

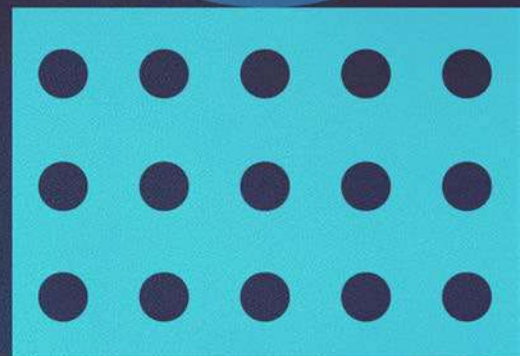
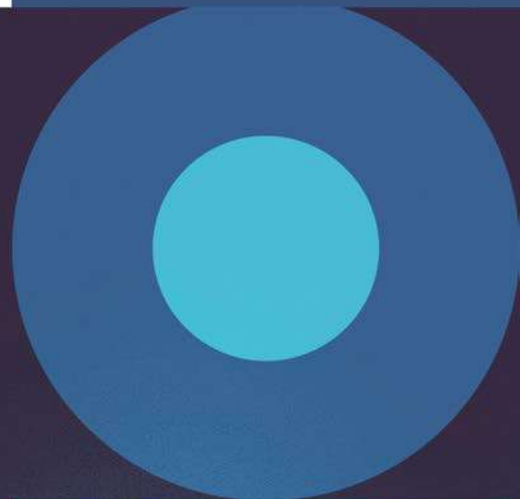
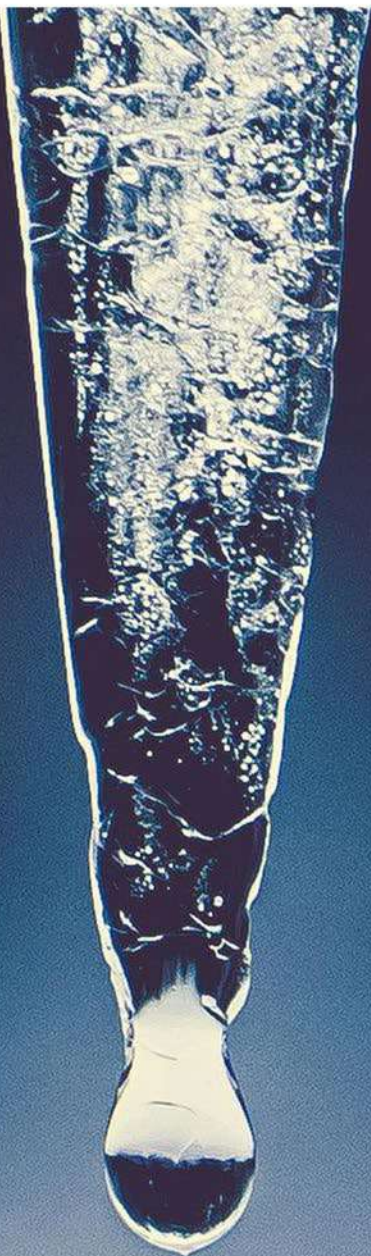
# BILTEN

broj 1/25

Februar 2025



**mensa**  
Crne Gore





Mensa Crne Gore nema nijedan zvaničan ideološki, politički, filozofski ili religijski stav.

Sadržaj članaka u biltenu nije stav Mense kao organizacije, već autora članaka.

#### **PREDSJEDNIŠTVO**

Danilo Vorotović  
Aleksandar Musić  
Aleksandra Lakić  
Nataša Sokić  
Ilijana Tijanić  
Slavica Tadić  
Dragana Pantović Nikčević

**Savjetnik za digitalne medije**  
Tripo Vuković

**Savjetnica za PR i komunikacije**  
Marina Vojinović

**Ombudsman**  
Dragana Crvenica

**Nacionalni SIG koordinator**  
Nataša Sokić

**Koordinator za razvoj i implementaciju projekata**  
Vladan Barović

**Savjetnik za IT**  
Nemanja Dragišić

**Urednik Biltena**  
Dragana Pantović Nikčević

**Dizajn Biltena**  
Tripo Vuković

**Lektor**  
Ioanna Skempri

**Psiholog**  
Nikolina Radović

**Menadžerka finansija i koordinatorica volontera**  
Ilijana Tijanić

**Kontakt**  
info@mensa.me  
+382 (0)69 080 003  
Žiro-račun: 520-14442-11  
PIB: 02315009

ISSN: 3032-9000

Februar 2025  
Tekstove za bilten slati na:  
bilten@mensa.me

#### **LOKALNI KOORDINATORI**

|                     |                                   |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Bar</b>          | Adrijana Halimić                  |
| <b>Berane</b>       | Kristina Lazarević<br>Anel Memić  |
| <b>Bijelo Polje</b> | Dušan Veličković                  |
| <b>Budva</b>        | Miljana Potparić                  |
| <b>Cetinje</b>      | Luka Lakićević                    |
| <b>Danilovgrad</b>  | Božidar Pavićević                 |
| <b>Herceg Novi</b>  | Đuro Velaš                        |
| <b>Kolašin</b>      | Balša Cvetković                   |
| <b>Kotor</b>        | Tripo Vuković<br>Vladan Barović   |
| <b>Nikšić</b>       | Tijana Radović<br>Mitar Đukanović |
| <b>Pljevlja</b>     | Golub Pupović                     |
| <b>Plužine</b>      | Boban Bogdanović                  |
| <b>Podgorica</b>    | Marija Savić                      |
| <b>Tivat</b>        | Mirela Slovníkar                  |
| <b>Ulcinj</b>       | Aleksandra Lakić                  |
| <b>Žabljak</b>      | Ioanna Skempri                    |

# SADRŽAJ

|                                                    |    |
|----------------------------------------------------|----|
| AKTIVNOSTI MENSE<br>CRNE GORE.....                 | 4  |
| PSIHOTEKA - IZGRADNJA OTPORNOSTI<br>KOD DJECE..... | 7  |
| MEMBER PROFILE .....                               | 10 |
| IZVJEŠTAJ: IZBORI ZA RUKOVODSVO .....              | 12 |
| VIZUELNA PERCEPCIJA JAVNIH PROSTORA<br>.....       | 16 |
| PAB KVIZ MONTENEGRO .....                          | 21 |
| KREATIVOST U NASTAVI MATEMATIKE<br>I DIO .....     | 25 |
| SPARTANAC U ATINI .....                            | 30 |
| OSKARI: OD GLAMURA DO SOCIJALNE<br>KRITIKE.....    | 34 |
| U NAJAVI: SKI VIKEND.....                          | 38 |
| ART CORNER .....                                   | 40 |
| POEZIJA .....                                      | 43 |
| MOZGALICA .....                                    | 44 |
| KAKO SE KAŽE? .....                                | 45 |
| DA LI STE ZNALI?.....                              | 46 |
| INFO ZA NOVE ČLANOVE .....                         | 47 |



DANILO VOROTOVIĆ

# AKTIVNOSTI MENSE CRNE GORE





Novi ciklus društvenih igara

U rubrici aktivnosti smo do sada pravili kratak osvrt na aktivnosti koje su bile aktuelne između dva broja Biltena Mense Crne Gore.

Ovoga puta ćemo napraviti retrospektivu svih aktivnosti iz 2024. godine.

Broj testiranja koja smo spreveli, bio je na nivou broja prethodne testiranja sprovedenih prethodne godine, tj. dvadeset i dva. Uslov za članstvo ispunilo je stotinjak od preko osamsto testiranih kandidata. Broj onih

koji su ispunili uslov za članstvo od samog osnivanja naše Mense, sada iznosi 886.

Ugovori o saradnji, koje smo potpisali u prethodnoj godini, sklopljeni su sa: NVO "Centar za omladinsku edukaciju", Narodnom biblioteka "Radosav Ljumović", Digitalnom Akademijom „Digital Bee“, "Flourish" mobilnom aplikacijom, "Verbatoria" centrom, IPC "Tehnopolis", Univerzitetom Donja Gorica i Naučno tehnološkim parkom Crne Gore.

Od brojnih aktivnosti izdvajamo sljedeće:

- Sa edukativno-razvojnim centrom IntroSpectrum organizovali smo Trening komunikacijskih vještina i samopouzdanja – Asertivni trening;
- Imali smo tradicionalni rafting na Tari,
- Učestvovali smo na izložbi u okviru festivala „Puškinova nedjelja“;
- Poklon predstava za najmlađe: „Saobraćajne zavrzlake“;
- Učestvovali smo na kajak-avanturi rijekom Zetom;

- U saradnji sa Opštinom Kotor i Rotary klubom "Kotor", sponzorisali smo likovni konkurs „Bezbjedni đaci u saobraćaju“;
- Organizovali smo školu vina za članove u Vinariji Keković;
- Imali smo vikend kampovanje kraj jezera Krupac;
- Organizovali smo CLUVILLE Escape Room za članove;
- Bili smo dio Festivala dječjih snova „GameOBrain“;
- Učestvovali smo na trci „Race for the Cure“ uz aktivno učešće članova SIG-a Bike&Run;
- Otvoreno prvenstvo Mense Crne Gore u bilijaru u Bijelom Polju;
- Vikend na Bjelasici;
- Paintball avanturu u Baru;
- Društvene igre svakog mjeseca, naizmjenično u Podgorici i Nikšiću;
- Novembarski izazov SIG-a "Bike&Run": 2500 km za podršku u borbi protiv raka pluća;
- U saradnji sa Mensom Srbije, otpočeli smo s besplatnom

onlajn mentorskom obukom za pisanje "Erasmus+" projekata;

- Organizovali smo po prvi put obilježavanje Dana inteligencije u saradnji sa UCG, UDG, Ministarstvom nauke prosvete i inovacija, Zavodom za udžbenike i nastavna sredstva, Narodnom Bibliotekom Radosav Ljumović, Naučno tehnološkim parkom Crne Gore i IPC Tehnopolisom iz Nikšića. Tom prilikom smo organizovali: likovni konkurs "Imaginarijum", akciju skupljanja i doniranja knjiga "Daruj knjigu, obogati um", održali radionice Matematika i inteligencija, organizovali radionicu i šahovsku simultanku sa reprezentativcem Crne Gore Aleksandrom Tomićem, debatu "Inteligencija u eri informacija", kao i još niz pratećih aktivnosti i radionica;
- Od prošle godine počeli smo i sa izradom trajnih članskih kartica;

- Imali smo dvije redovne godišnje Skupštine: prvu u Nikšiću, a drugu u Podgorici. Nakon druge Skupštine organizovan je svečani koktel za članove i prijatelje Mense Crne Gore u zgradi naših prijatelja iz Naučno tehnološkog parka Crne Gore;

- Od međunarodnih aktivnosti izdvajamo učešće naših članova i delegata na GOM24 u Hrvatskoj, EMAG24 u Bukureštu i IBD24 u Pertu;

- U januaru ove godine, uspješno su okončani izbori za Predsjedništvo i Izbornu komisiju Mense Crne Gore, raspisani u decembru 2024. godine.

Sve u svemu, 2024. godina bila je jedna veoma radna i uspješna godina koju ćemo, čvrsto verujemo, svi zajedno ove godine, nadmašiti.

## Bike & Run SIG



NIKOLINA RADOVIĆ

# PSIHOTEKA - IZGRADNJA OTPORNOSTI KOD DJECE



**U** današnjem vremenu, suočavanje sa stresom postalo je svakodnevna stvar, kako za odrasle, tako i za djecu. Svaka osoba je izložena spoljnim faktorima koji mogu izazvati stres, ali sposobnost da se nosimo s tim stresom zavisi od naše mentalne otpornosti. Rezilijentnost je sposobnost da se, nakon suočavanja s teškim situacijama, ponovo uspostavi stanje smirenosti i unutrašnje ravnoteže. Imajući to u vidu, jasno je da razvijanje mentalne otpornosti kod djece postaje ključno, jer djeca koja su mentalno otpornija bolje se suočavaju sa životnim izazovima.

## Kako razviti mentalnu otpornost kod djece?

Razvijanje mentalne snage kod djece zahtijeva posvećenost i dosljednost. Jedan od osnovnih faktora jeste komunikacija. Kroz razgovor, roditelji mogu učiti djecu kako da efikasno rješavaju stresne situacije i kako da mijenjaju svoje mišljenje u teškim trenucima. Takođe, jačanje samopouzdanja igra ključnu ulogu u ovom procesu. Savremena psihologija nudi niz strategija koje mogu pomoći djeci u razvijanju mentalne otpornosti, uključujući strategije suočavanja sa stresom, promjenu perspektive i usmjerenost na pozitivne misli.

## Učimo djecu da upravljaju svojim emocijama

Kada djeca kažu: „Moj prijatelj je

dobio bolju ocjenu, baš mi je krivo zbog toga“, to pokazuje da djeca još uvijek dopuštaju da spoljne okolnosti upravljaju njihovim emocijama. Djeca koja razvijaju mentalnu otpornost, znaju da ne zavise od drugih ljudi i njihovih postignuća kako bi se osjećala dobro u vezi sa sobom. Roditelji mogu pomoći djeci da razvijaju otpornost tako što im daju fraze koje će koristiti kako bi upravljala svojim mislima, na primjer:

- „Sve što mogu jeste da dam svoj maksimum.“
- „Ponašaj se samouvjereno.“
- „Dobar/dobra sam baš takav/takva kakav/kakva jesam.“
- „Danas biram da budem srećan/srećna.“

## Suočavanje sa promjenama i izazovima

Promjene, poput preseljenja u novu školu ili gubitka kontakta sa prijateljima, uvijek predstavljaju izazov za djecu. Međutim, djeca koja su mentalno snažna, razumiju da promjena može biti prilika za rast. Umjesto da bježe od svojih osjećanja, ona ih prepoznaju i izražavaju. Podsticanje djece da govore o svojim emocijama pomaže im da izgrade emocionalnu otpornost. Na taj način djeca uče da promjene, koliko god bile teške, donose nove mogućnosti za napredak.





## Izražavanje osjećanja i hrabrosti da se kaže „ne“

Djeca često imaju poteškoća u izražavanju svojih osjećanja, naročito kada treba reći „ne“. Iako je to teško i za odrasle, važno je podsticati djecu da se izražavaju jasno i iskreno. Hrabrost da kažu „ne“, na ljubazan način, pomaže im da sačuvaju svoje granice i unutrašnji mir.

## Učenje iz grešaka

Djeca često žele da sakriju svoje greške, bilo da je riječ o lošoj ocjeni ili o nečemu drugom.

Međutim, prepoznavanje grešaka ključno je za razvoj karaktera. Greške su prilika za učenje i rast. Kada djeca naprave grešku, treba ih podsjetiti da je u redu pogriješiti, ali i da postoje načini da se ispravi situacija i spriječi ponavljanje iste greške.

## Slavljenje uspjeha drugih i učenje iz neuspjeha

Učenje da se bodre drugi u njihovom uspjehu važno je jer nas negativne emocije poput ljubomore samo ograničavaju. Takođe, neuspjeh je prirodan dio života. Svi mi moramo naučiti da se nosimo sa neuspjesima

i da iz njih učimo. Djeca treba da razumiju da neuspjeh nije kraj, već samo početak novog pokušaja i bolje pripreme za budućnost.

Razvijanje mentalne otpornosti kod djece ključno je za njihov dugoročni emocionalni i psihološki razvoj. Kroz podršku, dosljednost i komunikaciju, roditelji mogu pomoći djeci da postanu mentalno snažna i spremna da se suoče sa životnim izazovima. Mentalna otpornost nije samo sposobnost da preživimo stresne situacije, već i sposobnost da iz njih izađemo jači, mudriji i bolje pripremljeni za sve što život nosi.

MEMBER PROFILE

# MEMBER PROFILE VALENTINA OSTOJIĆ



**V**alentina Ostojeć ima 27 godina, a članica Mense postala je sa 17, dok je bila učenica Srednje ekonomske škole "Mirko Vešović", kada je bila pozvana da uradi Mensin standardizovani IQ test u okviru istraživanja koje je Mensa tada sprovodila. Nakon srednje škole, završila je osnovne i specijalističke studije na Fakultetu političkih nauka u Podgorici, a potom magistarske studije na Ekonomskom fakultetu u Ljubljani.

Njena ljubav prema nepoznatom i novom, te prema drugačijim

kulturama, odvela ju je na različite studentske boravke na univerzitetima u Njemačkoj, SAD-u i Švedskoj. Svoje profesionalno iskustvo stekla je u civilnom sektoru, radeći na omladinskim politikama, demokratizaciji i socioekonomskim problemima, kao i u istraživačkim kompanijama, posebno u oblasti metodologije istraživanja društvenih studija.

Takođe se bavi pisanjem, a objavila je više kolumni, analiza i istraživanja.



Trenutno je zaposlena u međunarodnoj organizaciji CEF u Sloveniji, koja se bavi podsticanjem ekonomskog i održivog razvoja Jugoistočne Evrope. Pored toga, ljubiteljka je savremene umjetnosti, društvenih igara, a voli da fotografiše i da bude fizički aktivna. Ne može da zamisli život bez mora, slušalica, telefona i politike.

Smatra sebe osviješćenom mladom osobom koja je uvijek zabrinuta za političko, sociološko i ekološko okruženje u kojem živi.

JELENA NIKČEVIĆ

# IZVJEŠTAJ: IZBORI ZA RUKOVODSTVO



Izbori za Predsjedništvo i Izbornu komisiju Mense Crne Gore, raspisani 01. decembra 2024. godine, završeni su 10. januara 2025. godine. Proces je sproveden u skladu sa članovima 6.4.1 i 6.4.2 Statuta Mense Crne Gore.

U predviđenom roku Izornoj komisiji dostavljene su po jedna kandidatura za oba tijela.

Komisija je utvrdila da su sve prijave validne i u skladu sa statutom, dok nevalidnih prijava nije bilo, niti onih podnijetih nakon isteka roka.

Na osnovu pravila predviđenih članom 6.4.7 Statuta, Izborna komisija je potvrdila izbor članova Predsjedništva i Izborne komisije za mandatni period od 02. marta 2025. do 01. marta 2027. godine.

U sastavu Predsjedništva:

- Danilo Vorotović

Rođen 1974. u Nikšiću. Oženjen i otac četvoro djece. Aktivno vojno lice. U Mensi Crne Gore je bio lokalni koordinator za Nikšić u periodu 2017.- 2019. godine. Član Predsjedništva u periodu 2019-2021, kada je bio i nacionalni SIG koordinator i koordinator lokalnih koordinatora. Od marta 2023-će na poziciji predsjednika Mense Crne Gore.

- Aleksandar Musić

rođen 1970. u Zenici, diplomirani ekonomista, član Mense Crne Gore od 2007. godine, član Predsjedništva u nekoliko dosadašnjih saziva. Od marta 2023-će potpredsjednik Mense Crne Gore Zaposlen skoro 30 godina u rukovodstvu preduzeća

„Kit“ d.o.o. sa primarnim zaduženjima u finansijskom sektoru. Otac dva člana Mense.

- Ilijana Tijanić

rođena 1990. godine. Po struci diplomirana ekonomistkinja s više od 10 godina iskustva u računovodstvu i finansijama Članica Mense od 2018. godine. Od marta 2023. godine članica Predsjedništva, gdje je angažovana kao savjetnica za finansije i koordinatorka za volontere. U okviru ovih uloga odgovorna za praćenje knjigovodstva i finansija Mense Crne Gore, administraciju i upravljanje dokumentacijom, budžetiranje, planiranje i optimizaciju resursa, kao i za komunikaciju s relevantnim institucijama i poslovnim partnerima.



▪ Marina Vojinović

rođena 1998. godine. Diplomirana ekonomistkinja, trenutno na master studijama na Ekonomskom fakultetu UCG. Posjeduje višegodišnje iskustvo u bankarstvu, analitici i prevenciji zloupotreba putem platnih kartica, uz poseban fokus na edukaciju i promociju finansijske pismenosti. Diplomu iz PR i komunikacija stekla 2017. godine pohađanjem CEPI PR škole. Članica Mense Crne Gore od 2015. Godine, a od novembra 2023. godine obavlja funkciju savjetnice za PR i komunikacije Mense Crne Gore, s fokusom na unaprijeđenje vidljivosti i komunikacije organizacije na nacionalnom i međunarodnom nivou.

▪ Tripo Vuković

rođen 1984. u Kotoru. Diplomirani elektrotehnički inženjer, član Mense Crne Gore od 2023. Godine. Zadužen za sve vizuelne aspekte kojima se Mensa Crne Gore promovira, uključujući sajt, bilten, reklame, video prezentacije i ostale multimedije. Osim toga, zadužen za komunikaciju sa EMAG administracijom, lokalni koordinator za Kotor i koordinator SIG-a za društvene igre.

▪ Nemanja Dragišić

rođen 2001. godine. Student druge godine master studija Sajber bezbjednosti na Univerzitetu u Padovi. Diplomirao

na smjeru Računarskih nauka na Prirodno-matematičkom fakultetu Univerziteta Crne Gore. Član Predsjedništva u mandatu mart 2021.- mart 2023. I trenutno savjetnik za IT Mense Crne Gore. Tokom svog Mandata bio član Organizacionog tima za pripremu i održavanje IBD-a gdje je radio na info pultu, bavio se pripremom tura i aktivnosti. Takođe je bio zadužen za održavanje Web sajta Mense Crne Gore.

▪ Nataša Sokić

rođena 1991. godine. Diplomirani ekonomista. Član Mense od 2018. godine. Članica predsjedništva Mense Crne Gore od marta 2023. Godine u svojstvu nacionalnog SIG koordinatorke





kao i koordinatorke lokalnih koordinatora. Pozitivna atmosfera, energija i iskustva u Mensi su Natašin motiv da da doprinos u daljem širenju i jačanju Mense Crne Gore.

## Plan i program Predsjedništva:

Plan i program Predsjedništva Mense Crne Gore fokusiran je na unapređenje aktivnosti testiranja, saradnju s lokalnim zajednicama i institucijama, te povećanje vidljivosti organizacije.

Planira se organizacija najmanje 20 testiranja godišnje, ravnomjerno raspoređenih po Crnoj Gori, uz dodatne aktivnosti poput edukativnih radionica, seminara i međunarodnih događaja. Cilj je povećati broj članova i održavati redovnu

komunikaciju putem digitalnih kanala i medija.

