

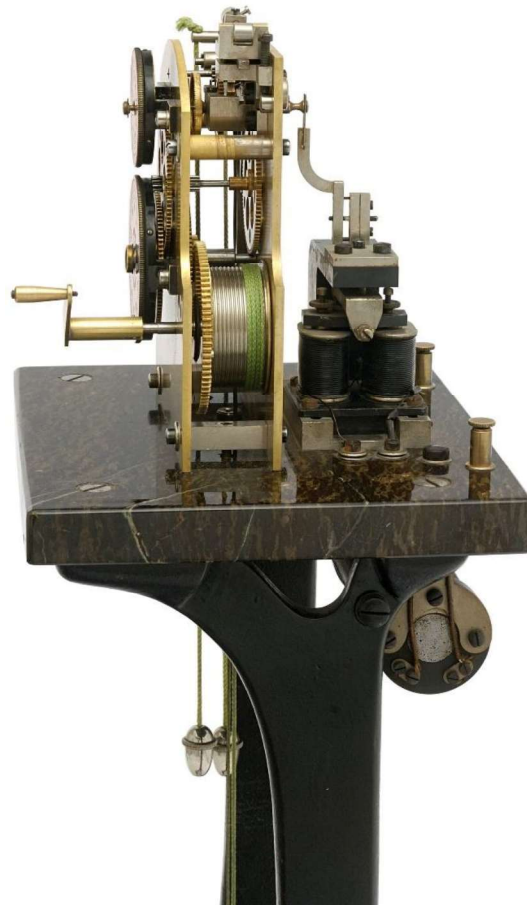
XXXI INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

# EMPIRICAL STUDIES IN PSYCHOLOGY

MARCH 28 – 30, 2025

FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY, UNIVERSITY OF BELGRADE

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INSTITUTE OF PSYCHOLOGY  
LABORATORY FOR EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY  
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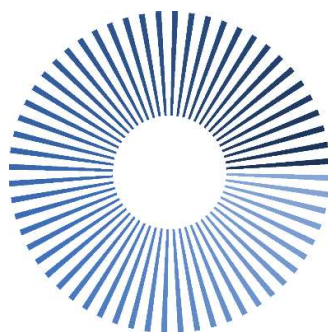
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BELGRADE, 2025

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CHRONOSCOPE WITH POLARIZED MAGNET, AFTER SCHULZE  
(E. Zimmermann, Leipzig – Berlin)

Precision clock mechanism with time resolution up to 1 millisecond that can be connected to a number of different instruments. The apparatus is an improved version of Hipp's chronoscope. Instead of an electromagnet, Schulze introduced a polarized magnet which makes chronoscope suitable for all time intervals, even at varied DC voltage. The chronoscope has two dials: the upper dial indicates milliseconds, and the lower indicates tenths of a second.

From the Collection of Old Scientific Instruments of the Laboratory of Experimental Psychology, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade

## NO ONE'S CHILD – ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES IN INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS

**Svetlana Pavlović<sup>\*1</sup>, Jelena Vasić<sup>2</sup>, Oliver Tošković<sup>3</sup>, & Milica Pejović Milovančević<sup>4</sup>**<sup>1</sup>Institute of Criminological and Sociological Research, Belgrade<sup>2</sup>Institute for Mental Health, Belgrade<sup>3</sup>University of Belgrade, Faculty of Philosophy, Laboratory for Experimental Psychology<sup>4</sup>Institute for Mental Health, Belgrade

Adverse childhood experiences (ACE) are traumatic events occurring before the age of 18 that can have lasting effects on health and well-being. Given the substandard living conditions in informal settlements (IS), characterized by inadequate housing, poverty, and limited access to basic rights, we hypothesized that the prevalence of ACEs would be higher in these communities compared to the general population. This study aimed to assess the prevalence and correlates of ACEs among residents of IS in Belgrade and its surroundings, comparing them with the general population in Serbia. We sampled 505 individuals aged 18-65 from IS using quota sampling. The data was collected by Center for integration of youth interviewers, and it was financed by Church World Services. Additionally we used a representative sample of 2792 individuals from the general Serbian population from the previous study which is organized by UNICEF. The research employed the ACE International Questionnaire, Trauma Symptom Checklist, Benevolent Childhood Experience scale, HEXACO personality inventory, DELTA9, and Non-Suicidal Self-Injury (NSSI) questionnaire. ACEs were recorded as binary outcomes. The results indicated significant differences between the two groups. Residents of IS have experienced a higher rate of nearly all ACE types. Among the IS group, 68.5% reported four or more ACEs, in contrast to 41% in the general population, and only 3% of IS residents had no ACEs compared to 13% in the general population. Additionally, suicide attempts were reported by 8.9% of IS residents, as opposed to 2% in the general population. The most common ACEs in IS were community violence (70.1%), parental separation (64.6%), physical neglect (59.4%), and psychological abuse (48.1%). Multiple regression analysis revealed ( $R^2 = .23$ ;  $F = 25.01$ ;  $df = 6$ ;  $488$ ;  $p = .000$ ) that ACE's in IS are mostly related to higher trauma related symptoms, as like depression ( $\beta = 0.287$ ,  $p = .000$ ) and indicator trauma of sexual abuse ( $\beta = .205$ ,  $p < .05$ ). Correlations between ACEs and use of alcohol ( $r_{pbis} = .30$ ;  $p = .000$ ) and substance use ( $r_{pbis} = .37$ ;  $p = .000$ ) were more pronounced in IS. Although benevolent experiences in childhood did not mitigate the impact of ACEs on trauma symptoms. These findings underline the urgent need for multidisciplinary approaches to prevent ACEs in informal settlements. Further research on risk and protective factors specific to IS is essential to inform effective intervention strategies.

**Keywords:** adverse childhood experiences; informal settlements; prevalence; suicide prediction; socio-demographic correlates

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\* corresponding author e-mail: [pavlovic.sc@gmail.com](mailto:pavlovic.sc@gmail.com)

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