

# **PARENTAL ALIENATION FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF PERSONALITY STRUCTURE AND DISORDERS OF DIVORCED COUPLES**

A. Sirbu, D. Buica

## **Alina SIRBU**

PhD student, Psychology Doctoral School

West University Timisoara,

[alinas.sirbu@gmail.com](mailto:alinas.sirbu@gmail.com)

## **Dorina BUICA**

PhD Student, Doctoral School of philosophy, Sociology and Politic  
Sciences

West University Timisoara,

[dorina.buica@e-uvt.ro](mailto:dorina.buica@e-uvt.ro)

**Abstract:** Divorce is an increasingly present social phenomenon in everyday life, a significant number of children being exposed to its effects. As a natural consequence of divorce, in families with one or more children, there is the issue of child custody, aspect in which most of the times there are some disputes. Following the separation of the marital couple, the relationship between the child and his/ her parents has two different aspects: either the child maintains a natural relationship with both of his/ her parents, or, due to his/ her involvement in the prolonged post-divorce conflict between parents, he/ she suffers an impairment of the relationship with one of the parents. The extreme form of harming the relationship between the child and one of the parents is parental alienation. Parental alienation occurs when one of the parents deliberately interferes with the relationship of the child with the other parent. This parental intervention involves behaviors of denigrating the alienated parent, reducing the

contact between the child and the alienated parent, leading to rejection of the alienated parent by the child. This study aims to pursue, on the one hand, the determination of personality traits and the existence/ nonexistence of predisposition to personality disorders of the adults involved in a divorce case with minors, in relation to which the court suspects the establishment of the phenomenon of parental alienation, while on the other hand it pursues to identify significant differences in personality structuring and its possible disruptions between parents coming from divorced couples, from the perspective of the *targeted parent and that of the alienating parent*.

**Keywords:** divorce, parental alienation, child, personality, personality disorder

## **Introduction**

Divorce is a social reality increasingly present in contemporary society. Under these conditions, its effects also affect children, generating a number of more or less serious consequences. A study carried out by Wikipedia in 2014 shows that the countries where the highest divorce rate is registered are in Europe ([www.descopera.ro](http://www.descopera.ro)).

Divorce has become a significant social phenomenon also in Romania in recent years, and the incidence of the phenomenon increases from one year to the next. Despite recent social and political changes, it has been suggested that cultural norms and traditions have not changed at the same pace (Swami et al., 2018 apud Gavreliuc, 2012) Thus, according to data of the National Statistics Institute, in 1990 the divorce rate in Romania was 20.2%, increasing every year. In 2015, the number of divorces pronounced by final or administrative court decision was 31,527, that is 4,339 divorces more than in 2014 (a divorce rate of 20-29%) ([www.insse.ro](http://www.insse.ro)).

The divorce rate increased from 1.22 divorces per 1,000 inhabitants in 2014 to 1.42 divorces per 1,000 inhabitants in 2015. The rate of children affected by parental divorce (thousands of children in the 0 - 17 age group) reached in 2011 a historic maximum of 5.6%, with a slight decrease to 4.9% in 2012 ([www.insse.ro](http://www.insse.ro)).

As a natural consequence of divorce, in families with one or more children, there is the issue of child custody, aspect in which most of the times there are some disputes. In these situations, one of the biggest challenges concerning psychologists, lawyers and judges is the situation where the child rejects one of the parents after divorce. (Lavadera, Ferracuti, Togliatti, 2012).

Also, situations of child abuse may appear, and in cases of violence the child protection intervention does not usually focus on prevention. (Bucur, Bucur și Goian, 2012).

Following the separation of the marital couple, the relationship between the child and his/ her parents has two different aspects: either the child maintains a natural relationship with both of his/ her parents, or, due to his/ her involvement in the prolonged post-divorce conflict between them, the relationship with one of the parents is affected. Schwartz points out that harming the relationship between a child and one parent can take two forms: parental alienation and parental alienation syndrome (Darnall, 1998, Schwartz, 2015).