Poseban fokus stavljen je na organizaciju EMAG 26 događaja, koji će okupiti međunarodnu zajednicu članova, promovirati Crnu Goru i jačajući ugled Mense.

U sastavu Izborne komisije:

- Jelena Nikčević

rođena 07.02.2001. godine na Cetinju. Živi u Kotoru, u Mensi Crne Gore od septembra 2022. godine. Studentkinja Elektrotehničkog fakulteta u Podgorici.

- Milosav Miličić

rođen 17.01.1990 u Zenici, BiH. Živi u Nikšiću i u Mensi Crne Gore od 2020-te godine. Magistar međunarodnog javnog prava i Team lider u Grawe osiguranju.

- Boris Todorović

rođen 02. 12. 1998. U Nikšiću. Živi u Nikšiću i u Mensi Crne Gore od 2018-e godine. Magistrand Socijalne politike i socijalnog rada.

- Luka Milikić

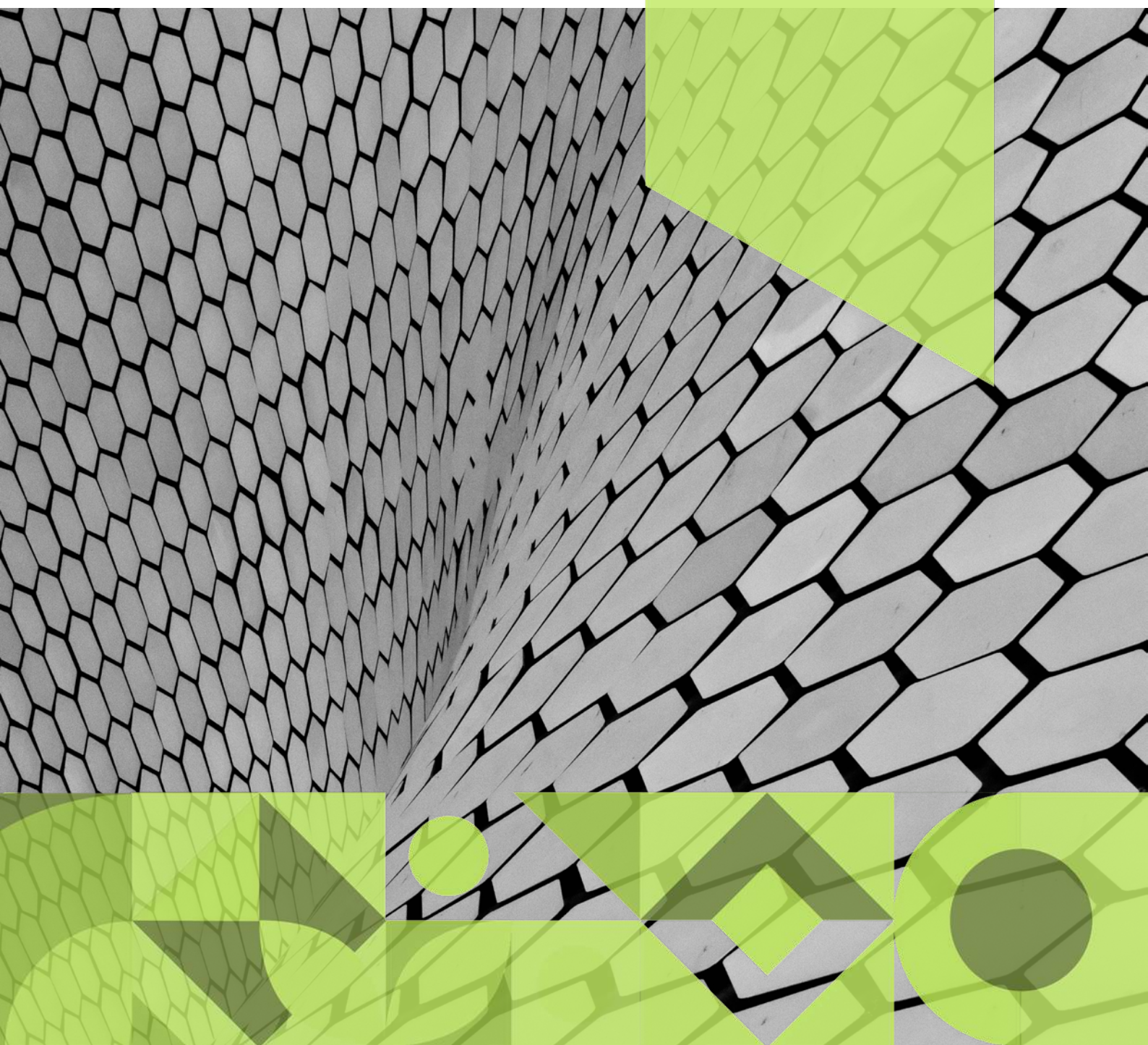
rođen 25.09.1999. u Podgorici. Živi u Podgorici i u Mensi Crne Gore je od 2022. godine. Student PMF na Univerzitetu Crne Gore i Web developer.

- Nemanja Vuković

rođen 13.11.2004. godine u Podgorici. U Mensi od 2022. Plan i program Izborne komisije: Plan i program rada Izborne komisije uključuje pripremu transparentnih izvještaja o izbornom procesu i rezultatima. Takođe, fokusira se na unapređenje iskustva članova razvijanjem metoda za veću uključenost aktivnih članova u izborni proces.

DR JELENA BAJIĆ ŠESTOVIĆ, DIPL. ING. ARH.

# VIZUELNA PERCEPCIJA JAVNIH PROSTORA

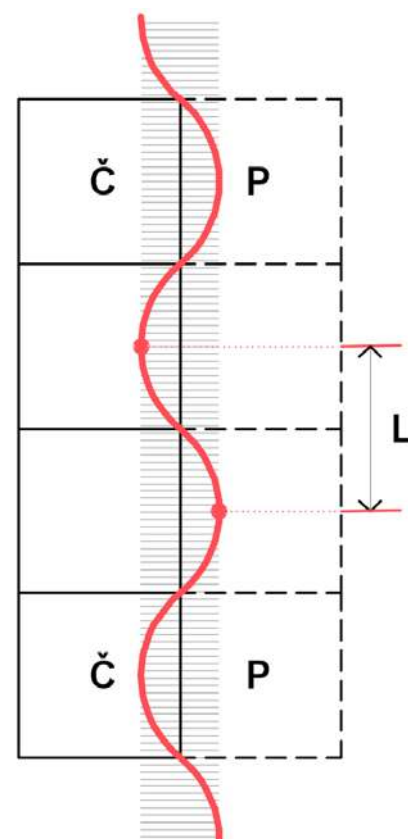


Vizuelna percepcija prostora je složen proces podložan različitim spoljašnjim uticajima, i kao takvog, teško ga je objektivno i jasno obrazložiti. Znacaj vizuelne predstave javnog prostora i uticaja na posmatrača prepoznat je od strane raznih istraživača i više je puta potvrđen. On je dominantan u interakciji čovjeka (korisnika) i (javnog) prostora, pri čemu se, u zavisnosti od složenosti i karaktera različitih vizuelnih elemenata, stvara osjećaj zadovoljstva u konkretnom prostoru ili, suprotno tome, negativno iskustvo.

Kreiranje perceptivne slike nije trenutni čin, već je to kontinuitet poimanja, mišljenja, iskustvenog doživljaja, interakcije saznavnih odrednica i složenosti njihovog recipiranja (Petrović, 1972). Percepcija predstavlja osnovnu čovjekovu funkciju, koja nagovještava svijet našeg neposrednog iskustva. Percipiranje javnih prostora, izraženo kao "mjera doživljaja" prostora, zavisi od više faktora, subjektivnog karaktera. Vizuelna senzitivna provokacija može različito da utiče na posmatrača, u zavisnosti od njegove pažnje, emocija, motivacije, obrazovanja, prethodnih vizuelnih iskustava i dr. U tom smislu, korisnik javnog prostora postaje vrlo značajan "izvor informacija" u procesu formiranja skale kriterijuma i indikatora potrebnih za valorizaciju stanja javnih prostora, a na relaciji objektivna stvarnost (činjenice) – subjektivna percepcija.

**Slika 1:** Polazište semantičkog grafema: činjenično (Č) – perceptivno (P). Kriva linija predstavlja produkt sinteze objektivnog činjeničnog stanja i subjektivne percepcije posmatrača. Faktorijalna sekvenca (L) rastojanje između maksimalnih vrijednosti amplitude (u okviru polja Č i P). Kriva ima tendenciju održavanja ravnoteže – balansiranjem između navedena dva pola ljudskog iskustva. "Prava vrijednost" se očitava negdje između ova dva pola, "kao simetričan odnos koji teži statusnom ekvilibriju" (Čakarić, 2012: 72). Ekvilibrijum, u ovom smislu, tumačimo kao "zakon semiotičke prirode transformacija" (Ibid.) javnih prostora, kroz razumijevanje ideje-dizajn koncepta tretmana javnog prostora u gradu i ukupne percepcije oblika pojavnosti.

Doživljaj javnog prostora od strane posmatrača, prolazi kroz više faza: percepcija, kognicija, afekcija (dopadanje/nedopadanje) i vrednovanje prostornih odnosa. Perceptivno stanje je neodvojivo od značenja koje pripisujemo određenom predmetu ili prostoru koji opažamo. Primarno, opažaj vodi simplifikovanju opažajnog predmeta – pretvaranje prostornih odnosa u linijsku šemu. Sekundarno, prostorne figure se "obrađuju" u odnosu na okruženje-pozadinu, kreirajući u našoj mentalnoj mapi određeni znak. Prvi "vizuelni kontakt" sa predmetom, obrađuje ga i smješta u određenu kategoriju značenja, koja posjeduje određeni



Slika 1

identitet. Ponovnim opažanjem istog predmeta, dolazi do "prepoznavanja" dodijeljenog znaka, te se vrši identifikacija predmeta-prostora. Kod javnih prostora, vremenska odrednica (dan, noć, prirodna svjetlost, noćno osvjetljenje), kao i promjena pozadine, utiče na transformaciju značenja prostora.

Vizuelna percepcija prostora je složen proces podložan različitim spoljašnjim uticajima, i kao takvog, teško ga je objektivno i jasno obrazložiti. On je dominantan u interakciji čovjeka (korisnika) i (javnog) prostora, pri čemu se, u zavisnosti od složenosti i karaktera različitih vizuelnih elemenata, stvara osjećaj zadovoljstva u konkretnom prostoru ili suprotno tome, negativno iskustvo.

Perceptivni doživljaj javnog prostora predstavlja "složen proces integracije perceptivnih moći, iskustva i kreativnih sila svakoga od nas" (Radović, 2003: 47), gdje je sociopsihološka osnova primarna za shvatanje ovog složenog procesa, u njegovoj ukupnosti i u detalju. Čulni podaci se transformišu u odnosu na prethodno iskustvo i značenja koja posmatrač "pripisuje" opaženom elementu, na osnovu čega ga svrstava u određenu grupu-kategoriju, prema sopstvenom sistemu vrijednosti. Perceptivno stanje izraženo je subjektivnim doživljajem javnog prostora, koji je najčešće različit od činjeničnog stanja, ali ne i nužno.

Generalno posmatrano, korisnik je u stanju da percipira: a) fizičku strukturu javnog prostora, b) atmosferu (ambijent) i c) ljude koji svojim aktivnim ili pasivnim odnosom učestvuju u životu javnog prostora.

## a) Fizička struktura

Arnhajm (1990: 17) tvrdi da "opažanje prostora nastaje samo ako su prisutne opažljive stvari". Dalje, uzajamni odnosi između stvari određuju prostor. Kod konkretne primjene na arhitekturu, Arnhajm iznosi stav da "u očima graditelja, korisnika ili posmatrača, svaka arhitektonska konstelacija uspostavlja sopstveni prostorni okvir", koji potiče od najjednostavnijeg skeleta koji se slaže sa fizičkom i psihološkom situacijom. Vezano za otvorene javne prostore, Arnhajm govori



Slika 2

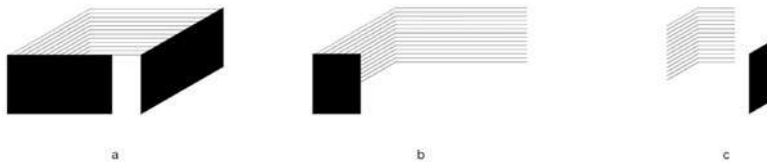
o prostoru između zgrada kao o međuprostoru prožetom gradijentima – krešendo i dekrešendo vrlo jasno usmjeravaju pogled korisnika naviše ili naniže. Dalje, prostor između zgrada pokušava da prikaže pomoću gustine.

Međuprostor se zgušnjava kada se rastojanje između objekata smanjuje, i tada posmatrač osjeća "povećanje pritiska". Međuprostor djeluje "labaviji" i razrijeđeniji kada se rastojanja između zgrada povećavaju. Na nekinačin, međuprostor određuje cjelinu urbo-arhitektonskog ansambla, iskazanu kroz sile privlačenja i odbijanja. Arnhajm primjećuje da se objekti uzajamno odbijaju ukoliko su isuviše blizu postavljeni, dok kod velikih međusobnih rastojanja dolazi do uzajamnog privlačenja. Postoje slučajevi kada korisnik percipira međuprostor kao prazninu. To se dešava kada su objekti koji uokviruju prostor

toliko bezlični, da se posmatračev pogled ni na čemu ne zadržava, nijedno mjesto se ne ističe, on osjeća da nema prostornih koordinata, niti nekog sistema odnosa koji bi mu omogućio da odredi rastojanje. Priličan broj ovakvih primjera nalazimo u modernističkim konceptima javnih prostora. Pored bezličnih fasada, prevelik prostor između zgrada djeluje negativno na korisnika, koji, u takvoj kompoziciji javnog prostora, ne doživljava osjećaj mjesta, te nema potrebu da boravi u njemu.

**Slika 2:** "Labavi" javni prostor na centralnoj poziciji Portonovog. Upitan je osjećaj mjesta. Arhitektonski oblici i stilovi su u kontrastu, dok se između njih nazire stambeni objekat iz 70-ih god. prošlog vijeka. Jaz između socijalnih struktura u jednom kadru podstiče nelagodu u percipiranju "cjeline". Preklapanje različitih slika i različitih emocija.

**Slika 3:** "Zgusnuti" javni prostor. Preklapanje slika i istorijskih lejera. Usmjerenost vizure na Sahat kulu čije je postolje "ispod" nivoa tla, a sama kula je "stješnjena" između objekata, te se ne može sagledati u cjelini. Prodor naglašava novu sliku koju tek treba otkriti i podstiče kretanje.



Slika 4

Slika 3



**Vizuelna zatvorenost** javnog prostora je jedna od njegovih vrlo izraženih karakteristika, koju korisnik percipira sa lakoćom. Zatvorenost je, prije svega definisana svojom granicom. Hajdeger kaže: „Granica nije ono od čega nešto prestaje, već je – kao što su je Grci spoznali – ono od čega nešto započinje svoje postojanje.“ Granice izgrađenog prostora možemo označiti kao pod, zid i tavanica. Osim "mjerjenja" horizontalne zatvorenosti, potrebno je uvesti pojam vertikalne zatvorenosti, pomoću kojeg, kroz odnos visine objekata i dimenzija otvorenog prostora, kreiramo perceptivnu sliku javnog prostora.

**Slika 4:** Vizuelna zatvorenost trga: a) zatvoren trg; b) poluzatvoren / poluotvoren trg i c) otvoren trg

**Slika 5:** Kotor – trg uz Crkvu Sv. Luke, istorijsko jezgro sa nizom javnih prostora visoke vizuelne zatvorenosti. Pažnja je usmjerena na fon javnog prostora ili na programske sadržaje i aktivnosti. Dodatno, većem osjećaju zatvorenosti doprinosi brdo Sv. Ivan, koji se pojavljuje



Slika 5

u određenim kadrovima, popunjavajući vizuelni prostor između postojećih objekata.

**Slika 6:** Portonovi – riva koja je vizuelno poluotvorena (dužom stranom je pozicioniran stambeni objekat koji doprinosi osjećaju karaktera mjesta). Pažnja je usmjerena na more i aktivnosti u luci. Kaskadno postavljanje nivoa sa kafićima osigurava im dovoljnu intimu, a omogućava bolji vizuelni kontakt sa nivoom šetališta i luke (preglednost i kontrola).

## b) Atmosfera-ambijent

Doživljaj prostora uveliko zavisi od trenutnog ambijenta. Slika javnog prostora je psihološki doživljaj prostora i forme u kontekstu. Pored vizuelnog doživljaja, na formiranje perceptivne slike javnog prostora utiču audio i taktilni doživljaji prostora. Zumthor (2006) naglašava važnost taktilnih i akustičkih osobina prostora, kao

i uticaja mirisa, svjetlosti i sjenke, koji kreiraju specifične efekte i upotpunjuju doživljaj prostora (multisenzorni prostori).

## c) Socijalno opažanje – socijalna kognicija

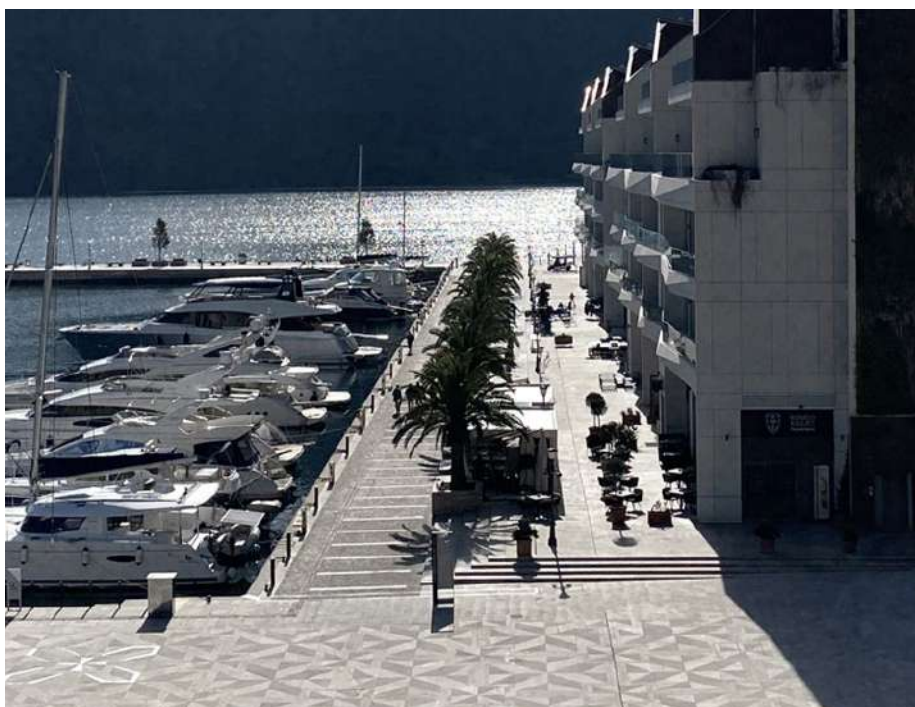
Socijalno opažanje predstavlja opažanje osoba. Kod ovog procesa je mnogo značajnija uloga iskustva i zaključivanja, nego kod opažanja fizičkih objekata i struktura, a prisutni su sljedeći principi: princip cjeline; selekcije; asimilacije i kontrasta (Ahtik, 1972).

Prostori u kojima boravi veći broj ljudi, gdje se osjeća snažna razmjena energije, privlačni su drugim korisnicima. Gehl-ov (1987) stav da "ljudi privlače ljude" potvrđen je više puta.

## Bibliografija:

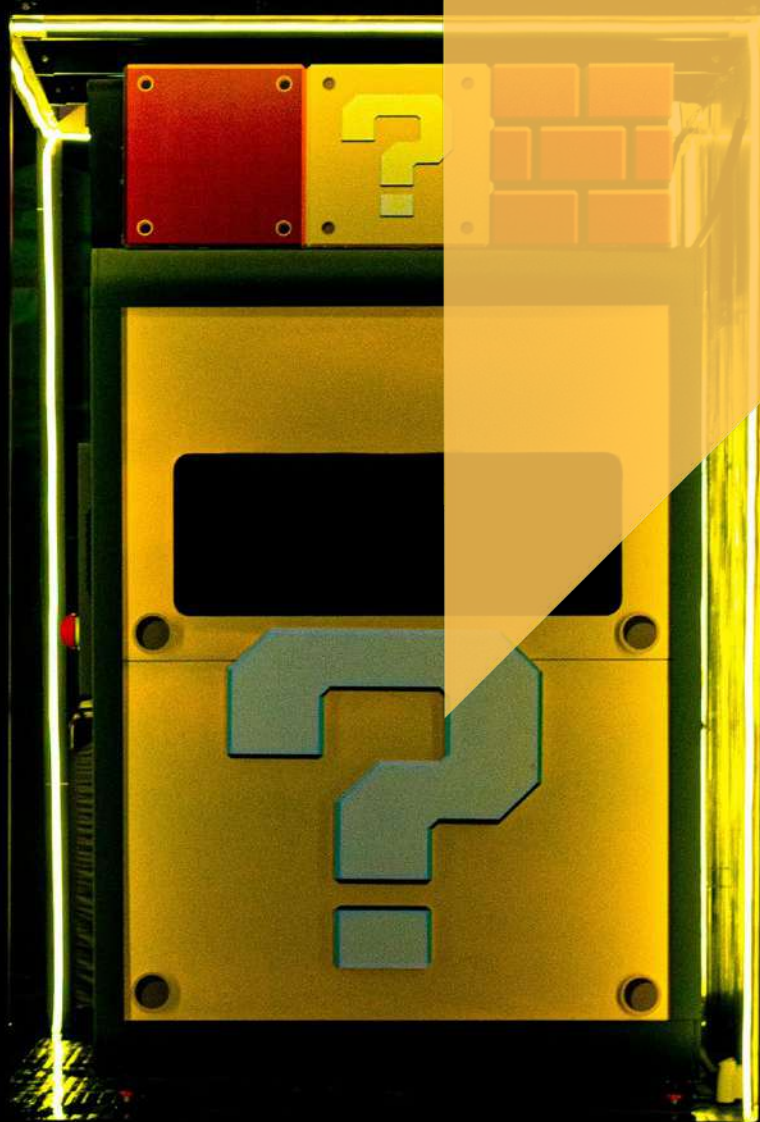
- Ahtik, M. (1972): *Kako opažamo i ocenjujemo druge osobe. U: Rot, N. (ur.): Socijalna psihologija, str. 47-79. Beograd: Rad*
- Arnhajm, R. (1990): *Dinamika arhitektonske forme. Beograd, Univerzitet umetnosti u Beogradu*
- Bajić Šestović, J. (2016): *Morphology and Typology of Public Spaces in Herceg-Novi. Beograd, Zadužbina Andrejević*
- Čakarić, J. (2012): *Semantika transformacija urbo-vodnih konteksta. Sarajevo, Mas media*
- Gehl, J. (1987): *Life Between Buildingd: Using Public Space. New York, Van Nostrand Reinhold*
- Petrović, Đ. (1972): *Vizuelna istraživanja čovekove sredine i urbani dizajn. Beograd, BIGZ*
- Radović, R. (2003): *Forma gradakosnove, teorija i praksa. Beograd, Orion Art*
- Zumthor, P. (2006): *Atmospheres. Architectural Environments - Surrounding Objects. Basel, Boston, Berlin: Birkhauser*

Slika 6



ZORAN MILJANIĆ

# PAB KVIZ MONTENEGRO





U zoru 26. 8.1986. sam po prvi put ugledao svjetlo dana. Nisam bio srećan gdje sam došao, plakao sam.

