

Critical Reflections on the Concept of Internet Addiction



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SUMMARY: *Our study deals with the critical analysis of the concept of internet addiction. The growing research interest in this area and a number of controversial issues surrounding the concept of internet addiction are considered. Special attention is focused on the problem of defining this construct as a psychopathological disorder, a unilateral perspective on the comorbidity of excessive internet use with other mental problems, the separation of this concept from its relationship with an individual personality, and the failure to reflect on the various ways in which the internet is used. Case studies from our practice are presented to demonstrate that the ways in which the internet is used must be considered in the context of specific personality features.*

KEY WORDS: INTERNET ADDICTION – CRITICAL ANALYSIS – PSYCHOPATHOLOGY

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