

EDITORIAL

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Preface: Special Issue “Emil Kraepelin and 20th Century Psychiatry”

Some time ago the editors of the European Archives of Psychiatry and Clinical Neuroscience had decided to prepare a Special Issue dedicated to the historical traces in modern psychiatry that go back to Emil Kraepelin. Our intention was to win over four or five leading representatives of psychiatric research who would be prepared to investigate the historical context of their own work. We were successful in winning Prof. Assen Jablensky (Perth) as guest editor whose work on Kraepelin's theory and practice in diagnostic classification and whose experience in different psychiatric cultures suggested that he would be an excellent choice for this task. His attempt to recruit authors yielded a surprise: He not only received the consent but also 8 contributions from renowned authors. This

clearly exceeded the usual size of a Special Issue. The large range of subjects treated under a common historical perspective, the quality of the contributions, and the topical importance of the project caused the editors to make a rather unusual decision: We present to the readers of the European Archives a Special Issue of excessive length, 9 papers including editorial. We are convinced to have chosen a subject that mirrors the integration and further progress of originally European approaches in the international development of psychiatry.

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(Coordinating Editor)