Šalu na stranu, nisam navikao pisati ili govoriti o sebi pa ne zamjerite ukoliko nešto bude zvučalo pretenciozno u daljem tekstu.

Odrastao sam na ulicama grada Nikšića. Osnovnu i srednju školu sam završio u gradu "piva i čelika", dok sam školovanje nastavio na Pomorskom fakultetu u Kotoru. Nisam bio sjajan učenik. Jedva bih prelazio uspjehom „Vrlodobar“ do završnih godina srednje škole. Ocjene me gotovo uopšte nisu zanimale, ali jeste to da li će mi ostati znanje. Do tada su mi glavna interesovanja bila: karate, lopta i istraživanje čarolija djetinjstva. Na Pomorskom

fakultetu sam diplomirao u januaru 2010. godine, smjer Menadžment. Tri godine ranije dobio sam zvanje najboljeg studenta Fakulteta i simboličnu stipendiju. Od 15. godine sam radio više poslova, uglavnom sezonskih, kako bih prvo imao za džeparac, a kasnije za troškove studija. Možda najbolje iskustvo koje sam imao tih dana jeste odlazak na Work & Travel u SAD. Upoznavanje sa potpuno različitom kulturom, istraživanje, do tada za mene, nepoznatog dijela Planete i unapređivanje jezika. Neprocjenjivo.

Nakon dobijanja diplome nastavljam se baviti poslovima koji nisu bili vezani za struku. Bez obzira što sam pokušavao naći zaposlenje u struci, to prvih par godina nije baš išlo po planu. Texas hold'em poker -

developer programa za obuku igrača i profesionalni igrač, video skating za NBA i koledž-košarku i fudbalski sudija možda su najinteresantniji poslovi kojima sam se bavio nakon tog perioda da bih, uporedo s nekim od gore navedenih, 2016. godine započeo sa sopstvenim biznisom – Pab-kvizom.

Kao klinac sam bio veoma radoznao. Skoro sve me je zanimalo i upijao bih informacije koje se mnogima čine apstraktnim. Obožavao sam pratiti „Kviskoteku“, „Mužičku slagalicu“, a kasnije i ostale kvizove. Bio sam najmlađi učesnik „Sfinge“ (jedini srednjoškolac). Nisam se proslavio. U prvom kolu sam, u poslednjim sekundama duela, ispao od tadašnjeg finaliste, ali me to nije obeshrabrilo već

sasvim suprotno. Bez obzira na moje ciljeve. Na kvizu „Znam da znaš” stigao sam do finala, što je najveći uspjeh u mojoj dosadašnjoj kviz-karijeri. Kasnije nisam nastupao na TV kvizovima, jer, realno, nije ih ni bilo na našim TV stanicama. Bar ne onih kvalitetnih. Pokušao sam ostvariti saradnju sa više domaćih televizija oko kreiranja kviza koji bi vjerovatno bio sadržajno najkvalitetniji u regionu, ali nismo uspjeli doći do dogovora.

Ekspanzija pab-kvizova, koji su započeli u Velikoj Britaniji, a na područje bivše Jugoslavije stigli početkom prošle decenije otvorila mi je nove vidike oko toga čime bih se želio baviti u životu. U startu sam bio vrlo skeptičan. Naše društvo je čudno i poprilično ograničeno određenim pogledima na život i sve oko nas – tako sam razmišljao. Nikada nisam volio kopirati bilo koga, pa bez obzira što su svi tada u Srbiji i Hrvatskoj radili standardne british-pub-kvizove, odlučio sam osmisliti nešto svoje. Iskoristio sam određene igre sa već popularnih kvizova, adaptirao ih i dodao neke sopstvene igre koje čine kviz unikatnim, a što mi je ubrzo pomoglo da dobijem autorska prava na isti. Kasnije ću objasniti kako kviz izgleda, a sada nešto više o njegovom istorijatu.

Oktobra 2016, pozvao sam sopstveno društvo za koje sam znao da voli kvizove da testiramo kako će to izgledati i da li će im se pab-kviz dopasti. Lokacija: „Gemelli” štamparija u centru Podgorice. Pet ekipa na kvizu, odnosno nešto više od 20

osoba. Utisci nakon završenog kviza – fantastični. Još se rado sjećam aplauza koji sam dobio nakon istog što me je dodatno motivisalo. Priča se prenijela od usta do usta. Naredni kviz je bilo 10 ekipa. Svaki idući bi se broj ekipa povećavao i kviz je dobijao na popularnosti. Nakon dva mjeseca i konstantnih 17 ekipa na kvizu, lokal je postao mali da bi primio sve zainteresovane. Sa kvizom smo nastavili u Mall of Montenegro, prvo Pikado cafe a zatim komšijski Moment (bivša kuglana). Popularnost kviza je rasla iz sedmice u sedmicu da bi vrhunac, kako sam tada mislio, bio u zimu 2018. godine sa 42 ekipe i oko 200 učesnika.

Moram napomenuti da prve dvije godine nisam naplaćivao kotizaciju od učesnika kako bih razvio pab-kviz scenu. A bio sam jedini. Danas, gdje god da krenu sa drugim kvizovima kotizaciju odmah naplaćuju i najčešće je to znatno veći iznos, za kvizove koji kvalitetom nisu ni blizu. Ali

neka drugi to prosude. Uvijek se trudim napraviti zanimljiv kviz sa kreativno postavljenim pitanjima i temama.

Nešto ranije sam pokušao razviti kviz i u Nikšiću, ali taj inicijalni pokušaj nije uspio, da bih kasnije u jesen 2019, ostvario sjajnu saradnju sa House pub-om gdje i danas, svakog ponedjeljka, organizujemo kvizove.

Na ljeto iste godine kviz u glavnom gradu selimo u bivši Hard rock cafe i do pojave virusa Covid 19 imali smo odličnu saradnju. Usljed tadašnjih mjera, bili smo prinuđeni promijeniti lokaciju. Nova i trenutna lokacija: Desetka, zgrada Univerziteta Crne Gore. Popularnost kviza je i dalje rasla da bi prošle zime u periodu od decembra do aprila popunjenost bila na apsolutnom maksimumu, odnosno na svakom kvizu je bilo oko 50 ekipa. Bio je slučaj sa 70 prijavljenih ekipa, odnosno oko 300 osoba, ali zbog nedostatka kapaciteta nismo bili u mogućnosti sve ugostiti. Ovo





Vrijeme potrebno za kreaciju i odrađivanje kviza: 23–24 h aktivnog rada.

Na kraju, ne bi bio red da ne pomenem neke od najuspješnijih ekipa. U Nikšiću su to nekada "Snorkijevci", a danas "Barney Gumble", "Mlade nade", "Vunjene Čarape", "Homer i Merima" i "Očajne Bloggerke". U Podgorici od prvih dana kviza sa nama su "Da Srbi rade!", "Plaćenici" i "Patrolne šape" koji su kasnije udružili snage i napravili "Spaljivače mostova", "Firma Krstić", "Azgard" odnosno "42" koji više ne učestvuju, "Tešanovići", "Rekonvalescenti", "Mat", aktuelni šampioni "Takoe!" i mnogi drugi.

Ovo je poziv u kome sam se pronašao i koji volim raditi. Nadam se da će kviz nastaviti sa uspješnim radom i da će se kviz scena još više proširiti.

je vjerovatno rekordan broj ekipa na prostoru bivše Jugoslavije, da su učestvovala na nekom kvizu opšteg znanja. Od novembra 2023. godine startovali smo sa 2 kviza sedmično u Podgorici. Četvrtkom u već pomenutom Desetka restoranu, dok je kviz ponedjeljkom do skoro bio u centru grada. Trenutno su oba sedmična kviza u zgradi UCG ali radimo na povratku kviza ponedjeljkom u centar. Naravno, organizacija team-building kvizova za organizacije nije stran pojam.

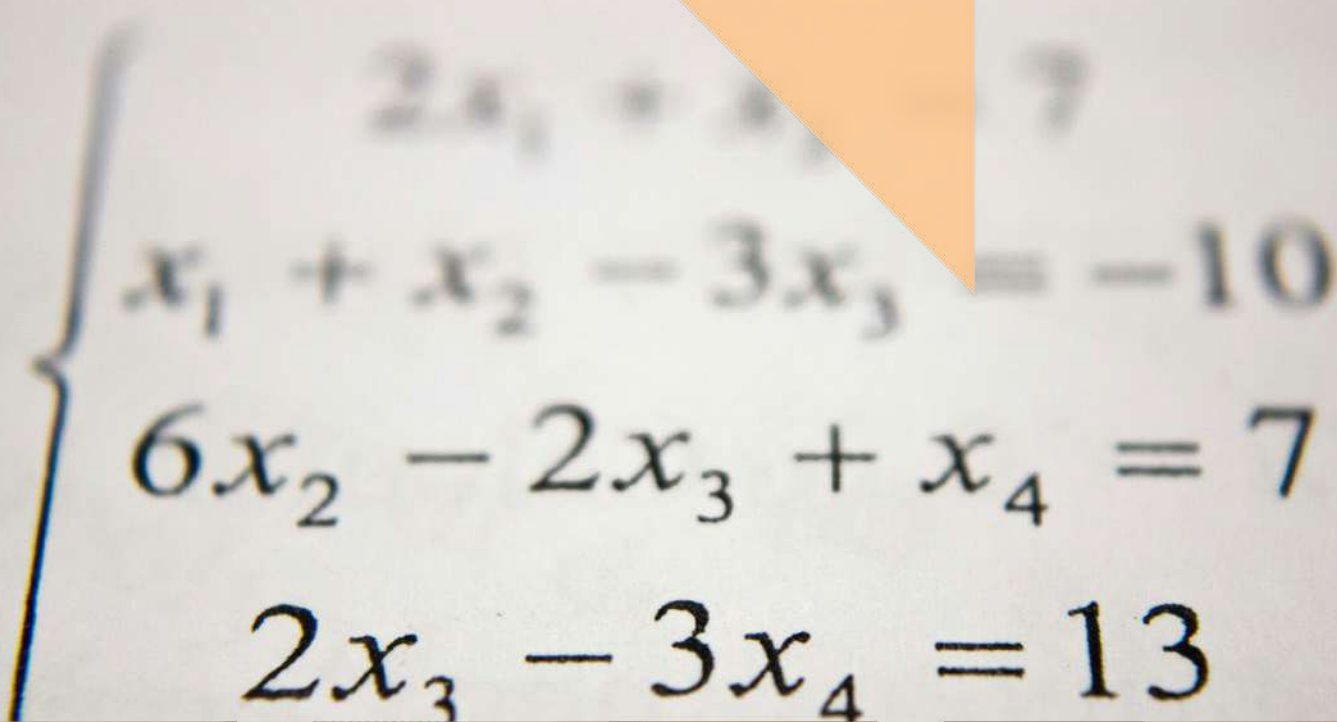
Sada nešto kratko i o samom

kvizu.

Kviz se sastoji od 7 igara. Pronaći što duže riječi, tačan ili približan broj, Spojnice, Leksikon (30 pojmova na data slova) ili Tvrdjenja (staviti da li je određena tvrdnja tačna ili netačna), Igraonica (miks više različitih igara), ABC pitalice na zaokruživanje ili Klasična pitanja bez ponuđenih odgovora i na kraju Asocijacije. Traje oko 3 časa i održava se u večernjim satima. Ekipe sve zapisuju na papire i ne mogu se izblimirati na bilo koji način. Apsolutno svima koji vole kvizove bude vrlo interesantno.

MR NIKOLA RADOJIČIĆ

# KREATIVOST U NASTAVI MATEMATIKE I DIO


$$\begin{cases} 2x_1 + x_2 = 7 \\ x_1 + x_2 - 3x_3 = -10 \\ 6x_2 - 2x_3 + x_4 = 7 \\ 2x_3 - 3x_4 = 13 \end{cases}$$

**R**ad pripreman za ovaj broj Biltena nastao je koristeći koautorski članak „Nekoliko ideja za kreativniju nastavu matematike“ objavljen u časopisu Nastava matematike, Društva matematičara Srbije.

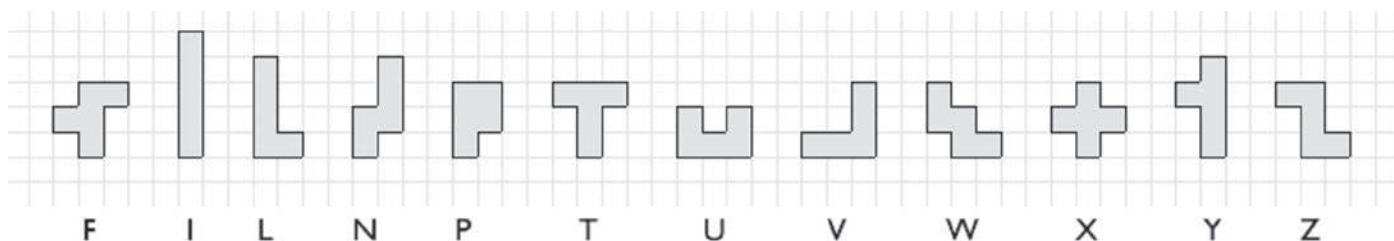
Učiniti matematiku kreativnijom i dostupnom van nastavnog plana i programa ozbiljan je izazov. Dva gotovo neodvojiva pojma su matematika i inteligencija. Uz sve svoje zajedničke tačke niz je onih koje su različite. Ono što je možda najbitnije jeste to da je inteligencija pokretač matematici, dok se inteligencija razvija zahvaljujući matematici. Standardan način učenja koji podrazumijeva vježbu i utvrđivanje gradiva kroz rješavanje tipskih zadataka, mora ostati osnova usvajanja matematičkih znanja, ali izazov koji nove generacije donosi jeste sve manje strpljenja za posvećivanje vremena vježbi. Javlja se potreba da se časovi i nastava matematike, na neki način, rasterete. Kako to uraditi, a da se ne izgubi esencija matematičkog koncepta, pitanje je koje stoji pred svim obrazovnim sistemima svijeta. Cilj je dati što više ideja kako možemo učenicima ponuditi igru, nalaženje strategije ili kviz, kroz koje mogu da povežu, nadgrađuju svoja znanja i

unapređuju kombinatorno mišljenje i vizuelizaciju. Potrebno je prepoznati momente kada naše časove i rad treba da učinimo veselijim, neformalnijim i lakšim za sve.

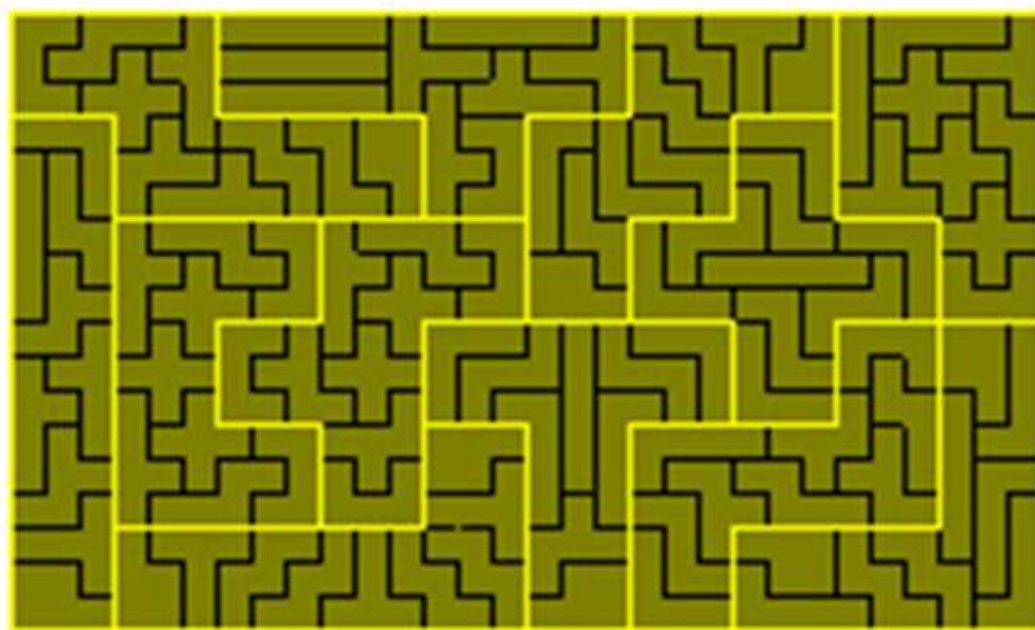
Jedna od oblasti, koja nas svakako može stimulisati i podstaći na razmišljanje, jeste problem popločavanje. Ovo je oblast koja zauzima značajno mjesto kada su u pitanju kombinatorika i diskretna matematika. Pitanje je kako na jednostavan način napraviti nastavni materijal od papira, jer je bitno da su resursi potrebni za ovakav vid nastave/aktivnosti jako mali ili troška skoro da nema. Igre koje su primjenjive uz redovno gradivo i koje možemo ponuditi učenicima, znajući da su rješive za vrijeme trajanja jednog nastavnog časa jesu tangrami, poliomino oblici, razne vrste matrica, i dr. One mogu poslužiti za vizuelni dokaz Pitagorine teoreme, za izučavanje površina, za pojašnjenje simetrija u ravni, djeljivosti, razlomaka... Ono što motiviše u ovom obliku rada jeste da se posebno ističe kreativnost kod učenika koji nisu među najboljima kada je redovna nastava u pitanju. Izazov više jeste da na ovakav način učenici usvoje neka suštinska znanja, ali i vizualizuju naučeno. Tako je, uz već poznate

i lakše rješive domino, tromino i tetromino (tetris), učenicima, odnosno igračima, pentomino ozbiljan izazov u konkretnim problemima. Često će u radu do istog rješenja doći na različite načine, što je u matematici jako bitno i nosi posebnu vrijednost u procesu matematičkog usavršavanja. Pomenute igre su dostupne onlajn, ali nažalost nije previše zastupljeno među onima koji su naša ciljna grupa. Ovo je pravi način da se usvoje pravila i uputstva za igru, ali i logika rješavanja problema. Najvažnije je ponuditi drugačiji tip zadataka i problema, podstaći učenike da rade i razmišljaju u situaciji gdje su izmješteni iz šablona.

Pentomino spada u već pomenuti problem popločavanja ili parketiranja. Ovaj problem, koji datira još od davnina, širok je i raznovrstan, kako zbog tipa poligona koji je potrebno popločati tako i zbog izbora samih pločica/oblika kojim radimo popločavanje. Sredinom 20. vijeka Solomon Golomb je osmislio poliomino i objavio ga u svojoj knjizi. On definiše monomino, kao prvi poliomino od kog nastaju svi ostali. Monomino je jedinični kvadrat, dok se ostali domino, tromino, tetromino, pentomino, itd., dobijaju povezivanjem jediničnih kvadrata, tako da imaju



Slika 1: 12 pentomino oblika



Slika 3: Trostruko uvećanje pentomino oblika

zajedničku stranicu. Domino, tromino i popularni tetromino, učenicima su uglavnom jasni i poznati, dok se pentomino nameće kao mnogo zahtjevniji izazov.

Postoji 12 različitih pentomino oblika sastavljenih od pet jediničnih kvadrata (Slika 1). Ti oblici poznati su kao pentomino

alfabet prikazan u ovom skupu {F, I, L, N, P, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z}. Od 12 oblika možemo simetrijom dati 18 oblika, dok rotacijom dobijamo 63 različita oblika.

Slika 1: Konkretno, pentomino oblicisupogodnizarazumijevanje osobine konveksnosti figura, klasifikaciju mnogouglova prema broju strana, činjenice da

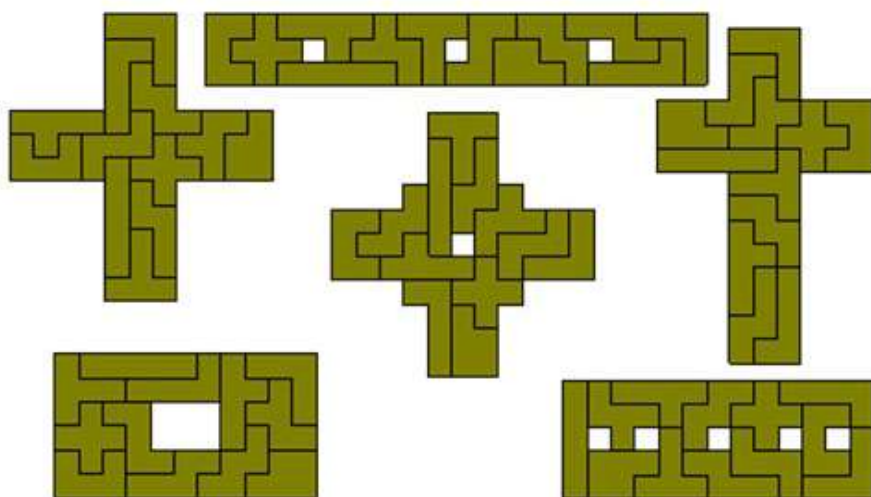
obim i površina nisu veličine koje jedinstveno određuju poligon, simetriji itd. Sa setom od 12 pentomino pločica možemo ponuditi sljedeće igre i zadatke: Primjer: Klasifikovati pentomino oblike prema broju njihovih strana?

