

Biographical sketch on Professor Polona Selič

Dr. Polona Selič is clinical and forensic psychologist, Professor and Research Counsellor, currently employed as researcher at the Department of Family Medicine at Faculty of Medicine, University of Ljubljana.

As a forensic psychologist, Polona Selič worked in Police Administration during the period 1994 to 2002, introduced profiling as an investigation method and led Slovenian Polygraph School, accredited by American Polygraph Association, which Full Member she became. She was the very first expert from Central and Eastern Europe who joined the American Academy of Forensic Sciences.

In period 2002 to 2006, Polona Selič worked as a counsellor to Human rights Ombudsman of Republic of Slovenia, was a member of group of specialists within Council of Europe, dealing with sexual abuse and exploitation in children, and in 2005, a general reporter in international conference Yokohama review for Europe and central Asia. During that period, she closely collaborated with UNICEF Innocenti research centre in Florence.

After 2005, she joined Research division of the Department of family medicine and founded Institute for psycho physiological studies Pares, to establish research and development within the field of credibility assessment. She left Pares Institute in 2015.

As a lecturer, she covered interpersonal violence at Faculty of criminal justice and security, and topic of children exposed to violence at the Faculty of education, University of Ljubljana. After 2010, she joined the European Faculty of Law as lecturer covering Criminal investigation basics and Psychology and Interpersonal violence as a pattern of interpersonal communication in the 21st century. Besides that, she leads workshops on communication, burnout and stress management. Her research is focused on the same fields.

Professor Selič conducted the studies An Analysis of Behavioural Responses and Bio-psycho-social Wellbeing among Members of the Slovenian Armed Forces in Peaceful and Active Duty Circumstances – Coping with Stress and Burn-Out; and The Prevalence of Domestic Violence in Primary Care Patients in Slovenia, which was supported by Municipality of Ljubljana. She also participated in several other research projects, e.g. Improvement of access to treatment for people with alcohol and drug related problems, Reducing harm and building capacities for children affected by parental alcohol problems in Europe, and Assessment of acceptability of a multi-factorial risk scale for depression in family medicine. In the last decade she was a senior researcher in the study Possible uses of modern information technologies in doctor-patient communication in family medicine and afterwards has been coordinating participating parties in the applied research project entitled Development of an algorithm for determining of genetic risk at the primary healthcare level: a new tool for primary prevention. Her other work is partially supported by the Slovenian Research Agency, Research Programme Code P3-0339.

Polona Selič has been adding special focus on the psychological dimension of health and well-being in Slovenian family medicine and emphasizing individual and interpersonal characteristics in communication. In 1999, her monographic publication Psychology of modern times` diseases was issued. In 2007, she wrote a university textbook Nonverbal communication for every day's use. Her bibliography contains over 400 units, of them approximately 70 research papers.