawlik, 2016). He always looked at psychology holistically, positioned himself against tendencies towards division and always thought and acted in an interdisciplinary manner. This may explain his strong interest in international tasks. The international networking within psychology as a cumulative scientific discipline and outside with other international interest groups was just as important to Kurt Pawlik as his research interests outlined above. Kurt Pawlik was deeply convinced that science, but especially psychology, could make a significant contribution to alleviating the great problems of the time.

His international activities were correspondingly numerous. Probably the most important international positions were at the International Union of Psychological Science (IUPsys) and the International Science Council (ISSC). He served in the IUPsys from 1978 until his passing as Deputy Secretary General, Secretary General, President, Past President and Honorary Life Member of the Executive Committee, in the ISSC as Member of the Executive Committee, Vice President, President and Past President (1986-2004).

In his international positions he has been involved in bridging cultural and language barriers in publishing, supporting psychology in developing countries and supporting change and (re)establishing national scientific organizations for psychology in the context of political changes. In this context he himself mentioned the reintroduction of psychology as a science in China after the Cultural Revolution, the founding of the new South African Psychological Society after the end of apartheid, the transition of the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia to nation states and the transition of the national society to the DGPs of the reunified Federal Republic of Germany (Pawlik, 2016). He also sought better collaboration with the United Nations, where he felt psychology was underrepresented (Kosinski & Pawlik, 2003). For these concerns, among others, Mark R. Rosenzweig (Berkeley) and Géry d'Ydewalle (Brussels) were very close collegial friends on the international stage.

Academic Functions in Germany

Kurt Pawlik has held many scientific and academic positions. He was dean of the Faculty of Philosophy (1969-70) until it was dissolved and transferred to departments, later spokesman for the Department of Psychology (1980-82; 1998-2000). He was chairman (1972-74) and deputy chairman (1974-76) of the German Society for Psychology (DGPs), spokesman (1986-90) of the specialist group for biological psychology (DGPs), honorary member of DGPs since 2022, deputy spokesperson (1976-83) of the Review Board Psychology of the DFG, and last not least 1978 co-founder of the Wilhelm-Wundt-Society for basic psychological research together with Theo Herrmann. In the further course of his career, he was deputy president (1985-87) and

president (2000-07) of the Joachim Jungius Society of Sciences, Hamburg. After his emeritation in 2002, he was a member of the founding committee of the Academy of Sciences in Hamburg (2005) and chairman (2007-13) and honorary member (since 2006). It was in these academic societies that he experienced the interchange and collaboration between sciences that he had always wished for. He was "sincerely grateful for the rare experience of being able to co-found an academy" and said he could "hardly imagine a more scientifically attractive task for an emeritus" (Pawlik, 2016).

He has been the editor of a number of respected German journals and book series, such as "Methoden der Psychologie"⁷, "Lehr- und Forschungstexte Psychologie"⁸, Volumes of the Encyclopedia of Psychology, and others. Also worth mentioning are his strong efforts to create an internationally respected platform for European psychology with the journal *European Psychologist*, of which he was the founding editor-in-chief (1996-2003). The special cooperation in many of the projects mentioned with Gerhard-Jürgen Hogrefe should be emphasized here. He also experienced a lot of, in his words - creative freedom as a member (1985-2009) of the scientific advisory board of the Hans Huber Verlag (Pawlik, 2016).

Honors and Awards

In addition to the honors already mentioned, there are a few other important ones. This certainly includes the Austrian Cross of Honor for Science and Art – 1st Class (1994), the "Portugalese Medal of Merit" from the Senate of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg (2002), the Joachim Jungius Medal from the Joachim Jungius-Science Society (2006), the "Golden Doctorate" from the University of Vienna/Austria (2010). He was a Fellow of the Chinese Psychological Society, Beijing/PR China (since 2004), a Fellow of the Psychological Society, Washington DC/USA (since 2011) and received the Outstanding Psychologist Award for Distinguished Contributions to Global Psychology from Div International Psychology, American Psychological Association (Washington, DC /USA, 2012).

Last but not least some personal impressions

Kurt Pawlik belonged to the generation of university teachers who always wore a suit and tie. I remember his dealings with all employees and colleagues as correct, friendly and respectful. He came to the office in the morning and usually stayed late into the night. If you needed something, he usually took his time. Stimulating discussions

⁷ "Methods of Psychology"

⁸ "Psychology Teaching and Research Texts"

about science usually arose in the evenings. He then leaned casually against the frame of his office door, appeared relaxed and often cheerful, satisfied with the day.

I could not find any references to Kurt Pawlik's teaching style. My impression from 1989-99 was that he took his lectures very seriously and almost never missed a lecture. It was his habit to ask his assistant to operate the slide projector. So I attended every lecture. When I picked up the sled with the slides shortly before, he was always busy preparing for the lecture. The result was that each lecture was updated with new literature, fresh impressions from the last congresses or international psychology. He gave diploma and doctoral students many suggestions, but left them plenty of room for their own ideas - just as he had experienced with his academic teacher Hubert Rohrer. During the exams he was understanding and supportive, but if he started bending paper clips it was a sign that the exam wasn't going too well.

Kurt Pawlik will be remembered in a variety of settings and situations. He has dedicated his life to scientific psychology, the unity of the discipline, and the dissemination of knowledge to everyone from policymakers to the interested lay public. He was an exemplary scientist, outstanding, truthful, clever, enthusiastic, who often foresaw urgent questions of the future. He was an important and productive part of scientific psychology, a generalist thought leader, teacher and communicator. Many of his ideas and actions will forever be part of psychology and will continue to influence the future development of the discipline. Thank you, Kurt Pawlik.

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