Primjer: Odrediti koji pentomino oblici imaju osu simetrije?

Primjer: Koji pentomino oblik ima najmanji obim?

Igra 1. Učenici igraju u parovima sljedeću igru. Naizmenično biraju jedan od 12 pentomino oblika i spajaju sa prethodnom figurom tako da ukupan broj strana figure na stolu ne bude više od šest. Gubi onaj igrač koji prvi prekrši ovo pravilo.

Kada je u pitanju poligon koji popločavamo on može biti dimenzijamxn, za  $m \in \{3, 4, 5, 6, 8\}$ , a  $n \in \{3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15 \text{ i } 20\}$ , tako da bude prekriven cijeli poligon. Postoje poligoni koji imaju po 3 ili 4 šupljine ili „ostrva“. Koristeći ta „ostrva“ i njihovim



Slika 2: Popločavanja sa ostrvima



Slika 4: „Degenerisane“ pentomino table

adekvatnim pozicioniranjem, uz pentomino oblike, može se prekriti puna površina (Slika 2).

Slika 2: Popločavanja sa ostrvima Uz pomoć pentomino oblika moguće je kreirati neke od oblika trostruko uvećane (Slika 3), a postoji mnoštvo različitih oblika koje je moguće kreirati: životinje, predmeti, itd.

Slika 3: U tekstu se razmatraju četiri „klasične“ pravougaone pentomino zagonetke, neke varijacije slagalice  $8 \times 8$  i brojne „degenerisane“ slučajeve, odnosno slagalice koje su premale da sadrže svih 12 pentomina, kao što je  $5 \times 5$  slagalice. (Slika 4)

Slika 4: Cilj je pronaći svaki način da ispunite slagalicu sa maksimalnim brojem pentomina. Broj rješenja varira, od dva (za slagalicu  $3 \times 20$ ) do 6951 (za slagalicu  $5 \times 10$ ). Preporuka je da pentomino uvrsti u redovno obrazovanje kroz otvoreni dio redovnog plana, dodatnu nastavu ili matematičku

sekciju. Učenicima, shodno uzrastu i kompetencijama, uvoditi različite problemske zadatke koji bi kod njih podspješili bolje matematičko i logičko rasuđivanje, orijentaciju i rad sa mnogouglovima.

S obzirom na dostupnost onlajn aplikacija u kojima se može koristiti pentomino, djecu možemo motivisati da krenu sa slaganjem tako što bi im ponudili jednostavnije primjere.

Primjer 2.1 Koristeći neke od pentomino oblika popuniti tablu  $3 \times 5$ .

Primjer 2.2 Koristeći neke od pentomino oblika popuniti tablu  $5 \times 5$  (Slika 5).

Primjer 2.3 Koristeći neke od pentomino oblika popuniti tablu  $6 \times 5$ .

Slika 5: Nakon početnog uspjeha i upoznavanja sa samom igrom učenicima je dobro ponuditi da riješe neke od klasičnih tabli u kojima će koristiti sve oblike.

Primjer 2.4 Koristeći pentomino

oblike popuniti tablu  $6 \times 10$ .

Primjer 2.5 Koristeći pentomino oblike popuniti tablu  $3 \times 20$ .

Primjer 2.6 Koristeći pentomino oblike popuniti tablu  $5 \times 12$ .

Na kraju ih možemo upoznati sa nekim izvedenim primjerima iz klasičnih problema popločavanja, gdje se koriste svi pentomino oblici, ali ipak ne prekrivamo cijelu tablu ili površ. Takvi su primjeri:

Primjer 2.7 Koristeći pentomino oblike popuniti šahovsku tablu  $8 \times 8$ . Šta zaključuješ?

Ovde možemo zadati i sljedeću igru:

Igra 2. Učenici igraju u parovima sljedeću igru. Naizmenično biraju jedan od 12 pentomino oblika i postavljaju ga na šahovsku tablu  $8 \times 8$ . Gubi onaj igrač koji ne može da napravi ovakav potez.

Primjer 2.8 Koristeći pentomino oblike popuniti tablu  $3 \times 21$ . Šta zaključuješ?

Ovdje je potrebno upoznati djecu i navesti na razmišljanje o broju jediničnih kvadrata, kako table,

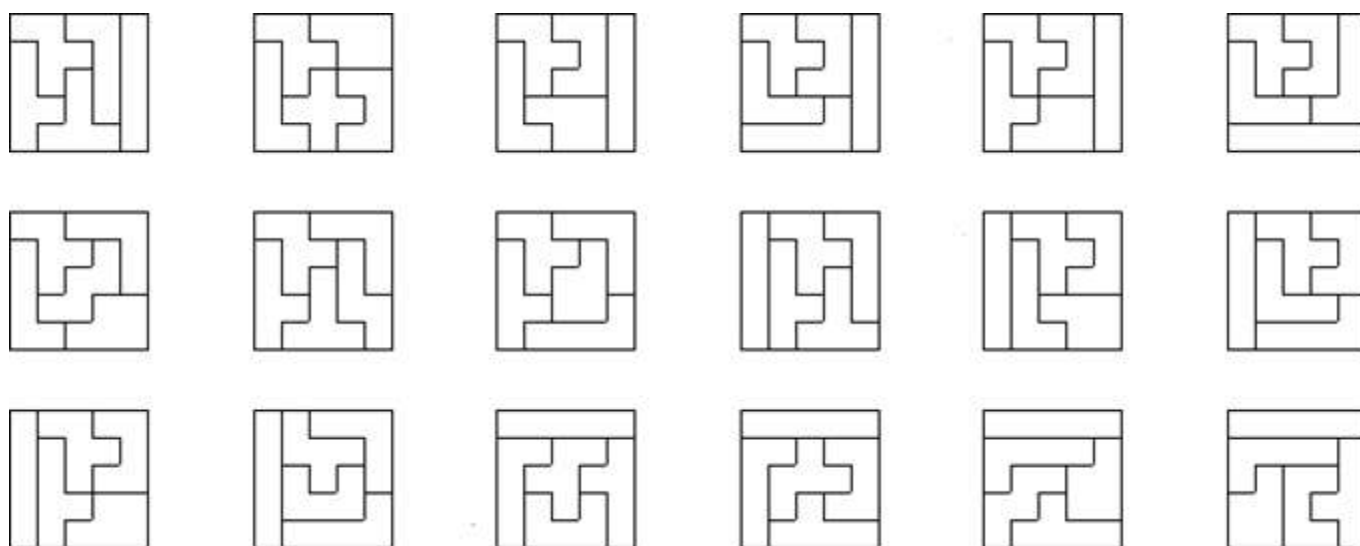
tako i pentomino oblika. Prosto množeći vrste i kolone dobijamo da će u posljednja dva primjera broj jediničnih kvadrata biti 64 i 63, redom. Kako 12 pentomino oblika ima ukupno 60 jediničnih kvadrata, zaključujemo da je nemoguće popločati tablu, a da nam ne ostanu prazna polja ili „ostrva“.

Još jedan važan aspekt ovakvih igara jeste što se na njima može dobro objasniti princip rada vještačke inteligencije koja postaje sve prisutnija u našim životima. Ovdje je vrlo bitno naglasiti učenicima da je matematika i matematički način mišljenja u osnovi i ovako

naprednih algoritama. Sa druge strane, uloga naša kao nastavnika matematike je i da ovakvim primjerima ukažemo na važnost očuvanja fonda časova i davanja mjesta matematici koje mora imati u obrazovnom sistemu 21. vijeka.

Na kraju, iako je u ovom radu prezentovano dosta važnih činjenica, potrebno je ohrabriti kolege da izađu iz šablona, da probaju nešto novo u učionici, da provjere kako djeca reaguju na promjenu. Ne bi trebalo da se obeshrabre ako sam početak i ne bude onakav kako zamišljaju. Takvih igara ima još mnogo, a neke ćemo pomenuti u narednim

izdanjima Biltena. Prije svega, razmjenom iskustava u okviru strukovnih udruženja, interneta, seminara i radionica baza dobrih i kreativnih ideja se širi. Matematici treba dati prostor i osloboditi je stega u koje je često sami stavljamo. Mišljenja smo da ako učenik sazna i za zanimljivije načine učenja i usvajanja gradiva možemo, zajedno doprinositi popularizaciji matematike, što bi trebao biti cilj svakog od nas.



Slika 5: Neka od rješenja table 5x5

DARKO PRELEVIĆ

# SPARTANAC U ATINI



**S**tigao sam u Miškolc iza ponoći. Povod je bila apsolventska studentska praksa koju je trebalo da odradim u ovom gradu, regionalnom centru sjeverne Mađarske, veličine Podgorice.

Uz presjedanje od po nekoliko sati u Subotici i Budimpešti, u putu sam proveo preko 24 sata. Iako je željeznička stanica u Podgorici od naše porodične kuće na par stotina metara, nisam rezervisao voznu kartu na vrijeme, pa sam zaslužio "platio" svoju neoprostivu ležernost, tako što sam prestajao pola prethodne noći u hodniku putničkog vagona.

„Grđan umoran“, na hodniku studentskog kampa-hostela, nabasah na Dimitrisa. On je, kaže, iz Soluna, studira u Atini

metalurgiju.

Drži me na hodniku kao omađijanog, sve sa koferima u rukama. Ne stižem ni da ih spustim na pod, priča kao navidan. Djelimično sam sam kriv, jer potvrđujem da sam, naravno, čuo za Žarka Paspalja (pa sugrađani smo).

Ne samo da ga poznajem, naivno nastavljam, ko zna koliko puta smo igrali košarku zajedno. To je bila rečenica koja me je sje\*ala. Što je najgore, nisam ništa slagao, jer svi mi, koji smo, plus-minus par godina, Paljeva generacija, odigrali smo sa njim bezbroj basketu u dvorištu škole Savo Pejanović, Gimnazije ili u Njegoševom parku, ne sluteći da će baš tolika košarkaška legenda da postane.

U sobu sam ušao polumrtav. Sjutra ujutro sam na Mašinskom fakultetu dobio radno angažovanje. Učestvujem u eksperimentalnom laboratorijskom ispitivanju nekog mašinskog procesa. Popodne sam upoznao cimere. Alan je bio iz Belgije, sin generala NATO armije, briljantan student i, kasnije će se pokazati, najbolji u svim društvenim igrama. Istovremeno, bio je najveći smetenjak za sport kojeg sam vidio u životu. Uspijevao je da svakodnevno pomjera granice naše samokontrole, pa smo se besomučno izdirali na jadnika, dok god smo bili na nekom od sportskih terena.

Izgleda da sam ja, nažalost, bio najagresivniji, jer psotka koja se najčešće čula na terenu bila je: „Pi\*ka ti materina“. Neki su

je, istina, izgovarali sa blagim šprehfelerom, ali svakako razgovjetno.

Peter je bio Danac. Kako nemam baš jasne kriterijume za prepoznavanje muške ljepote, posle samo nekoliko dana sam shvatio da je „otrov“ za žene. Vjerujem da to nije imalo veze sa činjenicom što je bio blago izbildovan.

Fama o Rusima kao neumornim konzumentima alkohola je, što se mene tiče, pala u vodu, pored Petera i još nekoliko Danaca iz kampa, koji su bili u stanju da čim otvore oči, pa bilo to i u sedam ujutro, ispijaju neograničene količine očajnog, a pritom i mlakog, mađarskog piva.

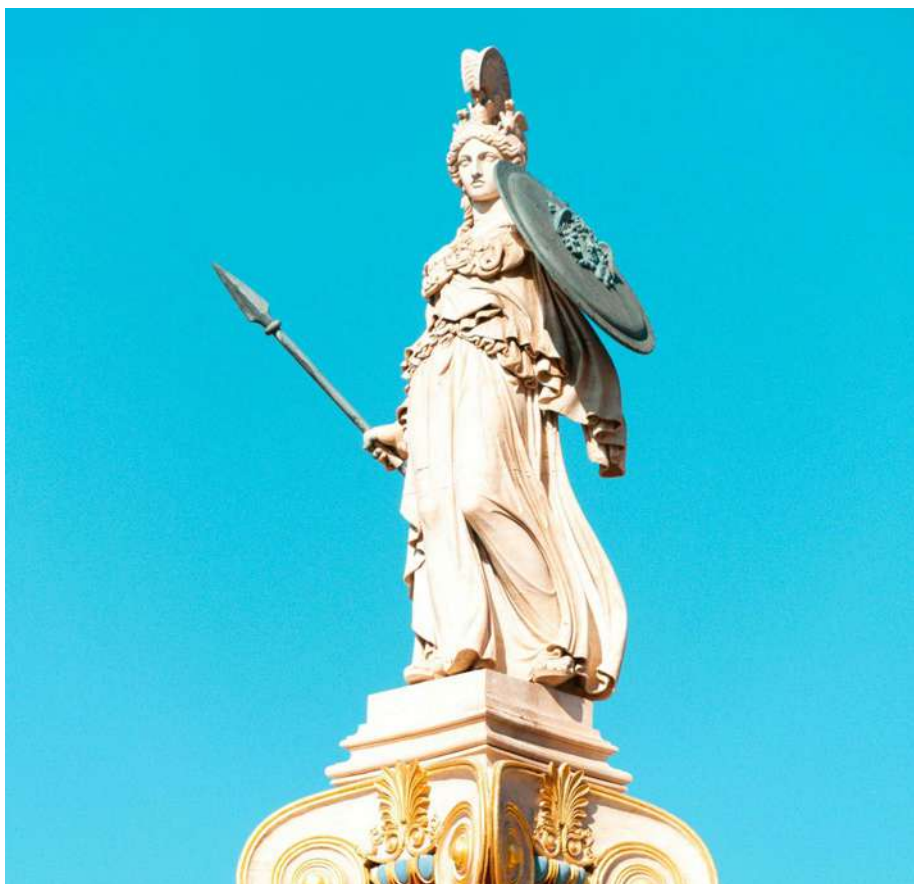
Ahmed je bio iz Egipta. Ne sjećam se baš ko je, nekoliko dana od mog dolaska na praksu, došao na ideju da u slobodno vrijeme rješavamo zadatke iz otpornosti materijala, ali ostao sam impresioniran Ahmedovom genijalnošću. Otpornost materijala je preozbiljna nauka, temelj mašinstva i nekih drugih tehničkih nauka.

Ne samo što je prvi dolazio do rješenja, već je to radio napamet, bez olovke i papira. Kad bolje razmislim, logično je da je ideja o nadgornjavanje sa zadacima bila njegova.

v

Bio je i beskrajno šarmantan i duhovit. Često smo pravili roštilj pored obližnjeg jezera. Jednom prilikom je, sticajem okolnosti, na meniju bila isključivo slanina. „Crni“ Ahmed nije imao kud, ko bi izdržao bez hrane pola dana. Na moje pitanje: „I što sad, u vezi sa tvojim trenutnim statusom





„kod Alaha?“, odgovorio je: „Nije strašno, danas sam dobio minus, sutra ću da uradim neko dobro djelo, dobiću plus i to je to“. Žalim što nisam ostao u kontaktu sa njim.

Markus je živio u Bonu. Bio je Njemac iz udžbenika. Uštogljen, ozbiljan, ponašao se kao da je četrdesetogodišnjak zarobljen u tijelu osobe od 22-23 godine. Odmah smo shvatili da sa njim nema idiotskih šala. Popodne je dolazio na sport ali ne i naveče na žurke. Bio je vjernik i koristio vikende provedene u Budimpešti, da posjeti Baziliku Svetog Stefana ili neku drugu katedralu. I svi mi ostali skoro smo svaki vikend provodili u Budimpešti. Miškolc je, sa izuzetkom studentskog kampa, bio pakleno dosadan grad.

Budimpešta je i u to sivo socijalističko doba, bila raskošna i božanstvena i živjela ritmom svakog velikog i značajnog evropskog velegrada. Peti cimer mi je bio „onaj“ Dimitris sa hodnika.

Bili smo prava ekipa, i izuzimajući „individualne aktivnosti“ dosta vremena posle posla provodili smo zajedno. Ipak, postojao je blagi šav između nas. Nas trojica, koji smo dolazili sa toplih mora, ipak smo bili malo prisniji.

Dugo sam se dopisivao sa ekipom iz Miškolca. Čak su, iz neobjašnjivog razloga, sva ta pisma ostala u nekoj kartonskoj kutiji od cipela, dok nisam prije 7-8 godina čuo kikotanje iz spavaće sobe i zatekao kćerke kako čitaju sa najvećom pažnjom pismo od izvjesne Betine iz Istočne Njemačke.

U decembru te iste godine bio sam kod Dimitrisa u Atini. I tamo sam, pri upoznavanju sa njegovim društvom, morao da prođem kroz još jednu „košarkašku“ torturu.

Grci, kao još neutemeljena košarkaška sila, tek su prolazili kroz period egzaltacije, pa je 80% svih njihovih tema bila košarka. Da podsjetim, bio je to period kad su Evropom harali Galis, Janakis, Hristodulu, Fasulas i ostali. Ovoga puta tema je bio Branislav Bane Prelević.

Ljubitelji košarke, a osobito navijači Zvezde, pamte ga po njegovoj mitskoj partiji u utakmici majstorice polufinala prvenstva Jugoslavije '87. U sudaru sa trojicom ponajboljih bekova Jugoslavije tog vremena (Draženom i Acom Petrovićem i Dankom Cvjetičaninom), Bane Prelević je odigrao partiju svoje karijere, „urnisao“ Cibonu sa 32 poena i odveo Crvenu zvezdu u finale.

Ono što je moj prezimenjak napravio u sljedećih osam godina u Solunu, spada u domen naučne fantastike. Iako je Žarko Paspalj većinski izabran za najboljeg jugoslovenskog košarkaša koji je ikad zaigrao u grčkoj ligi, Prelević je, dok je trajao njegov igrački mandat, pretvorio PAOK u jedan od tada najboljih timova našeg kontinenta.

Razumljivo je onda, zašto sam pristao na bijelu laž, i potvrdio Dimitrisovim drugovima da mi Bane Prelević jeste rođak. Ko bi se usudio da im kaže suprotno? Dimitris je bio vrhunski domaćin. Podrazumijeva se da sam sa njim

odgledao po nekoliko fudbalskih i košarkarskih mečeva, ali bilo je tu i razne druge zabave.

Pored obiliska Akropolja, Plake, trga Sintagme, organizovano mi je i tematsko, sasvim autentično, razgledanje grada, koje nijedna turistička agencija nije imala u programu. To je bio 'sightseeing' koji ja baš nisam tražio, ali kako da odbijem... prošli smo pored kuća, prije bih rekao vila, svih jugoslovenskih sportista koji su u tom momentu nešto značili u Grčkoj!

Vrijeme je učinilo svoje, kontakt između nas dvojice je bio sve rjeđi, na kraju je i prestao.

Godinama se već nismo glaskali jedan drugom, sve dok nije počela NATO agresija na našu zemlju. Par dana posle početka bombardovanja sam sa familijom bio kod roditelja. Zazvonio je telefon. Dimitris je, čujem, poznat glas. Iskopao je jedini moj broj koji je imao, i desilo se, eto, da budem tu. Po običaju, „melje“ bez prekida. Moli me da pošaljem familiju kod njega u Atinu.

Njegov poziv mi je mnogo značio, kao i saznanje da za nuždu imam kud familiju da pošaljem. Sve vrijeme trajanja bombardovanja se interesovao za zdravlje moje familije i pokazivao veliku empatiju. Nakon toga smo opet nekako vremenom prestali da se čujemo.

Uz sve mane, ima i neke koristi od društvenih mreža. Prije 5-6 godina, posle pauze od 15-tak godina sam na Fejsbuku pronašao mog prijatelja Dimitrisa. Naša radost je bila velika.

Nedugo posle toga smo, prvo mi, familijarno, bili u posjeti

kod naših dragih Grka. Ispred njihovog stana nas je, širom otvorenih ruku, dočekala njegova supruga Emi, iako nas je tada prvi put vidjela u životu. Sa istom ljubavlju su nas dočekali i njihovi sinovi, Stefanos i mlađi Dimitris. Nakog toga je došao red na uzvratnu posjetu. Planiramo ih još makar nekoliko.

Peloponez je označen kao sljedeće mjesto našeg susreta. Otud potiče Dimitrisova familija. Još uvijek imaju nešto zemlje blizu grada Sparte, koja je danas savremen grad, osnovan u 19. vijeku, pored iskopina antičke Sparte.

Od našeg ponovnog susreta se redovno čujemo. I dalje me ničim neizazvan, prvo obavijesti kako mu je Panatinaikos igrao, koliko je koševa dao Nemanja Nedović i koji odbojkaš iz Crne Gore je došao da igra u Grčkoj.

Sa velikim ogorčenjem mi saopštava i eventualne uspjehe Olimpijakosa na međunarodnoj sceni. Nema tu nikakvog foliranja, protiv Olimpijakosa se navija čak i za turske timove.

Dok smo sa familijom Koumustijatis prolazili kroz Pirej da bismo se iz luke ukrkali na brod za ostrvo Eginu, u nevjerici sam primijetio da, prolazeći pored stadiona mrskog Olimpijakosa, cijela familija, kao po komandi, bez riječi, okreće glavu na drugu stranu.

Već sam odavno svikao na Dimitrisove opširne sportske raporte, više ne pokušavam da ga prekinem, digao sam ruke, ne bunim se, uredno ga saslušam, pa onda pričamo o drugim stvarima.