The term **Parental Alienation** was introduced for the first time by the American child psychiatrist Richard Gardner in 1985, in the form of the Parental Alienation Syndrome (Gardner, 1985). At that time, he theorized Parental Alienation Syndrome (PAS), which he defined as “a disorder that occurs in the context of disputes relating to the establishment of the conditions of parental authority. Its fundamental manifestation is the denigration campaign against the other parent, a campaign that is unjustified. It results from the combination of a programming (brainwashing) parent's indoctrinations and the child's own contributions to the vilification of the target parent.” (Gardner, 1998).

More than twenty years after Gardner's first conceptualization, more relevant studies and concerns have emerged in literature: Baker, 2010; Fidler & Bala, 2010a; Friedlander & Walters, 2010; Johnston, 2003; Kelly & Johnston, 2001; Lowenstein, 2010; Warshak, 2010 (Lavadera, Ferracuti, Togliatti, 2012, Schwartz, 2015).

The history of the concept of parental alienation (PA) begins in 1976 when Wallerstein and Kelly (1976) described the “pathological alignment of a parent and a child, resulting in the child's rejection of the alienated parent” (Lowenstein, 2013, apud Wallerstein & Kelly, 1976. Parental alienation is also described as “the strong alliance of the child with a parent and the rejection of the relationship with the other parent without legitimate justification” (Giancarlo, Rottman, 2015, apud Bernet 2010), “a form of emotional abuse in which the child or children are used as a means of revenge by a parent against the other parent who was often a good parent” (Lowenstein, 2015), “a distinct form of parental conflict that refers to the persistent and unjustified denigration of a parent in relation to the other parent in an attempt to alienate the child” (Ben-Ami&Baker, 2012), “unjustified disapproval and even hatred of children for a parent whom they loved and respected before the separation or divorce” (Viljoen&van Rensburg, 2014 apud Bruch, 2001; Wallerstein & Kelly, 1976), but also as “the intentional attempts of a parent to alienate a child in relation to

the other parent through negative indoctrination” (Viljoen&van Rensburg, 2014 apud Baker & Darnall, 2006; Brandes, 2000; De Jong & Davies, 2013; Godbout & Parent, 2012; Wakeford, 2001).

As can be seen from the definitions given in literature, parental alienation refers to a disruption of the normal functioning of the child's relationship with one of the parents, after divorce. The perturbation is due to the fact that there is a strong alliance between the child and one of his/ her parents, an alliance established in order to remove the other parent from the child's life.

It is noticed that this phenomenon of parental alienation has a number of characteristics: it occurs on the background of a marked conflict between the two parents of the child (post-divorce), presupposes the establishment of an alliance between the child and one of the parents, presupposes the existence of a denigration campaign of one parent by the other, presupposes separating the child from the denigrated parent and a short-circuiting of the child's relationship with the latter.

A very important aspect that should be taken into account when referring to parental alienation (PA) is that the child's rejection reactions to the parent are not justified, in their relational history there are no pertinent reasons (situations of abuse, ill-treatment or other negative parental behaviors in relation to the child) to justify the child's tendency to move away from the respective parent (Gavrilă-Ardelean, Horvath, 2008). For this reason, parental alienation (PA) can be considered a form of psychological abuse on the child, because by a more or less intentional attitude, one of the parents (through unjustified indoctrination behavior) causes an important disturbance of the child's relationship with the other parent.

Thus, the child is deprived of the right to have a direct and natural relationship with the respective parent, which may have some influence on the child's further development (Fond-Harmant, Gavrilă-Ardelean, 2016). If we are to synthesize, we note that parental alienation (PA) presupposes the existence of the following elements: conflict between divorced parents, a denigration campaign (more or less voluntary) of one parent against the other, alliance of the child with the denigrating (alienating) parent, rejection by the child of the denigrated parent (targeted parent or alienated parent), disruption of the relationship between the child and the rejected parent.

