

## Psychopathology: Far-east of Asia and West-ends of Europe and Africa

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Since the 1970's there has been a steady decline in research activities in the field of psychopathology (meaning the field of descriptive psychopathology, phenomenology and clinical diagnostics), which was definitively represented by the monumental work "Allgemeine Psychopathologie" by Karl Jaspers in 1913. For example, only about a dozen papers concerning this field were published in the 1991-1993 issues of *Der Nervenarzt* (a journal which deals with this and other fields), while about five times this number were published in the 1966-1967 issues, a quarter of a century before. Psychopathology is an internationally published journal specializing in this field; nonetheless, in my opinion, fewer and fewer interesting papers concerning psychopathology are appearing in English. In the United States, there seems even to be no standard meaning for the term "psychopathology"; it sometimes refers to an introductory course given at medical schools before students start their clinical rotation.

As far as this author knows, there are only three countries in which specialists publish their own national journal concerning psychopathology:

Japan (*Rinsho Seishin Byori*; Japanese Journal of Psychopathology); Spain (*Psicopatologia*) and Senegal (*Psychopathologie Africaine: Société de psychopathologie et d'hygiène mentale de Dakar*).

It is very interesting that psychopathology has found a home amid the cultures of these countries, located so far apart at the eastern, south-western and western tips of their respective regions.

It remains to be seen whether the present situation of psychopathology is comparable to the vigorous culture which rose on the outskirts of the Roman Empire, or is but a "foible" of a few remaining medical communities (Okada, 1989; Okada, 1993).

### References

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