FILIP RAJKOVIĆ

# OSKARI: OD GLAMURA DO SOCIJALNE KRITIKE



**P**rofesori istorije filma naučio me je, još i pre nego što sam razmišljao o tome da film može biti posao, da sve škole filma i akademije na stranu, učenje gledanja filma je lako: odgledati ih preko pet hiljada uz pokoji smernicu iz literature i spremni ste. Pritom ako počnete da pamтите detalje, uviđate teme i ideje u filmu, a bez formalne škole – pa onda ste prirodno nadareni za to i samo nastavite.

Neke interne smernice su: kada pronađete autora koji vam leži, istražite njegove najranije radove i nastavite da ga pratite kroz karijeru, više se može naučiti (ne samo o filmu per se) kroz celokupno autorsko trajanje sa svim usponima i padovima, nego iz gledanja nominovanih za nagrade svake godine po kategorijama. Hamlet i Tit Andronik su „nebo i zemlja“ po kvalitetu drame, ali znamo više o Šekspiru i zbog njegovih slabijih drama. Da se vratimo na temu, Žak Odijar je jedan od tih autora, a ove godine favorit je za Oskara. Iako filmovi nominovani za Oskara ne moraju nužno garantovati kvalitet, činjenica je da uvek izazivaju značajnu pažnju. Holivud se tradicionalno bavio temama manjina, nagrađujući filmove koji istražuju životne priče marginalizovanih grupa. Od „My Left Foot“ do „Filadelfije“, „Kišnog čoveka“, „Milk“, pa sve do savremenih naslova poput „Moonlight“ i „12 Years a Slave“, jasno je da Oskari često reflektuju društvena pitanja i kulturne promene.

Reflektuju – da, jer borba ljudi koji počinju život sa loše podeljenim

kartama jedina je potentna da se pretoči u priču, pa i u film. Možda se neke ne dopada prikazivanje ljudi sa smetnjama u razvoju, borbe sa autizmom ili terminalnim bolestima, drugih seksualnih opredeljenja, drugih boja kože ili religija, ali ukoliko želite da gledate priču o „normalnim ljudima“ (ne, oni zaista ne postoje) bez problema, uvek imate sapunice,

a „zakuvane“ sapunice se danas nazivaju rijaliti TV. Nema osude, pogotovo grozne elitizacije umetnosti, samo dajem izbore, uvek savetujem da se upustite u ono što će vas najviše izmestiti iz zone komfora, makar za vreme trajanje filma.

Međutim, nije sve uvek tako jednostavno. Čak i kada filmovi uspevaju da pošalju snažne





poruke, oni često bivaju zapostavljeni u korist onih koji su politički ili društveno relevantniji u određenom trenutku. Velikani „čistog filma“ poput Alfreda Hitchcocka, Orsona Wellesa i još mnogih drugih nikada nisu osvojili Oskara, što dodatno podseća na to da nagrada ne mora nužno da označava vrhunac umetnosti. U nekim slučajevima, kvalitetni žanrovski filmovi ostali su zapostavljeni zbog trenutnih političkih ili socijalnih prioriteta. Svima je vrlo dobro poznat potez Marlona Branda koji je odbio Oskara i umesto njega je Indijanka pročitala pismo u kome se kritiku prikaz domorodaca Amerike u filmovima i sam njihov tretman. Onda smo čekali pedesetak godina na Skorčezeov film. Znanje i obrazovanje su značajni – danas bi mnogo manje nas biralo da budu kauboji, a ne Indijanci.

Ove godine, Žak Odijar sa svojim filmom „Emilija Perez“ u centru je pažnje. Ovaj francuski reditelj, sin poznatog scenariste u vremenu vladavine meritokratije, poznat je po sposobnosti da stvara provokativne narative. Njegov film „Prorok“ iz 2009. godine takođe je bio uspešan (verovatno i dalje njegov najbolji film, svaka preporuka!), a sa „Emilijom Perez“ nominovan je u čak 13 kategorija.

Godine 2012. posle filma „Rđa i kosti“, Odijar je izjavio da bi voleo da napravi mjuzikl o drogi i kriminalu, što se čini da je uspeo ostvariti ovim filmom.

Ove godine, glavna glumica iz „Emilije Perez“ može postati prva transrodna osoba koja će osvojiti zlatnu statu. Njena potencijalna pobjeda mogla bi se smatrati vrhunskim dostignućem levičara u trenutku kada se Holivud bori

sa pitanjem reprezentacije. Mnogi će se možda iznenaditi i pomisliti na fantastičnu Demi Mur iz filma „Supstanca“, koja ga takođe zaslužuje. Postavlja se pitanje da li je to deo šireg trenda levih tema koje Holivud obrađuje kao odgovor na političku klimu, posebno nakon izbora Donalda Trampa, čije je predsedništvo donelo brojne promene, te je i uveo „ambasadore“ za Holivud u vidu Mela Gibsona, Džona Vojta i Stalone, ne bi li vratili Holivudu sjaj. Znači, čekamo nekog novog Džona Vejna ili makar Čarltona Hestona u narednim godinama. Nekog „tihog i snažnog tipa“, arhetipu kome se divi i Toni Soprano.

U prošlosti, filmovi poput „Rokija“, koji su bili metafora američkog sna, mogli su da pobjede naslove kao što su „Taksista“ i „TV Mreža“. S obzirom na to, sve je

moguće. „Emilija Perez” je strani film, a jedini strani pobednik u kategoriji za najbolji film do sada, bio je južnokorejski „Parazit”. Ova godina može doneti još jedan istorijski trenutak, ali i više od toga – može označiti promenu u načinu na koji se posmatra umetnost.

Možda zanimljivije od nagrada za najbolji film i režiju, jesu nagrade „koje nisu toliko marketinški bitne”, poput nagrade za originalni, kao i za adaptirani scenario, strani film i, naravno, dokumentarni. Tu možda treba tražiti ovogodišnji užitak.

Dodela Oskara, koja se održava od 1929. godine, predstavlja najprestižniju nagradu u filmskoj industriji. Zanimljivo je da je prva dodela Oskara bila privatna večera sa svega 270 prisutnih, dok danas privlači milionsku publiku putem televizije i interneta. Tokom godina, Oskari su se suočavali s kontroverzama, od raznolikosti među nominovanim filmovima do kritike o politici u Holivudu. Vredi napomenuti da je dodela

Oskara prethodne godine imala rekordno nisku gledanost, što postavlja pitanje o relevantnosti ovog događaja u današnjem svetu ratova, prirodnih nepogoda i porasta nasilja. Ove godine, dodela je odložena zbog razornih požara, te je cela atmosfera oko dodele sumorna, što bi moglo ugroziti posao „modne policije” za samu noć, jer: kako osuti paljbu po glumici koja je promašila haljinu, ako je upravo ostala bez kuće u požarima? Da li će stil i glamur preživeti ovakve okolnosti?

Završavajući ovu introspekciju, valja napomenuti da Oskari kroz godine oslikavaju i posleratne traume, žanrovske filmove, velike sage poput „Kuma”, „Mosta na reci Kvaj” i aktuelne političke debate. U ovom dinamičnom svetu, umetnost može i mora da se razvija, i, u trenucima krize, pruža najdublje refleksije o društvenim pitanjima, pa odgovore pronađimo sami.

Dragi moji, možda smo uvek bili kritički osvrnuti na društvo u kome živimo, pre svega sa političkog i socijalnog aspekta,

ali paradoksalno je da možemo da budemo i srećni u isto vreme, jer nas je istorija naučila da u mucu nastaje umetnost. Ako pričamo o ex-YU prostorima, puno redaka bi trebalo da bi se nabrojili veliki slikari, muzičari, pesnici, pisci, filmski stvaraoci sa ovih prostora. Možda Švajcarska ima standard, ali su „tanki” u sportu i u umetnosti, zar ne?

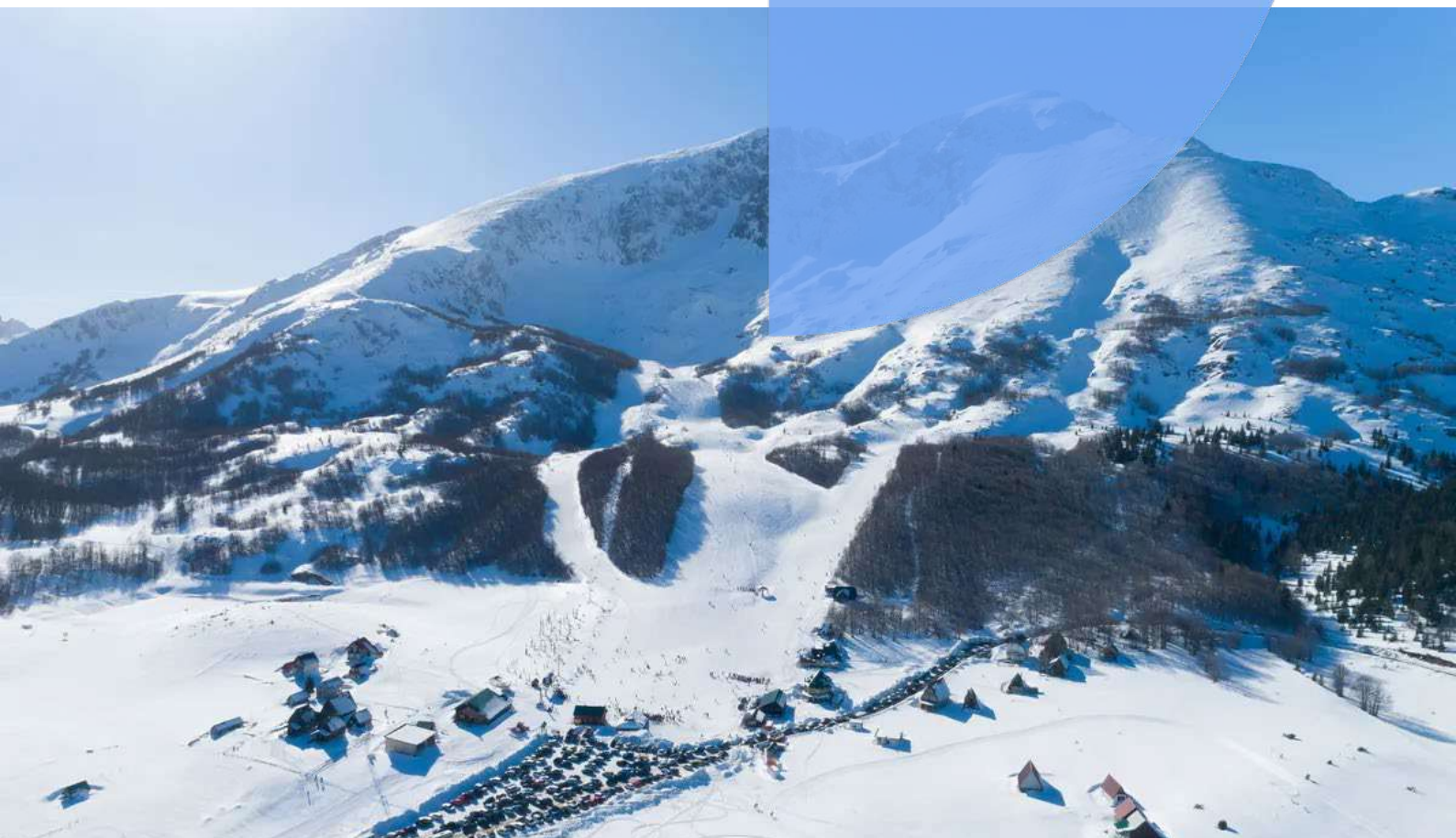
Uostalom i ovogodišnji kandidat za Oskara, u kategoriji kratki igrani film, jeste film „Čovjek koji nije mogao šutjeti”, Nebojše Slijepčevića, dobitnik Zlatne palme za film. Sigurno nam ne treba neki novi ratni sukob za stvaranje umetnosti, ali malo moderne „desničarsko-teološke” represije, zašto da ne, izrodiće se dela iz bunta, siguran sam.

*Autor je ponosni vlasnik etikete „Nema budale do školovane budale”. Filmski je režiser, živi na relaciji Beograd – Crna Gora i član je Mense od 1999.*



PREDSJEDNIŠTVO

# U NAJAVI: SKI VIKEND



**M**ensa Crne Gore i ove godine organizuje tradicionalni Ski-vikend na Žabljaku u Hotelu Pavlović od 28. februara do 2. marta.

Kao i uvijek, dobrodošli su svi članovi Mense, njihovi članovi porodice i prijatelji, kao i prijatelji Mense.

Obezbijeden je i besplatan prevoz autobusom od Podgorice preko Danilovgrada i Nikšića uključujući i povratak.

Smještaj će biti u hotelu sa dvokrevetnim, trokrevetnim i višekrevetnim sobama i apartmanima, sa grijanjem, TV-om i zasebnim kupatilom, kao i prevoz do skijališta Savin kuk i nazad.

Pored skijanja, vrijeme ćemo ispuniti druženjem u holu, društvenim igrama, žurkom u subotu uveče, kvizom, kao i



ostalim što bude predloženo sa vaše strane...

Sve u svemu, prava domaća, prijatna atmosfera u blizini prekrasnog Durmitora, koji nas čeka na druženje koje puno obećava.

Svi koji žele da koriste zajednički prevoz, informaciju će navesti prilikom prijave.

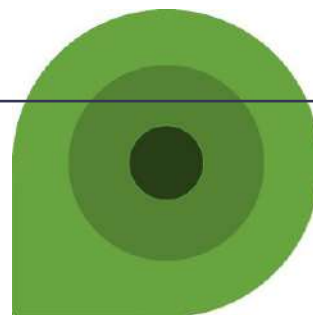
Za sve potrebne informacije oko prijave i ostalih detalja koji vas interesuju, možete se informisati putem mejla [naskivikend2025@mensa.me](mailto:naskivikend2025@mensa.me).

Pozivamo vas da nam se pridružite na tradicionalnom ski-vikendu u još jednoj zajedničkoj avanturi.



VOJO STANIĆ

## ART CORNER



**V**oyo Stanić (3.2.1924-19.11.2024) je rođen u Podgorici, a odrastao u Nikšiću.

Završio je Akademiju likovnih umetnosti, odsek skulpture, u Beogradu, posle čega je prešao u Herceg Novi. Ubrzo se okrenuo slikarstvu, što mu je omogućilo da bolje izrazi svoju miroljubivost, mediteranski duh i interesovanje za ljude.

Njegove slike su male pozorišne priče iz svakodnevnog života, pune duha. One vraćaju u život duh renesansnih komedija, predstavljajući ljudske slabosti, za koje takođe pokazuju razumevanje. Teme iz kafića, sa mora, ili iz svakodnevnog života često su predstavljene kroz mešavinu sa nadrealnim detaljima i kroz kreativan odnos likova i predmeta.

Bio je jedan od najznačajnijih savremenih crnogorskih umetnika i član CANU i DANU. Imao je nekoliko individualnih izložbi. Najvažnija njegova izložba bila je na Venecijanskom Bijenalu 1997. godine.







DUŠAN CEKOVIĆ

## POEZIJA

## Sanjam

*Sve ide ka tebi,  
misli ne mogu obuzdati.*

*Tražim svaki pogled  
tražim sreću u svemu što vidiš.*

*Iako čeznem  
znam da isto voliš.*

*Oh, kako srce zaigra  
kada tvoj osmijeh vidi.*

*Kada tvoje radosne oči obasjaju  
sve postaje bajka,  
sve postaje raskoš ljepote.*

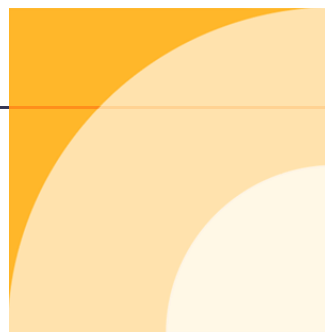
*Iako čeznem, znam da isto voliš  
znam da radost pogleda isto  
ispunjava.*

*Sve je lako kada je srce samo  
odabralo.*



TRIPO VUKOVIĆ

# MOZGALICA



Sto ljudi se postavlja u red da se ukrca u avion sa 100 sjedišta. Prva osoba u redu je izgubila svoju kartu za ukrcavanje, pa nasumično bira sjedište. Nakon toga, svaka osoba koja ulazi u avion ili sjeda na svom dodijeljenom mjestu, ako je dostupno, ili, ako nije, nasumično bira slobodno sjedište.

Kada 100. putnik konačno uđe u avion, koja je vjerovatnoća da će pronaći svoje dodijeljeno sjedište slobodno?

Rješenja mozgalice iz prethodnog broja:

Rješenje ima X i Y kao 4 i 13, pri čemu P prvobitno zna da je proizvod 52, a S zna da je zbir 17.

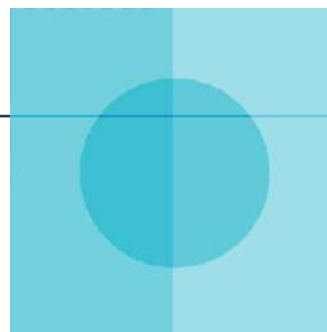
U početku P ne zna rešenje, pošto

$$52 = 4 \times 13 = 2 \times 26$$

i S zna da P ne zna rešenje, pošto svi mogući zbrojevi do 17 unutar datih ograničenja daju slične nejasne proizvode. Međutim, kada P sazna da S vjeruje da postoji više mogućih rješenja s obzirom na proizvod, P može isključiti  $2 \times 26$ , jer u tom slučaju zbir iznosi 28, a parni zbrojevi su isključeni Goldbahovom pretpostavkom kao što je navedeno.

Dakle, P sada zna da su brojevi 4 i 13 i kaže S da zna koji su brojevi. Iz ovoga, S sada zna da od mogućih parova na osnovu zbira (tj.  $2+15$ ,  $3+14$ ,  $4+13$ ,  $5+12$ ,  $6+11$ ,  $7+10$ ,  $8+9$ ) samo jedan ima proizvod koji bi omogućio P da zaključi odgovor, a to je  $4 + 13$ . Čitalac može da zaključi jedino moguće rešenje na osnovu činjenice da je S mogao da ga odredi. Napominjemo da, na primjer, da je S bio obaviješten o 97 ( $48 + 49$ ) i P o 2352 ( $48 \times 49$ ), P bi mogao da zaključi jedino moguće rješenje, ali S ne bi mogao, jer bi 44 i 53 i dalje bili logički moguća alternativa.

# KAKO SE KAŽE?

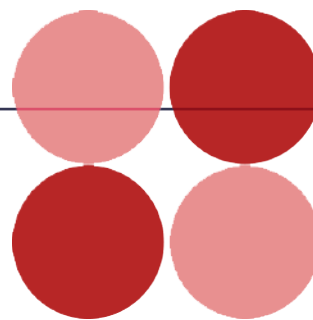


U periodu kad svi pratimo sjednice, bilo školske, bilo političke, nailazimo na konstrukciju predsjedava sjednicom, kako u medijima, tako i u školskim zapisnicima. Da vas šokiram: konstrukcija predsjedava sjednicom nije pravilna. Jedino je ispravno reći predsjedava sjednici. Ova jako česta greška, posljedica je pravljenja lažne analogije sa „rukovoditi čime“. Sjednica nije sredstvo onoga ko predsjedava njoj, a ova informacija važna je ne samo iz lingvističke perspektive...„Ako me razumete.“ ;)



TRIPO VUKOVIĆ

# DA LI STE ZNALI?



U 2001. godini, major vojske Charles Ingram prevarom je došao do 1.000.000 funti na kvizu "Ko želi da postane milioner" tako što je imao kolegu takmičara koji je kašljao svaki put kada bi pročitao pravi odgovor. Za jedno pitanje, kašljanje je došlo i od Ingramove supruge. Svo troje su osuđeni za prevaru.



# INFO ZA NOVE > ČLANOVE

Poštovani članovi,

Godišnja članarina za 2025. godinu iznosi 30 eura.

Novim članovima članarina za tekuću godinu je besplatna, dok za stare članove važe sljedeći popusti:

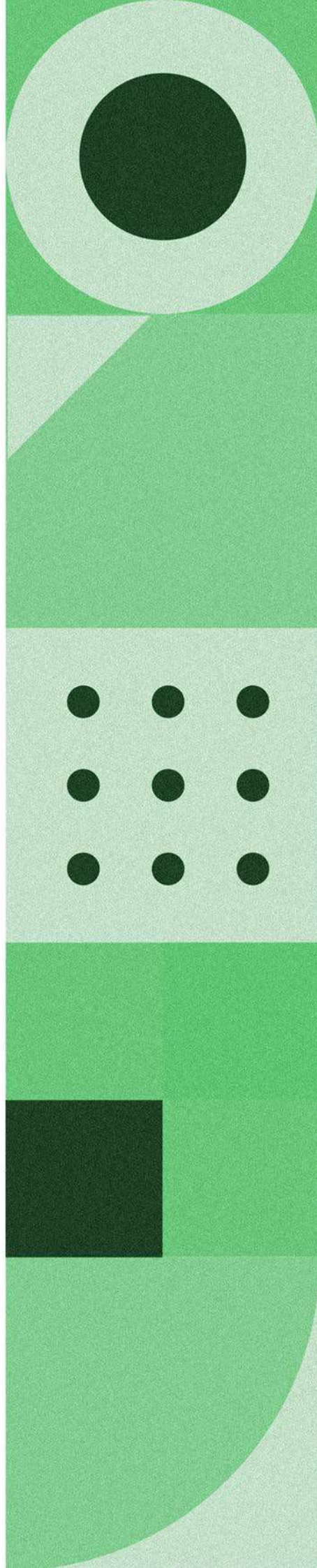
- 25% za sve uplate do 31. januara,
- 25% za više članova iz jedne porodice,
- 25% za mlađe od 29 godina i starije od 60 godina.

