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Somatopsychology: When Madness Arises from the Body

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Message from the Guest Editor

Mental disorders are not only generated by psychosocial causes. In the field of somatic causes of mental disorders, one can, e.g., distinguish between infectious, genetic, endocrine, metabolic, and neurological disorders. In addition, there are organ diseases, for example, anemia, heart failure, or pulmonary dysfunction, which can result in cognitive disorders. Kidney or liver diseases can lead to poisoning, which then also negatively affects mental processes. In addition to reduced neurotransmitters, the immune system has increasingly come into focus in the search for the causes of burnout, depression, and fatigue syndrome. Someone who is ill shows typical sickness behavior, which also includes symptoms that loosely resemble a depressed state of exhaustion. Even a succinct flu infection causes psychological changes. Thus far, there has been no systematization of somatopsychology. This Special Issue will collect examples from different fields, e.g., psychoendocrinology, psychoneuroimmunology, changes in blood values, metabolic disorders, or neurological disorders that lead to psychological symptoms.



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Special Issue