

Forbidden psychology
Between charlatanry and science

by Tomasz Witkowski

The book consists of three main parts.

The **first** part is devoted to the problems of academic psychology. I describe how mistakes within academic psychology supported eugenics and how Cyril Burt's frauds influenced the British educational system. I analyze cases from different countries to examine ethical problems in scientific psychology such as frauds, plagiarism, need for replications, responsibility for raw data etc. At the end of this part I analyze current condition of scientific psychology and point out possible solutions to the ethical problems.

The **second** part is concerned with problems derived from psychotherapeutic practice. Similarly to part one, I describe some historical cases of pseudoscientific therapies such as psychoanalysis and repressed memory therapy. Next, I review scientific literature related to NLP and show results of empirical research which point to NLP as a pseudoscience. Afterwards, I discuss problems connected with psychotherapy. Do psychotherapists influence their patients' values? What is the measure of therapy effectiveness, is it the client's satisfaction or something else? Why do psychotherapists think that they know what is best for their clients? I also examine numerous problems derived from psychotherapeutic practice.

The **third** part describes my Sokal-style psychological hoax and the resulting broad discussion among academics about pseudoscience and psycho-business. I relate how I recreated the Sokal hoax. I managed to publish an article on morphic resonance in the *Charaktery* psychology journal,. Most of the 'facts' in the article were completely false. Not only did the journal Editors fail to check the data, but they actively 'helped' to write the article by proposing to add to it pirated excerpts from an old Rupert Sheldrake review – this from a journal that boasts more than twelve professors and PhDs on its board. I analyze my hoax in terms of possibilities of creating quite new pseudoscience/pseudotherapy and selling it as a market product.