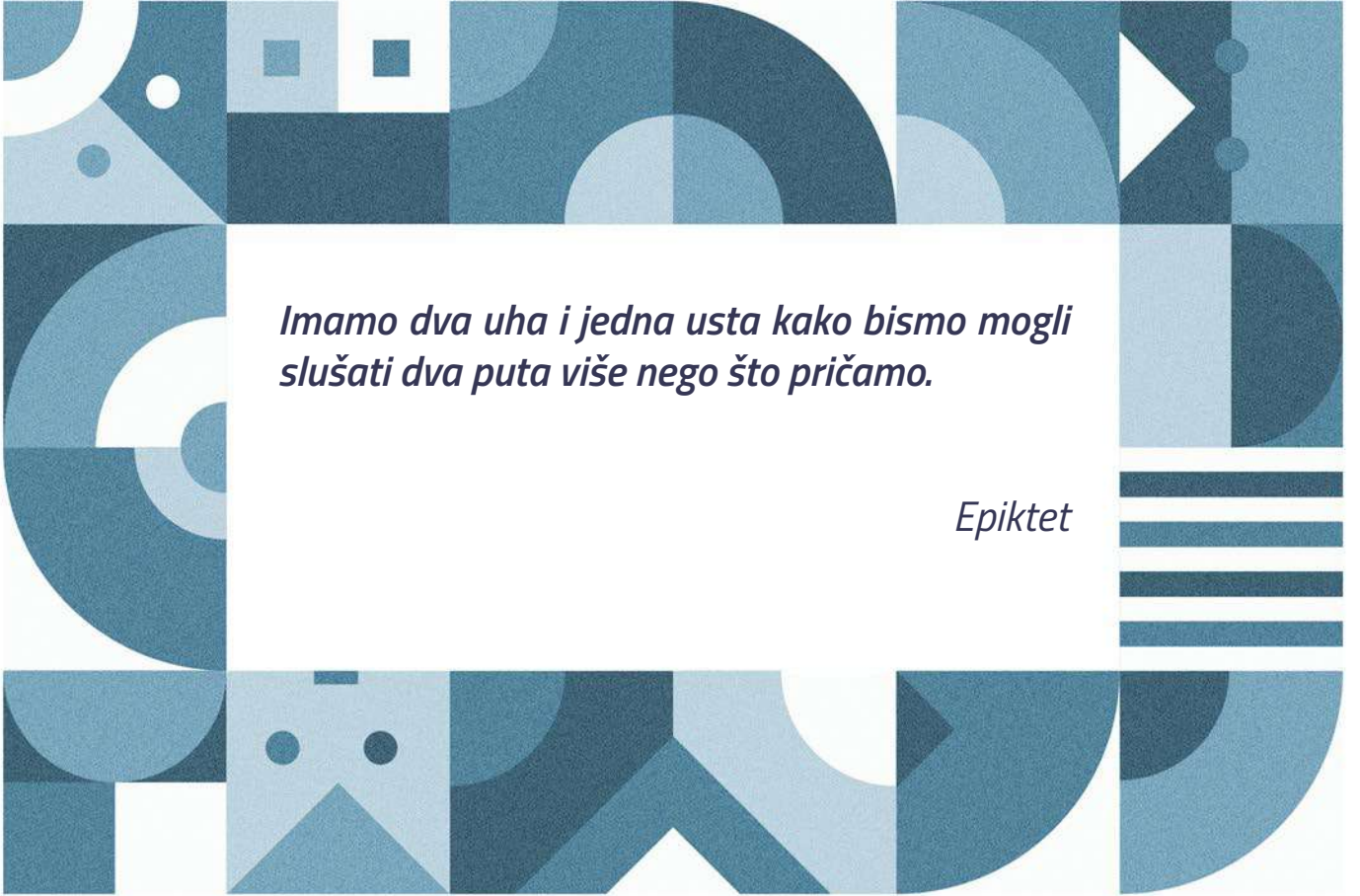
Važno je napomenuti da se popusti mogu obračunati najviše po dva osnova, što znači da je 50% maksimalni popust koji član može ostvariti.

Članarinu možete platiti kod blagajnika Mense, ili uplatom na žiro-račun Mense Crne Gore 520-14442-11 (Hipotekarna banka).

Kada uplatite članarinu potrebno je da, ukoliko to niste ranije uradili (radi izrade nove baze članova), popunite naš online [Upitnik](#).

Predsjedništvo





*Imamo dva uha i jedna usta kako bismo mogli  
slušati dva puta više nego što pričamo.*

*Epiktet*

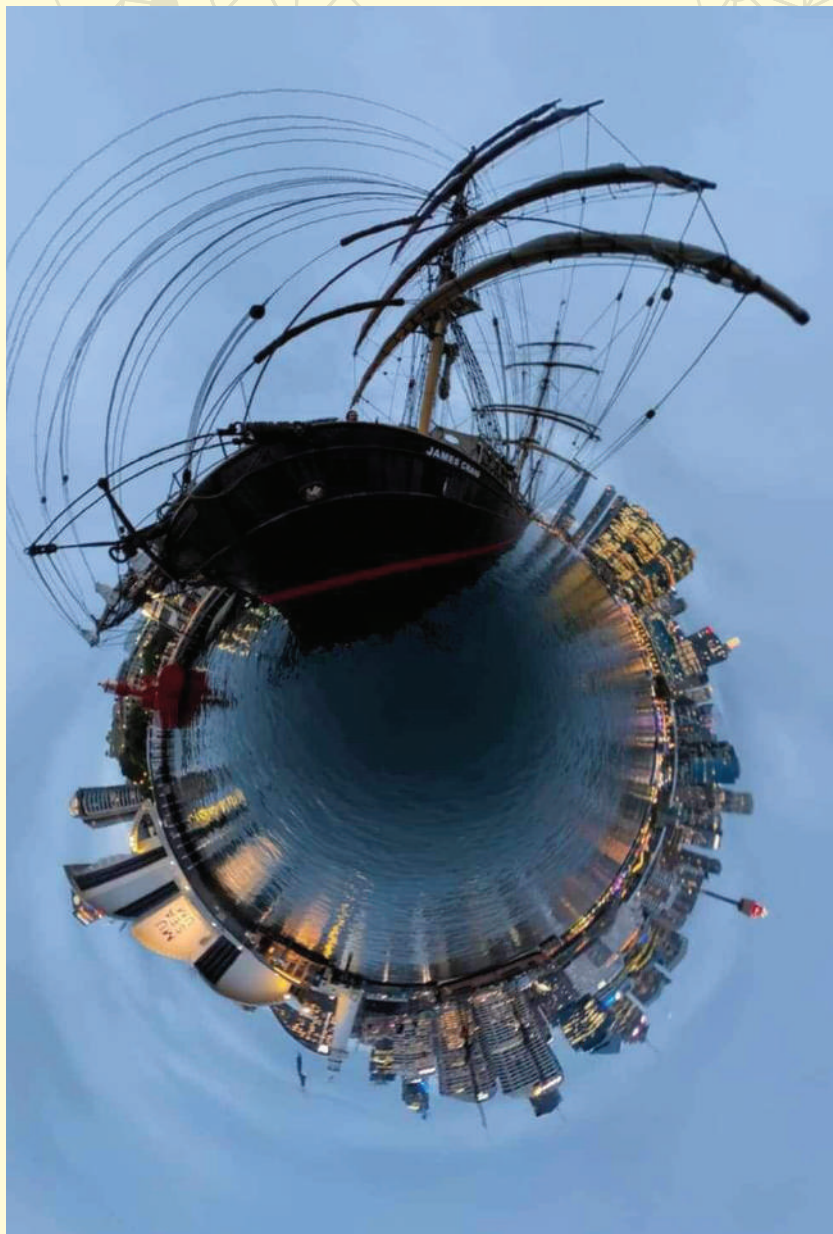


Žabljak, Dušan Stupar

# mensa world journal

---

JANUARY 2025 | EDITION | 144



*The 2024 Australian Mensa Conference was held in Sydney in October.*

*Guests enjoyed welcome drinks aboard the Tall Ship, James Craig, at Darling Harbour.*

*See the report of the meeting on p5*

*Photo courtesy of Liam Filson.*

MENSA INTERNATIONAL

JOIN THE CONVERSATIONS AT

<https://hub.mensa.org>

*from the editor.*



- read how toddlers understand the concept of possibility on p2
- on p3, our new International Treasurer, Jovana Kostic, shares her thoughts on the path ahead for Mensa
- a report of Australian Mensa's 60th Anniversary is on p5. The event was held in Sydney and organised by Teresa Wong and her team
- new research has shed fresh light on academic success, and what truly drives it. On p6, Features Editor Taryn Dryfhout tells us of the latest studies on this issue
- the Member Profile is on p7, and on p8, Romanian member Aloiz Kara explores the question "Are we born with a moral compass?"
- Supplementally... is on p10, the Officer Directory is on p11, and Therese's Teasers are, as usual, on p12.

*Happy reading!*

*Kate*

Log in to [www.mensa.org](http://www.mensa.org) to read or download the MWJ in full colour

## *Toddlers understand the concept of possibility*

**Children too young to know words like "impossible" and "improbable" nonetheless understand how possibility works, finds new work with two- and three-year-olds.**

The findings, the first to demonstrate that young children distinguish between improbable and impossible events, and learn significantly better after impossible occurrences, is newly published in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

"Even young toddlers already think about the world in terms of possibilities," said co-author Lisa Feigenson, co-director of the Johns Hopkins University Laboratory for Child Development. "Adults do this all the time, and here we wanted to know whether even toddlers think about possible states of the world before they've had years of experience and before they have the language to describe these mental states."

Adults consider possibilities daily. Rain likely? Best bring an umbrella. If I buy a lottery ticket will I win? Probably not. But it wasn't known if toddlers also practise that mental judgement or if it emerges with age and experience.

Two- and three-year-old children were shown a gumball-type machine filled with toys. Some kids saw a mix of pink and purple toys. Others saw the machine was filled with only purple toys. Children then got a coin to drop into the machine to draw one toy.

The kids who saw that a mix of pink and purple toys was available

and drew a pink one shouldn't have been surprised, since even if there weren't that many pink ones—and even if there was only one pink one—there was some chance they'd get a pink toy. But some kids who saw the machine filled with only purple toys got a pink—which shouldn't have been possible.

After they got their toys, all of the children were told the name of the toy—a made-up word—and then asked the name a short while later. Kids who experienced the impossible scenario and drew a pink toy when the machine contained no pink toys, learned significantly better than everyone else. But as long as getting a pink toy was possible, no matter how unlikely, kids experienced no boost to their learning.

"One possibility was that they would learn well from the improbable events, but even better from the impossible events," said co-author Aimee Stahl, a former doctoral student in Feigenson's lab who is now an associate professor of Psychology at The College of New Jersey. "But what we found was that they actually don't learn from the unlikely, improbable events. They only learn if they experienced the impossible event."

Feigenson and Stahl believe toddlers learn so much better after impossible events because the unexpected drives them to search for explanations. Improbable events might be surprising, but they don't necessarily need any explanation. Impossible events require kids to reevaluate what they thought they knew.

*Continued on p11*

## from your ExComm

### *from the International Treasurer, Jovana Kostic*

---

#### ***Reflections on a promising path forward***

As we welcome a new year, I'm excited to connect with you in this, my first column as International Treasurer and to share reflections on the journey ahead. The past months have brought inspiring discussions, creating a strong foundation that aligns with Mensa's vision. Insights from our recent IBD have given us clear direction, fueling our commitment to impactful projects and forward-thinking goals. With this renewed focus, we're stepping into the year with both energy and purpose, ready to make a difference together!

In my new role as International Treasurer, I approached this first IBD meeting with a focus on financial responsibility, long-term planning and supporting initiatives that will strengthen Mensa at every level. This year, my role feels especially rewarding as we are kicking off several key projects, each contributing to strategic goals that will shape Mensa's impact on both its members and the broader intellectual community.

#### **Financial performance and investments**

The past few years have been a period of significant investment

in Mensa's future, with resources allocated toward long-term projects. As Treasurer, I am pleased to report that these investments — though affecting our short-term financials — are expected to yield positive results as they mature. Projects such as the Adaptive Testing initiative and CRM have demanded considerable upfront costs, yet they are setting the stage for a streamlined and accessible membership experience worldwide.

Our financial position remains stable and we anticipate that these strategic investments will contribute to sustainable growth and impact over the coming years. We have balanced fiscal prudence with a willingness to innovate, ensuring that each financial commitment aligns with our overarching goals. This approach not only preserves our financial health but also sets a foundation for sustainable progress in the future.

#### **Building on our core strengths**

A key takeaway from this year's IBD is that our community is as strong as ever. Mensa has always been about cultivating potential, providing a space for minds to connect and fostering personal and intellectual growth across all ages. Our en-

hanced strategic framework builds on this foundation but emphasises a forward-thinking approach: how do we not only keep pace with a changing world but also lead in ways that only Mensa can? The answer lies in harnessing our strengths and focusing on a few core pillars that will enable us to grow thoughtfully.

#### **Strategic focus: volunteers, gifted youth and visibility**

One of the first big projects on the horizon is our commitment to enhancing programs for gifted youth and providing ongoing support to volunteers — our most valued resources! As we look at the demographics of our actively-engaged members, we are reminded of the tremendous value that both longstanding and newer members bring to Mensa. Each generation within Mensa contributes a unique perspective and set of experiences that enrich our organisation as a whole. By building on this legacy with



*Continued on p4*

*Continued from p3*

structured opportunities for youth engagement, mentorship and leadership development, we are investing in a vibrant, multigenerational community that honours tradition while evolving for future needs.

Volunteers are the heart of our organisation and part of our enhanced framework prioritises resources and recognition for their work. Our volunteers give their time and talent without expectation and supporting them better aligns with our values and makes our community stronger and more inclusive.

Another exciting part of our strategic framework is our focus on visibility. Mensa has a wealth of knowledge and talent within its ranks, but our impact has traditionally been confined to our membership. With this enhanced strategy, we aim to amplify Mensa's voice in areas that matter, whether it's education, innovation or leadership in global dialogues. We're committed to making Mensa more accessible and recognisable, so our members' contributions can reach wider audiences and create broader, positive influence.

### **Financial stewardship for a sustainable future**

As Treasurer, my role centres on ensuring that we have a strong, sustainable financial base for these ambitious projects. Adaptive Testing, for example, not only streamlines how we identify potential members, but it also opens new doors for how we operate globally. By embracing technology, we're making Mensa more accessible while maintaining the quality standards we're known for. Such projects are a testament to

how smart investments can yield substantial benefits.

But financial stewardship extends beyond supporting individual projects. It's about making sure we have the flexibility to take on new opportunities as they arise. It's about balancing the immediate needs of our members today with the aspirations we have for tomorrow. This mindset of sustainable growth is woven into every project and initiative on the table, ensuring that we honour our legacy while continuously evolving.

### **Moving forward together**

As we step into the new year, I invite each of you to reflect on how you can contribute to these initiatives. Whether it's through local volunteer efforts, participating in new programs or simply engaging with the Mensa community, each member plays an essential role in our shared success.

This new year marks an exciting chapter! We are embracing change, pursuing ambitious goals and positioning ourselves as a leader in promoting intellectual and personal growth worldwide. This journey will require commitment, creativity and collaboration, but I have no doubt that, together, we are ready to meet these challenges head-on.

Wishing each of you a happy and fulfilling New Year, filled with inspiration, connection and growth.

With gratitude for your trust and support,

**Jovana**  
**International Treasurer, Mensa International**  
**[treasurer-mil@mensa.org](mailto:treasurer-mil@mensa.org)**

## ***what's on... around the Mensa world.***

**Grensa goes to  
Zeeland 2025  
Zeeland,  
Netherlands,  
7th to 9th  
March 2025**



Grensa goes to  
Zeeland!

From Friday, 7 to Sunday, 9 March 2025, Fletcher Hotel Nieuwvliet Bad in Nieuwvliet will be our venue. It is located right next to the beach.

On top of the premium location, the hotel will also be exclusively ours. No other guests, just us. Our Grensa room will be the hotel bar, there is a snooker table, an indoor swimming pool, there will be games and puzzles, plenty of room to relax, space and fresh (salty) sea air.

Just like our previous Grensa weekends, this weekend will be a small event with max. 60 participants. Due to the small size of the hotel, the number of single rooms is limited (to approximately 10...). So if possible, please share a room. In the coming months we will further investigate and organise possible activities.

For more information, please visit [www.grensa.eu](http://www.grensa.eu).

**See you in Zeeland!**

**Your Grensa orga-team,  
Nadine, Charlotte, Jan, Els &  
Bruno**

## Sydney celebrates the Diamond Anniversary in style!

**Australian Mensa's 60th birthday was a blast, the biggest ever! The International Mensa Chair, our own Ms Therese Moodie-Bloom opened the conference, with first class VIP guest speakers at the adults' and separately the children's conferences. Our international journal editor, Kate Nacard, welcomed our guests.**

The AGI panel, Artificial General Intelligence discussions were fascinating with big 'thank yous' to Peter Shann Ford for moderating the specialist panellists. The American attendees were so impressed, they wanted to invite some of our speakers to the States! With over 100 children attending at various events, we have to thank the parents for supporting Mensa, and of course, they assisted at the AMC along with our dedicated volunteers without whom we could not provide such a great event.

We had 357 persons registered for over 700 attendances at the Icebreaker, Conferences and Gala dinner, not even counting pre-AMC tours and a post-AMC Yum Cha banquet...all at maximum capacities. Many on the wait list could not believe we sold out three months earlier!

The Icebreaker venue was on the Tall Ship James Craig. A big hit, with 248 attendees on and below decks. The 80 child attendees outwitted our pirates in hunting for

the 'treasure'. Complex clues were supposed to be resolved in an hour, but, of course, our children took only 15 minutes.

Much fun and camaraderie was abundant. As usual, all members enjoyed meeting up with old friends and made new friends. The child members found more like-minded friends and will continue their friendships online till next they meet.

Then the Gala Dinner was full of surprises. Guest opera singers dressed as the chef and wait staff delighted the audience, ending with a flourish, toasting our 60th Anniversary. Our international, interstate and local guests had a great time. Many have declared it the best AMC ever!

At the IBD gathering in Perth, I talked about gifted children and branding Mensa. It was well received, and as a result, there is now strong interest

amongst the Mensa nations to revisit their strategies to focus on the foundation members of the future, our child members. Each nation will need to customise their own strategies in profiling and targeting for maximum results. Maybe the next International Volunteer Network and development committees will include these ideas at their



*Part of the Conga line at the Gala Dinner*

next meetings.

Learning about the Mensa Foundation was interesting, given that Australian Mensa provides up to \$30,000 per annum in grants and research. We have to thank Therese Moodie-Bloom for that. Her caring for and befriending a Mensan resulted in his being so appreciative that he left \$1.23m to Mensa in 2010! Without that legacy, we could not subsidise our administration costs, nor afford any grants. We need to continually look behind what is presented to better understand and manage Mensa. Beyond politics and administration, Mensa is about the members.

It was wonderful that some IBD delegates and partners were able to come to Sydney for our 60th party down under. Greeting old friends from Europe and the States is always a highlight for me. So, since I am in New York often, I hope to catch up with more of the US regional gatherings, and EMAGs.

We look forward to the next Australian AMC. Go Brisbane 2025!

**Teresa Wong**  
**Organiser of the 2024 Australian**  
**Mensa Conference.**



# Rethinking Academic Success: How Non-Cognitive Skills Compete with Intelligence

---

**New research has shed fresh light on academic success, and what truly drives it. The study comes out of London, and the results published in *Nature Human Behaviour* suggest that non-cognitive skills may be as critical to academic achievement as intelligence, if not more.**

While most people traditionally view academic success as something caused primarily by high intelligence, IQ tests, problem-solving skills, and memory, these cognitive abilities will only take you so far. Many researchers and educators are now recognising that non-cognitive skills are just as important, if not more so than raw intelligence. Whilst being intelligent is an important indicator for academic success, non-cognitive skills such as perseverance, self-control, motivation, and time management have been found to be a critical factor for success.

This is not an entirely new idea. In 2019, Psychologist Angela Duckworth delivered a TED talk on the idea of “grit”. According to Duckworth, students who are focussed, good with their time, confident, emotionally self-regulating, persevering, and actively working on developing their non-cognitive abilities are more likely to succeed academically, even if their IQ is not remarkably high. This is because intelligence is thought to be fixed, but non-cognitive skills can im-

prove and extend with time and effort.

The new *Nature Human Behaviour* study, jointly led by Dr Margherita Malanchini at Queen Mary University of London and Dr Andrea Allegrini at University College London corroborates this by challenging the traditional view that intelligence is the primary driver of educational success.

The study followed over 10,000 children in England and Wales from age 7 to 16 and examined the complex interplay between genes, environment, and academic performance. The findings showed that by the time students reach the end of their compulsory education, non-cognitive traits had an influence on their academic outcomes equal to that of cognitive abilities. In some cases, students with strong non-cognitive skills were outperforming their peers, even if they had lower IQ scores. Dr. Malanchini explains, “We’ve always assumed intelligence is the key driver in school performance. But our research indicates that non-cognitive traits like grit, curiosity, and the value a student places on learning can be just as important, especially as children get older.”

The study developed a score that predicted a child’s inclination towards non-cognitive skills such as perseverance and motivation based on genetic factors. The study also looked at how environmental factors such as parenting, and socio-

economic status interacted with these genetic influences. In many cases, environmental factors were shown to enhance inherent traits, sug-

gesting that there is much more than DNA to thank for our academic successes, or failures.

This new research has implications for educational systems and how they approach learning and achievement, but those of us in Mensa should also take note. While we may be used to focussing on our cognitive abilities, we may need to take a more holistic approach and consider how our other qualities, and our environment has helped us to sink or swim in our educational experiences. Knowing that intelligence alone can not drive academic success should cause us to reflect on our own learning experiences, and question whether there is any work that we need to do on less measurable qualities such as resilience, curiosity, and motivation.

The results of this study suggest that we need to balance our focus on both intellect, and non-cognitive development if we want to reach our full potential.

**Taryn Dryfhout**



# member profile

by Susan Jensen

José Beltrán, until recently the editor of Spanish Mensa's magazine OMNIA, is a polyglot who speaks Spanish, Catalan, English, French, Russian, Japanese, Dutch, German, Italian, Portuguese and Romanian, among others. He switches from French to German to English to Dutch all day in his work as a Patent Examiner for the European Patent Office in The Hague, Netherlands. He learned basic Romanian in six days on a bet.

José was born and raised in Albacete, Spain. When he joined Mensa 36 years ago, at age 20, he felt a sense of belonging that helped him embrace his unique abilities.

Like many Mensans, he's pursued varied fields. He studied computer science at universities in Spain, and after receiving the equivalent of a Master's degree in Barcelona, the Japanese Government offered him a scholarship to do a PhD in robotic engineering in Tokyo.

He spent close to four years in Japan; the experience of living in such a different culture and so far away from home was enriching and fulfilling.

When he was about to complete his PhD, José heard that the European Patent Office was recruiting. He applied, was accepted, and in January 1999, immediately after obtaining his degree, he moved to the Netherlands to work as a Patent Examiner. He has been working

there ever since.

The Patent Office recruits engineers like José because they need people who know technology in order for them to be able to decide whether a given product or process is really new and inventive and thus worthy of a patent. This also entails a lot of legal work, but it seems that the Patent Office finds it easier to train engineers in legal issues than training lawyers in technology.

A lover of all the senses, José composes music, plays violin and piano, and has won awards for his original mead recipe (now in production in a factory in Spain). His mead is called Potion of Life and can be purchased by emailing José at: [josebelt@gmail.com](mailto:josebelt@gmail.com)

He is a big gamer (very fond of RPGs and board games), and very much into reading. A well-seasoned traveller, Jose has seen the striking differences among the countries where he has lived and visited. He has always found it relatively easy to adapt to new cultures. José notes a great aspect of being a Mensa member is that Mensans tend to have much in common across various cultures. José is very active



in Mensa, attending many Mensa gatherings around the globe and currently holds the position of Constitutional Review Officer for Mensa International.

José invites any Mensans visiting the Netherlands to get in touch. There is nothing he enjoys more than sharing a nice beverage and chatting with people from different cultures and world views. In his opinion, if more people were to do that (talk to others no matter how different they may be in their outlook, their beliefs or their opinions), things would be better for the whole world.

He can be reached at: [josebelt@gmail.com](mailto:josebelt@gmail.com)

## Are we Born with a Moral Compass?

---

**For millennia, philosophers have questioned whether humans are born with a moral compass, but their theories have always been divided.**

To find an answer to this question, a group of scientists from different universities across Japan has created a multi-stage testing method to try and see if infants can differentiate between good and evil.

In short, the answer is “yes”. According to the study, 8-month-old infants can punish antisocial behaviour displayed by a third party, thus suggesting that the motivation to punish is intrinsic and not learned.

Normally, when it comes to punishing antisocial behavior, this action is usually found only among humans and is present globally, across all cultures. However, the development of this moral compass is not well understood, especially since analysing decision-making abilities in newborns is often challenging.

### **How was the study conducted?**

To answer whether morality is learned or not and to overcome the challenges of analysing the thoughts of infants, the team developed a multi-stage testing method, which worked like this:

In the first stage, the researchers familiarised the infants with a computer that displayed various animations on its screen.

The newborns could interact with the objects on the screen through eye contact, with a special system tracking the amount of time an infant looked at a particular object. If the infant stared at a specific object for a certain period, this action resulted in the destruction of said object.

After familiarising the infants with all these actions, the researchers made one object in the animation mimic hitting another and observed whether the infants would punish this action or not.

“Morality is an important yet mysterious part of what makes us human. That is why we wanted to know whether punishing a third party for antisocial actions could be present from birth, which could help us better understand whether morality is learned or not,” said the lead author of this study, Yasuhiro Kanakogi.

### **The results**

According to Kanakogi, the results were surprising, as the infants chose to punish the antisocial aggressor every time, by focusing their gaze on that specific object.

To verify the results and rule out alternative interpretations, the researchers conducted three additional control experiments. Observing this behaviour among infants could indicate that humans have acquired these posi-



tive tendencies throughout evolution, thereby encouraging human cooperation and punishing antisocial behaviours that could endanger the group or society at that time.

This new test for studying decision-making in a social context could be an important turning point in infant cognitive research.

In particular, while much of the previous research on infant cognition has used observations from third parties, and thus examined passive responses to events, the eye-gaze paradigm allows for the observation of active decision-making in infants.

According to the researches of this study, the research model may be useful in uncovering additional information about cognitive abilities in pre-verbal infants.

The study discussed above was published in the journal *Nature Human Behaviour*, and was created by researchers from Osaka University, in collaboration with Otsuma Women's University, NTT Communication Science Laboratories, and the University of Tokyo.

**Aloiz Kara**

# Vulnerability Found in AI Image Recognition

(Unsplash.com)

**Artificial intelligence can help people process and comprehend large amounts of data with precision, but the modern image recognition platforms and computer vision models that are built into AI frequently overlook an important back-end feature called the alpha channel, which controls the transparency of images, according to a new study.**

Researchers at The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) developed a proprietary attack called AlphaDog to study how hackers can exploit this oversight.

Their findings are described in a paper written by Gueneverre Chen, an assistant professor in the UTSA Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, and her former doctoral student, Qi Xia '24, and published by the Network and Distributed System Security Symposium 2025.

In the paper, the UTSA researchers describe the technology gap and offer recommendations to mitigate this type of cyber threat. "We have two targets. One is a human victim, and one is AI," Chen explained.

To assess the vulnerability, the researchers identified and exploited an alpha channel attack on images by developing AlphaDog. The attack simulator causes humans to see images differently than machines. It works by manipulating the transparency of images.

The researchers generated 6,500 AlphaDog attack images and tested

them across 100 AI models, including 80 open-source systems and 20 cloud-based AI platforms like ChatGPT.

They found that AlphaDog excels at targeting grayscale regions within an image, enabling attackers to compromise the integrity of purely grayscale images and coloured images containing grayscale regions. The researchers tested images in a variety of everyday scenarios.

They found gaps in AI that pose a significant risk to road safety. Using AlphaDog, for example, they could manipulate the grayscale elements of road signs, which could potentially mislead autonomous vehicles.

Likewise, they found they could alter grayscale images like X-rays, MRIs and CT scans, potentially creating a serious threat that could lead to misdiagnoses in the realm of telehealth and medical imaging.

This could also endanger patient safety and open the door to fraud, such as manipulating insurance claims by altering X-ray results that show a normal leg as a broken leg.

They also found a way to alter images of people. By targeting the alpha channel, the UTSA researchers could disrupt facial recognition systems.

AlphaDog works by leveraging the differences in how AI and humans process image transparency. Computer vision models typically process red, green, blue and alpha (RGBA) images—values defining the opacity of a colour.



The alpha channel indicates how opaque each pixel is and allows an image to be combined with a background image, producing a composite image that has the appearance of transparency.

However, using AlphaDog, the researchers found that the AI models they tested do not read all four RGBA channels; instead they only read data from the RGB channels.

"AI is created by humans, and the people who wrote the code focused on RGB but left the alpha channel out. In other words, they wrote code for AI models to read image files without the alpha channel," said Chen. "That's the vulnerability. The exclusion of the alpha channel in these platforms leads to data poisoning."

She added, "AI is important. It's changing our world, and we have so many concerns."

Chen and Xia are working with several key stakeholders, including Google, Amazon and Microsoft, to mitigate the vulnerability regarding AlphaDog's ability to compromise systems.

neurosciencenews.com October 15, 2024

# supplementally...

by John Blinke

## Active Galaxies

Particle jets are an interesting feature of “active galaxies” that contain supermassive black holes. Imagine an old-fashioned phonograph record on its record changer. The record disk is in a horizontal plane and its spindle pokes through the centre perpendicularly. This is a reasonable geometric representation of a galaxy with a jet, except that the spindle would be much longer than the diameter of the record. I wonder if this is part of an even bigger structure that includes a sphere of space with a diameter equal to the length of the jet. There would probably be a pumpkin-shaped magnetic bubble filling the sphere like the field around a bar magnet. Jets also resemble the “solenoid current” in a Tokamak fusion reactor. Does this idea help us understand the universe? I think it is worth discussing.

## Jet Set

ScienceDaily, September 18, 2024. “Gargantuan Black Hole Jets Are Biggest Seen Yet.” (Astronomy & Astrophysics)

Radiotelescope arrays have found thousands of active galaxies in the distant universe with very long axial jets. How long? Say, 23 million light years! Compare that to the photogenic M87 galaxy with 3,000 light year jets. The large number of jumbo jets (so to speak) was a surprise.

Now, theorists say the jets might have played a role in the way the universe took shape after the big bang.

## Axion Clouds

ScienceDaily, October 18, 2024. “Neutron Stars May Be Shrouded In Axions.” (Physical Review X) Axions are hypothetical particles that have no charge and hardly any mass. (Not to be confused with neutrinos, which also have no charge and hardly any mass.) Scientists are enthusiastically looking for axions because they could constitute the elusive dark matter. One place to look is in the vicinity of neutron stars, which may create hordes of axions near their surfaces and where massively powerful magnetic fields exist. Axion clouds might be visible to telescopes because they can change into photons after passing through strong magnetic fields.

## Fifth Force

Science News October 24, 2024. “A Near-Earth Asteroid Offers Clues To One Dark Matter Theory”. We know of four forces that make the universe tick: strong nuclear, weak nuclear, electromagnetic, and gravitational. None of these explain dark matter. But a fifth force might do so. It happens that NASA collected excellent data on the position and motion of asteroid Bennu when Osiris Rex visited. If a fifth force had affected Bennu’s motion,

it should show up in the data. But it did not.

## Moon

Nasa Release 24-136, Oct 28, 2024. “Nasa Provides Update On Artemis III Moon Landing Regions.” It might seem that NASA has forgotten about the Moon. But it really has been hard at work evaluating landing sites. Largely using images from NASA’s Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter, they have narrowed

*“Vikings had cemeteries! Who knew? In May, 2017, workers installing water pipes near Varberg in Halland County, Sweden, found the somewhat disrupted remains of 139 viking burials...”*

possible Artemis III landing spots to nine regions near the moon’s south pole, each of which have multiple potential landing sites. Their choices are determined by safety, scientific returns, rover-accessible landscapes, and available resources like

water ice, among other factors.

## Cancer Killer

Eurekalert, October 24, 2024. “New ‘Mini-Protein’ Carries Radiation Dose Directly To Tumours Without Harming Healthy Tissues.” PET scans are done with radioactive tracers that attach to specific kinds of cancer cells. The scanner creates an image from positrons emitted by the tracer. Wouldn’t it be nice if the tracer was also lethal to the cancer? Researchers in Spain are working toward that result. Radiation Therapy using Actinium 225 is be-

(Continued from p10)

ing tested for safety in a few patients, but is not yet in clinical trials. Its effect on cancer has not been established, but they have shown that the radiation does not linger in normal tissues. Researchers attach the radioactive Actinium to a small protein called AKY-1189 which attaches to many kinds of cancer cells. The idea is that the Actinium only irradiates the cancer cells it is stuck to.

**Valhalla**

Archaeology News, October 19, 2024.

“Vast Viking Burial Ground With Ship Burials Uncovered In Halland, Sweden.”

Vikings had cemeteries! Who knew? In May, 2017, workers installing

water pipes near Varberg in Halland County, Sweden, found the somewhat disrupted remains of 139 viking burials, including barrows and ships. Farming activities had destroyed much of the above-ground structures, but there were three large ship burials and a boat-shaped mound along with cremation pits. Many remains were accompanied by pet dogs, jewelry, ceramics, and unburnt cattle that may have been food offerings to the deceased. There were also weaving weights, iron arrowheads, and an Arabic silver coin dating from CE 795–806.

Only 6% of the site has been excavated to date.

JB

(Continued from p2)

“These results are so interesting because they show that when children see events in the world that they can’t explain, it instills in them a drive for information that they can use to reconcile their prior model of the world with what they’ve just seen,” Feigen-son said. “Scientifically, these find-ings are exciting because they sug-gest that humans are equipped from the get-go to think about whether things are possible or unlikely or just can’t happen.”

Next the researchers plan to study how this drive for explanations can be harnessed in the classroom. The findings suggest parents and teachers can create these heightened learning moments for kids.

eurekalert.org Nov. 4, 2024

OFFICER DIRECTORY

**Chair:** Ms Therese Moodie-Bloom  
chairman-mil@mensa.org

**Director of Administration:**  
Ms Robin Crawford  
admin-mil@mensa.org

**Director of Development:**  
Mr Eivind Olsen  
development-mil@mensa.org

**Treasurer:** Ms Jovana Kostic  
treasurer-mil@mensa.org

**Dir. Smaller National Mensas:**  
Ms Sorana Burcusel  
dsnm-mil@mensa.org

**International SIGHT Coordinators:**  
Mr Henkhenk Broekhuizen  
Ms Andrea Schwelm  
sight@mensa.org

**International SIG Coordinator:**  
Mr Steve Coles  
SIGs@mensa.org

**Ombudsman:**  
Ms Vicki Herd  
ombudsman@mensa.org

**Mensa International**  
Executive Director:  
Mr Michael Feenan  
mensa@slatebarn.com  
executivedirector-mil@mensa.org

Slate Barn, Church Lane,  
Caythorpe, Lincolnshire  
NG32 3EL, UK

mensainternational@mensa.org  
+44 (0) 1400272 675  
www.mensa.org

EDITORIAL STAFF

**Editor:** Ms Kate Nacard, 36 Macaulay Rd, Stanmore NSW 2048 Australia mwjeditor@mensa.org T: +61 402152858

Sub-editors:

**Science:** Mr John Blinke

johnb44221@Mac.com

**Puzzles:** Ms Therese Moodie-Bloom

tmbmensa@gmail.com

**Profiles:** Dr Susan Jensen

suejensen57@gmail.com

**Features:** Ms Taryn Dryfhout

anotherdesperatehousewife@gmail.com

**Proofreader:** Ms Christine Pretty

# Therese's BRAIN TEASERS

## MENSA MINI IQ CHALLENGE

If you would like to discuss answers directly with MENSA, you can email Therese at [therese@mensa.org.au](mailto:therese@mensa.org.au)

1. Read forwards, I can mean PORTENT. Read backwards, I can spell the NAME OF A FAMOUS FISH. What word am I?

2. Decipher the word in the box to see which common Australian creature it contains.

a D E R

3. Put a word meaning ERA in front of a word meaning LIST to find a word meaning SCHEDULE.

4. Find a word for each pair of words below, which can be added to the end of the first word, and also to the beginning of the second word, to make two new words.

FORE      MATE

LI      ME

OUT      FARE

Now read down the centre boxes to find what sportsman John, the ladies' man, likes to do.

5. Which letter should come next to continue the pattern?

U   O   J   F   ?

6.

|   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 1 | 1 | 5 |
| 9 | 3 | 1 | 5 |
| 6 | 0 | 1 | 5 |
| 8 | 1 | ? | 5 |

7. Two words in each group of three can be joined together and have their letters rearranged to form a word that can mean the remaining word. Eg CALM - DIN - OUR makes CLAMOUR, a synonym for DIN. The words are in no particular order.

a) HEAT - RATION - AID

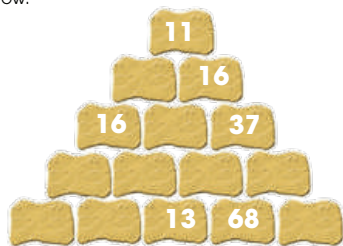
b) ON - CAR - WAG

c) CURE - RATE - ANIMAL

d) PILL - LET - BAT

e) BALL - VOTE - TO

8. The number on each stone represents the difference between the numbers in the two stones on which it sits. Can you work out the five two-digit numbers on the bottom stones? Each of the digits 0-9 is used once only in the bottom row.



9. Unscramble the following words to find the odd one out.

MOYGREET GLABEAR  
GOYLOGE METRICHAIT

10. Which popular actor can be named by using the eight letters below?

MONK'S HAT

11. Each colour represents a different letter. Use the clues below to fill in the blanks to form a wordsquare. The square will have four proper words reading across and the same four words down.

|  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

- Vowels
- Roman Numerals
- Musical notes
- Consecutive letters of the alphabet
- Consecutive letters

12. What is the longest word you can make using the letters of CONVERSATION no more than once each?

13. Which four-letter word can be put in front of each of the following to make five new words?

LAND DROPS CONE APPLE WOOD

14. All of the letters of the alphabet are in the grid below, except for Q. What is the longest word you can spell by moving from square to touching square, either up, down, sideways or diagonally? Each square may be entered once only.

|   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| B | F | U | X | Y |
| P | J | M | S | O |
| I | C | G | L | W |
| N | Z | H | A | D |
| T | E | R | V | K |

15. Jane 'recycles' candles. She melts five candle stubs together to mould one 'new' candle. How many extra candles will she get from a box of 125?

**SCORECARD: SCORE 1 POINT FOR EACH CORRECT ANSWER**

14 - 15 **Genius material**  
11 - 13 **Excellent lateral thinker**  
7 - 10 **Very good**  
4 - 6 **Good**  
0 - 3 **Bad hair day**

**YOUR SCORE**

1. Ormen (Nemo). 2. A redback (spider). 3. Time-table. 4. Play the field. 5. C. 6. 2 (Column A - B - C = D). 7. (d) Rodation (head) (b) Wagon (car) (c) Creature (animal). 8. 29 47 13 68 50. 9. Algebra, Arithmetic. 10. Tom Hanks. 11. First IDEA SEAT. 12. Conservation. 13. Pine. 14. Intervails (9 letters). 15. 31 (25 from the first lot; another 6 from that 25, and a final 1 from that 5.)

The *Mensa World Journal* (MWJ) is produced under the auspices of the Mensa International Board of Directors. Mandatory content as identified by the MWJ editor must be published in every national Mensa magazine. Publication of other content is recommended but optional. Opinions expressed in the MWJ are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of any other individual or any official Mensa body. Submission Guidelines: Language: English only. Text: MS Word (Macintosh), .rtf (Word/Mac), plain text, PageMaker (Macintosh), InDesign (Macintosh) Length: 500 word limit. Send by e-mail, fax, snail mail to the Editor. The Editor reserves the right to include or edit submissions for space and content considerations. All unoriginal submissions must be accompanied by written permission for publication from the original author. Permission is granted for MWJ articles to be reprinted in any Mensa publication provided that the author, MWJ and MWJ's editor are acknowledged. Permission must be sought from the MWJ editor for reprinting of any part of the MWJ in non-Mensa publications.

# mensa world journal

FEBRUARY 2025 | EDITION | 145



*Mensa Hong Kong celebrates at its Annual Gala Dinner*

*p5*

MENSA INTERNATIONAL

JOIN THE CONVERSATIONS AT

<https://hub.mensa.org>

*from the editor.*



- many thanks to the British Chair's proxy, Rachael Corson, for her thoughts on Mensa's positive continuance  
- news of the American 2025 Annual Gathering in Chicago and 2025's IBD meeting in Germany are on p4  
- a report of Mensa Hong Kong's Annual Gala Dinner is on p5, while our Features Editor, Taryn Dryfhout, ponders on how intelligence affects relationship success on p6  
- the Member Profile is on p7  
- want to know more about Body Integrity Dysphoria? Have a look at p8  
- the latest research on how young people's mental health may depend on how they use social media, rather than how much time they spend using it is on p9  
- Supplementally... is on p10, the Officer Directory is on p11, and Therese's Teasers are, as usual, on p12.

Happy reading!

Kate

-----  
Log in to [www.mensa.org](http://www.mensa.org) to read or download the MWJ in full

## Mensa International: Position Vacant

### INTERNATIONAL SUPERVISORY PSYCHOLOGIST (ISP)

We are calling for applications for the position of Mensa International Supervisory Psychologist (ISP).

The term of office is from January 1, 2025 until October 2026.

The principal responsibilities of the ISP include:

- \* selecting and/or approving appropriate tests to be used by Mensa;
- \* approving the appointment of National Supervisory Psychologists (NSPs);
- \* coordinating and advising the national supervisory psychologists, as needed;
- \* providing minimum standards for Proctor Training, and
- \* providing new Mensa groups with information regarding test policies and procedures.

Candidates are required to have an earned Doctorate in Psychology or Education or equivalent, with emphasis on testing, and to be familiar with current trends in cognitive testing.

More detailed information regarding the duties of the ISP is in the members' section of the website [www.mensa.org](http://www.mensa.org) and interested candidates are welcome to contact the International Chair, Therese Moodie-Bloom, [chairman-mil@mensa.org](mailto:chairman-mil@mensa.org) or the Executive Director, Michael Feenan, [executivedirector-mil@mensa.org](mailto:executivedirector-mil@mensa.org) for informal advice if wished.

Please send a letter of application, along with your resume or CV to the Executive Director [executivedirector-mil@mensa.org](mailto:executivedirector-mil@mensa.org), and copied to me at [chairman-mil@mensa.org](mailto:chairman-mil@mensa.org) as soon as possible.

**Therese Moodie-Bloom**  
**Chairman Mensa International.**

## from your ExComm

*from British Mensa's Vice Chair,  
Rachael Corson*

---

### Reflections on Global Collaboration and Progress

As I reflect on my recent engagements within Mensa International, I'm inspired by the ongoing dedication of our global community. The 2024 International Board of Directors (IBD) meeting in Perth, Australia, underscored Mensa's collective commitment to innovation, collaboration, and growth. It's an exciting time to be part of such a vibrant global society, and I'm delighted to share some highlights and updates with you.

### Sharing Best Practices Across Borders

One of the standout themes of the IBD meeting was the spirit of sharing and collaboration. **Mensa Australia**, for example, has successfully partnered with Warner Bros. to produce a "Child Genius" television show, significantly raising Mensa's profile while driving increased testing and membership among young individuals. This initiative is a testament to the power of creative partnerships and I was pleased to hear that Australia is open to sharing their safeguarding policy, offering valuable guidance for other national Mensas with a large proportion of younger members.

**Mensa Czech Republic's** Logic Olympiad continues to set an exemplary standard for engaging young minds. With over 95,000 participants in the first round alone, this initiative has sparked excitement and intellectual curiosity on a massive scale. Czech Mensa has generously offered to share their "Logic Olympiad in a box" resources, enabling other national Mensas to replicate this successful program with ease. I hope many of our local Mensas can experience the impact of running such a competition.

Another exciting opportunity comes from **Mensa Serbia**, which is offering mentorship and partnership through the Erasmus+ program. With funding available for innovative Mensa projects, this collaboration has the potential to amplify our reach and impact across Europe and beyond.

### Strategic Focus on Youth and Volunteers

As we look to the future, Mensa's Draft Strategy for 2025-2027 provides a clear roadmap for progress. One of its core pillars is the acceleration of initiatives for gifted youth. This includes



addressing gaps in educational content quality and relevance, ensuring that Mensa remains a beacon of support and inspiration for young intellectuals.

Alongside this, we are intensifying our efforts to develop and support our incredible volunteers—the lifeblood of our society. Recognising their contributions with improved engagement and retention strategies is not just a strategic priority; it's an essential step in building a stronger, more inclusive Mensa.

*Continued on p4*

*Continued from p3*

### Modernisation and Growth

Another critical aspect of our strategy is organisational transformation. By embracing automation and addressing legacy challenges, we can operate more efficiently and position Mensa as a leader in the intellectual community. Enhancing our global brand presence through modernised communication and a stronger social media strategy will ensure that Mensa's voice resonates far and wide.

Much of our recent conversation has focussed on improved IQ testing and the progress we are making with adaptive testing. The ExComm are working to balance innovation with the need for rigorous oversight, ensuring that our processes meet the highest standards.

### Looking Ahead

As we move forward, I'm excited for the potential for collaboration across nations. Whether it's learning from the successes of our peers, like Mensa Australia and Czech Republic, or exploring new opportunities through partnerships such as Erasmus+, Mensa thrives on the exchange of ideas and shared ambitions.

I look forward to building a Mensa that not only celebrates intellect but also inspires research, innovation and connection across the globe.

Thank you for your continued trust and support as we work toward a brighter future for us all.

*Floreat Mensa!*

**Rachael Corson**

## what's on around the Mensa world...

### American Mensa Annual Gathering 2025

**Chicago 02 July 2025 - 06 July 2025**



Mark your calendars, Mensans! The American Mensa Annual Gathering started as a small, two-day meet-and-greet at the New York Belmont in 1963. The event now spans five days and features a sprawl of talks, games, and entertainment unlike any other.

We have a fantastic party in the works for Annual Gathering 2025, July 2 - 6! Chicago is a revolution of creativity, music, food, art, and spirit ... and we get to enjoy it all week! Trust us, this AG is going to be lit!

This five-day extravaganza promises to be an unforgettable experience, offering a diverse array of talks, games, and entertainment that will stimulate your intellect as well as enable you to see all your friends — and perhaps make some new ones!

<https://ag.us.mensa.org>

### IBD Meeting 2025



The 2025 International Board of Directors' (IBD) meeting will take place in **Düsseldorf, Germany**. The local team is looking forward to welcoming you there from **October 23rd to 26th, 2025**. In addition to the formal program, an extensive program comparable to an EMAG is being planned for all Mensans.

The International Board of Directors meeting (IBD) is the general meeting of the worldwide leadership of Mensa, but we will also be offering quite a few events for visitors including pre- and post-tours

You can take a look at what is planned and choose what interests you in advance and without any obligation. The final program will take into account as many wishes as possible. Please have a look at the website:

<https://db.mensa.de/edetail?mpn=Events&eid=1793324300002&vs=044> and at <https://ibd.mensa.de>

**See you all in Düsseldorf!**

**Your organisation committee**

[ibd2025@mensa.de](mailto:ibd2025@mensa.de)

## MENSA HONG KONG'S ANNUAL GALA DINNER

Against the glittering canvas of Hong Kong's skyline, Mensa Hong Kong hosted its Annual Dinner Gathering at Club Lusitano — one of Hong Kong's most noted private clubs, established in 1866 and long-renowned as a centre of Portuguese heritage and culture. The evening marked a promising start for the chapter's newly-elected board, bringing together over 70 members in what proved to be an evening of intellectual camaraderie and gastronomic delight.

elegantly in white, creating a sophisticated tableau against the venue's geometric ceiling and star-patterned floor.

The evening's culinary journey was a testament to Club Lusitano's reputation for exceptional Portuguese cuisine. A perfectly-roasted suckling pig, accompanied by fresh, vibrant salads drew appreciative murmurs from guests.



spectacular night views of Hong Kong provided a fitting backdrop to the evening's intellectual exchange. The event drew members from across the region, including one dedicated Mensan who made the special journey from Beijing for the occasion. Each member received a thoughtfully-curated souvenir pack featuring Mensa-branded items — an accessories bag, phone stand, and keyring — as mementos of the evening.

Looking ahead, the chapter has exciting plans for the coming year, including mind games

competitions, international collaborations, and innovative events designed for Young Mensans.

The successful gathering celebrated Mensa Hong Kong's vibrant community while setting an inspiring tone for the year ahead.

**Hon Secretary, Imi Lo**



The 27th-floor venue, with its striking contemporary design, offered a dramatic setting. Floor-to-ceiling windows showcased Hong Kong's iconic cityscape, where modern architectural marvels lit up the night sky in a symphony of colours, from the electric pinks of office towers to the streaming ribbons of light from the streets below.

The scene was made even more memorable by attendees dressed

Portuguese egg tarts — their caramelised tops glistening under the ambient lighting.

The gathering's warmth was palpable, with animated conversations flowing across tables as members shared stories and ideas. The chairman's heartfelt speech touched on both the chapter's achievements and bright future, while the



## The Smart Advantage: How Intelligence Influences Relationship Success

**Though TikToks and memes now claim that single women are “looking for a man in finance, trust fund, six-foot, blue eyes”, people may want to instead prioritise dating men with intelligence, over wealth or looks. A recent piece of research shows that intelligence — particularly male intelligence — plays a crucial role in the success of a relationship.**

The idea of intelligence being linked with successful relationships is not exactly new. General intelligence is connected with success across many aspects of life, as past research has shown those with higher cognitive abilities tend to achieve more both academically, and professionally, and consequently, often have better social and economic outcomes. In terms of romantic relationships, earlier studies have shown that those with higher levels of intelligence are less likely to get divorced, and are often married and settled at a younger age than their less intelligent peers.

Expanding on this research, a team from Oakland University in Michigan set out to investigate which factors of a relationship — both the good factors, and the bad — are associated with intelligence. The study, published in *Personality and Individual Differences*, focussed on 202 heterosexual men between the ages of 18 and 65, all of whom had been in relationships for at least

six months. Participants underwent cognitive testing to assess general intelligence such as problem-solving and logical reasoning. They also completed a survey which

measured both their positive and negative relationship behaviours.

The findings revealed that men with higher intelligence had better relationship outcomes. In fact, the more intelligent the man, the more positive his relationships. Men with higher intelligence displayed lower levels of harmful behaviours such as verbal abuse, manipulation, and sexual coercion, and reported higher levels of relationship satisfaction and commitment.

In particular, those with strong skills in pattern recognition and sequential reasoning invested more effort into their relationships and exhibited fewer problematic behaviours overall. Researchers believe these cognitive abilities might help men exercise better impulse control by allowing them to consider the consequences of negative actions. However, some behaviours were not found to be dependent on intelligence. These included jealousy, physical abuse, and a desire to



dominate their partners.

Researchers will likely want to give some time and space to further studies which look at the impact of intelligence on relationship success for women, or for people who are not heterosexual, to examine whether different relationship dynamics could offer further insights into the connection between intelligence and relationship success.

For members of Mensa, this research offers an interesting look at how intelligence shapes romantic relationships. Given that Mensa members value cognitive abilities and problem-solving skills, understanding how these traits translate into relationship dynamics and outcomes could be worth thinking about.

How are your cognitive abilities serving you in your relationships?

**Taryn Dryfhout**

# member profile

by Susan Jensen

**Bonjour. Croissant. Du fromage. Parlez-vous Français? Here are some very common French words that most people are familiar with, but have you ever wanted to learn more than just basic tourist-level French? What if I told you that a keen young francophile was revolutionising how the French language is taught, specifically targeting highly-intelligent individuals?**

Meet **Eric Bessiris**, the 21-year-old polyglot on a mission to make French learning more accessible and intellectually stimulating. Eric first developed a love for the French language during his lessons in high school where he excelled and quickly became the most advanced in his class and one of the most advanced in the state of New South Wales, Australia. Having Greek heritage, Eric speaks fluent Greek and has also learnt Latin, Spanish and Australian Sign Language.

Additionally, Eric trained in karate for ten years and represented Australia in many national and international tournaments; including the Shidokan Karate World Championships in 2022 and 2023, having won the Open Male Heavy-weight division in the 2022 tournament. He was also one of the lead instructors in an international training seminar hosted in Sri Lanka. Whilst he has since stopped his karate training, Eric continues to enjoy following the news of the

martial arts world and is still well-connected with his former students and friends in the martial arts community. Apart from karate, Eric also has a great passion for gardening and travelling.

Now, what would you think of a textbook written completely in French that an intelligent person — who doesn't know a word of French!! — could read through and understand? This is the premise of Eric's French language textbook entitled *La Langue Française* (The French Language), targeted towards intelligent beginners. It is recommended that the youngest target students, i.e., high-school-age students from twelve-years-old, have a teacher assist them through the course content.

However, older students such as eighteen-year-olds and above should be able to independently navigate the content of the textbook.

This pedagogical technique of language learning is known as the natural method where only the target language is used. The book starts by building on universally understood and acknowledged principles such as countries of the world and their position and relation. Labelled visual stimuli are also used to assist, such as a map of the world. This requires a significant amount of lateral thinking and problem-solving yet proves extremely rewarding for the student. Key grammatical principles are repeated and then slightly al-

tered to ensure maximum comprehension. Eric was inspired by Hans H. Orberg's *Lingua Latina* textbook that he used to teach himself Latin.

Each chapter of *La Langue Française* is a story to keep students engaged and focuses on at least one central grammatical theme. Each lesson has an explanation

of the grammar and exercises at the end to review the content. The benefit of having the textbook only written in French is that it enables worldwide publication and makes the French language accessible to any intelligent person who can understand the Latin alphabet. Currently, Eric is improving the artwork of the textbook and trying to publish the first edition.

As a new member of Mensa, Eric joined to learn more about himself and to connect with more like-minded people. Since joining, he has made many meaningful connections and enjoys attending the social events. Eric looks forward to contributing to the Mensa community and helping as best he can to foster intelligence.



*Log into the International website  
www.mensa.org for the calendar of  
national events*

## Body Integrity Dysphoria - the desire to amputate a healthy limb

**Body integrity dysphoria is characterised by distress and suffering experienced by a person who has a fully functional, capable and healthy body, with all four limbs.**

This condition is classified as a mental disorder in the International Classification of Diseases 11th Revision, the global standard for diagnosis and medical information by the World Health Organization.

Similar to people with gender dysphoria who wish to change their gender/sex, individuals with body integrity dysphoria wish to alter their bodies to make them incomplete. Typically, these individuals desire the amputation or paralysis of a specific limb, or even the loss of sight or hearing.

To gain more information about this condition, a group of researchers recruited 16 people, all of whom expressed a desire to amputate their left leg. Since the condition is quite rare, a sample of 16 participants is fairly large. Moreover, it represents the most homogeneous study focussed on this topic so far, as all participants had the same desire (removal of the left leg).

Professor Brugger and Dr Saetta, both involved in the study, believe that this condition can manifest fairly early in life. Most people with body integrity dysphoria can remember mentally rejecting a certain limb since childhood. Others

say that there were certain triggering mechanisms, such as observing with fascination another person with an amputation.

Furthermore, the onset of this disorder may be linked to abnormal development, in which the healthy limb is not normally represented at a cortical level. The areas of a healthy brain work continuously in a well-organised rhythm. Low functional connectivity could disrupt the affected area and isolate certain processes.

In the case of the sensorimotor area of the limbs, if it does not function perfectly, a person may be able to feel and move a certain limb perfectly, but not feel that part of the body as truly their own.

The 16 participants were scanned using structural MRI alongside another 16 carefully selected control individuals, ensuring that they were comparable even in terms of age (which ranged from 28 to 67 years).

Since this research was conducted through an Italian-Swiss collaboration, half of the participants were scanned in Milan and the other half in Zurich.

The results revealed atrophy in the area most involved in bodily representation, located in the superior part of the right hemisphere parietal lobe. This shrinkage was



not present in the control group. Moreover, this area did not exhibit strong connections with other parts of the brain.

An even more interesting discovery was associated with the effect of atrophy. The more pronounced the atrophy, the greater the person's desire to simulate the sensation of amputation (such as using a wheelchair without an actual need), which provided temporary relief for those with body integrity dysphoria.

However, the researchers emphasised that the exact cause and sequence of these effects are not known. It could be that the atrophy in that specific area causes the person to feel the need to simulate an amputation, or it could be that years of simulating an amputation led that area to shrink and atrophy.

**Aloiz Kara**

## Smart Social Media Use Reduces Teen Stress

**Young people's mental health may depend on how they use social media, rather than how much time they spend using it, according to a new study by University of British Columbia researchers.**

The research, led by psychology professor Dr. Amori Mikami (she/her) and published this week in the *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*, examined the effects of quitting social media versus using it more intentionally.

The results showed that users who thoughtfully managed their online interactions, as well as those who abstained from social media entirely, saw mental health benefits—particularly in reducing symptoms of anxiety, depression and loneliness.

With social media use nearly universal among young adults, especially those ages 17-29, concerns over its impact on mental health have grown.

"There's a lot of talk about how damaging social media can be, but our team wanted to see if this was really the full picture or if the way people engage with social media might make a difference," said Dr. Mikami.

Instead of treating social media as an all-or-nothing choice, the study explored whether helping young adults learn "smarter" engagement techniques could enhance their well-being.

In the six-week study, 393 Canadian young adults with some mental health symptoms and concerns about social media's impact on their

mental health were split into three groups: a control group that continued their usual routines, an abstinence group asked to stop using social media entirely and a "tutorial" group that was coached in intentional usage. The tutorials guided participants on fostering meaningful online connections, limiting interactions that encouraged self-comparison, and carefully selecting who they followed.

Both the abstinence and tutorial groups reduced their social media use and experienced fewer social comparisons—a common trigger for anxiety and low self-esteem. While the tutorial group didn't cut back on social media as much as those who tried to abstain completely, they reported notable improvements in loneliness and fear of missing out (FOMO).

By comparison, those who abstained from social media altogether were more successful in reducing depression and anxiety symptoms, yet reported no improvement in loneliness.

"Cutting off social media might reduce some of the pressures young adults feel around presenting a curated image of themselves online. But, stopping social media might also deprive young adults of social connections with friends and family, leading to feelings of isolation," said Dr. Mikami.

Dr. Mikami, along with graduate students Adri Khalis and Vasileia Karasavva, used an approach with the tutorial group that emphasised quality over quantity in social



(Unsplash.com)

media interactions. By muting or unfollowing accounts that triggered envy or negative self-comparisons and prioritising close friendships, tutorial participants built a healthier online environment.

Rather than passively scrolling, they were encouraged to actively engage with friends by commenting or sending direct messages—a behaviour that tends to deepen meaningful connections while helping users feel more socially supported.

For Dr. Mikami, this balanced approach may be a realistic alternative to complete abstinence, which may not be feasible for many young adults.

"Social media is here to stay," she said. "And for many people, quitting isn't a realistic option. But with the right guidance, young adults can curate a more positive experience, using social media to support their mental health instead of detracting from it."

Dr. Mikami believes the findings can offer valuable insights for mental health programs and schools. She envisions future

(Continued on p11)

# supplementally...

by John Blinke

## Old Times

Kitty Hawk is a barrier island off the coast of North Carolina. Wilbur and Orville Wright picked it for their historic 1903 attempts at heavier than air powered flight because the wind is strong and constant, giving them a boost in air speed. I wonder if a giant flying animal like the prehistoric **Quetzalcoatlus** might have lived on windy barrier islands for the same reason. It could soar like an albatross for days once it was in the air. But, getting up there was difficult, and a stiff ocean breeze could have helped it get to cruising altitude. Some scientists have another idea:

## Airborne

ScienceDaily, November 7, 2012. "Giant Pterosaur Needed Cliffs, Downward-Sloping Runways To Taxi, Awkwardly Take Off Into Air." Fossils of the giant flying reptile, **Quetzalcoatlus**, are often found in Texas (of course). It was the size of a light plane and probably had some difficulty getting aloft. If it launched itself like a seagull, its five-metre wings would slap the ground. Maybe it could jump high enough from flat ground to avoid wing damage. But running down a ten degree hill or a sloping beach would be more likely, according to scientists at the Museum of Texas Tech University.

## Terror

ScienceDaily, November 4, 2024. "Fossil Of Huge Terror Bird Offers New Information About Wildlife In South America 12 Million Years Ago." (Paleontology) Flightless, three metre-high,

carnivorous birds lived in prehistoric South America around 12 million years ago. Scientists from Johns Hopkins found a leg bone of the so-called terror bird in Colombia's Tatacoa Desert. The find is farther north than most terror bird fossils, indicating that they had a more extensive range than had been thought. Judging from tooth marks on the bone, this one was probably killed by a ten-metre long caiman that lived at that time.

## Under the Sea

History with Kayleigh (YouTube) "Life On Doggerland Documentary". The continent of Atlantis that Plato wrote about was a fiction. But there have been real instances of land disappearing below the waves. One was Doggerland, which once existed between the British Isles and Europe. Fishermen had pulled up bones and artifacts in their nets for a long time before anyone suspected a submerged land mass lay under the North Sea. YouTube's "History with Kayleigh" collaborates with the Miniminuteman channel to talk about aspects of the sunken land mass, including its natural history and inhabitants. "Doggerland: Europe's Atlantis" [https://youtu.be/o3dstKGHeDM?si=yFLSfp\\_6oo3wHIV8](https://youtu.be/o3dstKGHeDM?si=yFLSfp_6oo3wHIV8)

## Watching Uranus

ScienceDaily, October 11, 2024. "Nasa's Hubble, New Horizons Team Up For A Simultaneous Look At Uranus." Talk about stereo vision! Two of NASA's space craft are looking at the planet, Uranus, from widely

different positions in space. The Hubble Space Telescope is in Earth orbit, where it can see the full sunlit side of the ice giant. New Horizons is far out in the Kuiper Belt where it can see Uranus from the side as a pixelated crescent. These observations are practice exercises for studies of exoplanets and will help astronomers interpret data about worlds they can only detect as brightness curves and spectra. One thing planetary scientists have learned is that brightness estimates are not correct for Uranus viewed face-on compared with a side view. Therefore, estimates for extrasolar planets need to be corrected.

## Prostate Cancer and Pesticides

Science News, November 14, 2024. "22 Pesticides Show Links To Prostate Cancer." (Cancer) Men who are diagnosed with prostate cancer usually have one question for doctors: why did I get cancer? Researchers at Stanford University School of Medicine have part of an answer. They have found associations between prostate cancer and twenty two common pesticides. The study covered 300 pesticides and more than 3,000 US counties in two time periods: 1997 to 2001 and 2011 to 2015. This does not prove the chemicals cause cancer — it's just an association, for now.

## Air There

Eurekalert, November 12, 2024. "New Study Links Air Pollution With Higher Rates Of Head And Neck Cancer" (Scientific Reports) Bad air is known to be unhealthy for our lungs. And research at

(Continued from p10)

Wayne State University shows it is pretty bad for other body parts, as well. People exposed to polluted air have an increased chance of upper respiratory cancer in addition to the other stuff. This is not shocking because the air we breathe has to go through the nose, mouth and sinuses on its way to the lungs. Any place where irritating chemicals contact tissue for a long time can be at high risk. The study focused on so-called PM2.5 particles, which is to say 2.5 microns or smaller.

**Knot Now**

ScienceDaily, October 28, 2024.

“Seeing A Black Hole’s Jet In A New Light.”

Supermassive black holes embedded

JB

in the centres of galaxies have some interesting features. Among these are bipolar jets which sometimes have bright knots moving outward along the jets. Some of the knots appear to be moving at different speeds, depending on what part of the electromagnetic spectrum they shine in. For example, scientists at University of Michigan say X-ray knots in the Centaurus-A galaxy move faster than those visible in radio frequencies. Astronomers do not know exactly why this is the case. It is a welcome mystery. And mysteries can lead to new knowledge.

(Continued from p9)

workshops and educational sessions where young adults learn to use social media as a tool to strengthen their relationships rather than as a source of comparison and stress. This approach, she suggests, could break the cycle of quitting social media only to return later, sometimes with worse effects.

The research emphasises that young people’s well-being is closely tied to how they engage. Dr. Mikami’s team has shown that positive mental health outcomes are possible without sacrificing the social connectivity that platforms provide.

As she put it: “For many young people, it’s not about logging off. It’s about leaning in—in the right way.”

neurosciencenews.com November 14, 2024

OFFICER DIRECTORY

**Chair:** Ms Therese Moodie-Bloom  
chairman-mil@mensa.org

**Director of Administration:**  
Ms Robin Crawford  
admin-mil@mensa.org

**Director of Development:**  
Mr Eivind Olsen  
development-mil@mensa.org

**Treasurer:** Ms Jovana Kostic  
treasurer-mil@mensa.org

**Dir. Smaller National Mensas:**  
Ms Sorana Burcusel  
dsnm-mil@mensa.org

**International SIGHT Coordinators:**  
Mr Henkhenk Broekhuizen  
Ms Andrea Schwelm  
sight@mensa.org

**International SIG Coordinator:**  
Mr Steve Coles  
SIGs@mensa.org

**Ombudsman:**  
Ms Vicki Herd  
ombudsman@mensa.org

**Mensa International**  
Executive Director:  
Mr Michael Feenan  
mensa@slatebarn.com  
executivedirector-mil@mensa.org

Slate Barn, Church Lane,  
Caythorpe, Lincolnshire  
NG32 3EL, UK

mensainternational@mensa.org  
+44 (0) 1400272 675  
www.mensa.org

EDITORIAL STAFF

**Editor:** Ms Kate Nacard, 36 Macaulay Rd, Stanmore NSW 2048 Australia mwjeditor@mensa.org T: +61 402152858

**Sub-editors:**

**Science:** Mr John Blinke

johnb44221@Mac.com

**Puzzles:** Ms Therese Moodie-Bloom

tmbmensa@gmail.com

**Profiles:** Dr Susan Jensen

suejensen57@gmail.com

**Features:** Ms Taryn Dryfhout

anotherdesperatehousewife@gmail.com

**Proofreader:** Ms Christine Pretty