The concept of Parental Alienation Syndrome (PAS) was introduced by the American psychiatrist Richard Garner in 1985. Thus, he defines the concept as “a disorder that occurs in the context of disputes relating to the establishment of conditions for the exercise of parental authority. Its fundamental manifestation is the denigration campaign against the other parent, a campaign that is unjustified. It results from the combination of a programming (brainwashing) parent's indoctrinations and the child's own contributions to the

vilification of the target parent.” (Gardner, 1998). Gardner proposes eight criteria by which parental alienation syndrome can be diagnosed: the campaign of denigration of the alienated parent, the child's unconvincing arguments, the lack of ambivalence of the child towards the alienated parent, the “independent thinker” phenomenon, the unconditional support of the alienating parent (denigrator), absence of guilt, borrowed scenarios, expansion of animosity over the friends or family of the targeted (alienated) parent (Lavadera, Ferracuti, Togliatti, 2012, apud Gardner, 2004; Biolley, 2014 apud Gardner, 2004).

*Denigration campaign of the alienated parent*

This manifestation of the child refers to the fact that a parent who was loved and appreciated becomes, overnight, feared and hated, the child beginning to reject his/ her presence.

The child’s behavior occurs in the absence of objective and pertinent reasons (such as abusive or harmful behavior of the parent towards the child), the child rejecting and criticizing the parent unjustifiably. The child tends to offend the parent, assign negative characteristics to him/ her, refuses to interact with him/ her, leaving the impression that between him/ her and the respective parent there have been no qualitative or positive interactions or experiences. The child refuses to spend time with the parent, has the tendency to denigrate him/ her and refuses to call him/ her father/ mother, using instead either his/ her name or another term of address.

*Unconvincing arguments of the child*

This manifestation of the child refers to the fact that the rejection of the parent by the child is based on absurd and unfounded reasons, without acknowledging the absurdity of those arguments. For example, a child may refuse to interact with the parent on the grounds that he/ she does not like the color of his/ her hair, that he/ she obliges him to eat fruits and vegetables before dessert, that he/ she does not allow him access to the computer etc.

*Absence of ambivalence of the child*

This manifestation of the child refers to the fact that his/ her views are clearly structured in relation to the parents, without any level of ambivalence. Thus, while one of them is idealized (the child only sees his/ her qualities and gives him/ her reflex and automatic support), the other parent being exclusively negatively connoted (the child does not recognize the existence of any of his/ her qualities). The child does not recognize the existence of any defects in the preferred parent, or the existence of qualities regarding the rejected parent.

*The phenomenon of the “independent thinker”*

This manifestation of the child is characterized by the fact that the child's opinions about the rejected parent are opinions that the child claims to be entirely his/ hers and that he/ she did not take them from his or her favorite parent or from someone else. There is no time when the child recognizes that

his/ her opinions regarding the rejected parent or the conflict between them have been influenced by the preferred parent.

*Unconditional support of the alienating parent*

This manifestation of the child refers to the reflexive and unconditional support of the preferred parent, to the detriment of the rejected one, the child having the tendency to find justification for the possible inappropriate behavior of the preferred parent towards the rejected parent. In the conflict, the child will tend to ally with his/ her preferred parent without considering the possibility of being neutral or taking into account the opinion or viewpoint of the rejected parent.

*Absence of guilt*

This manifestation of the child refers to the absence of any sense of guilt in relation to the rejected parent, the child considering that the parent deserves the treatment applied to him/ her by the favorite parent or even by the child himself/ herself. The child has no gratitude for gifts, favors or financial support from the rejected parent, the child minimizing or even denying the existence of these behaviors.

*Borrowed scenarios*

This manifestation of the child refers to the fact that the child's discourse contains words, phrases or even scenarios taken in the lump, in a non-discriminatory way from the preferred parent. Thus, the child uses words whose meaning he/ she does not understand, or presents life events or scenarios in which he/ she did not participate directly, or in relation to which he/ she was too young to recall.

*Extended animosity to the family/ friends of the alienated parent*

This manifestation of the child refers to the fact that he/ she begins to refuse contact and interaction with the extended family, relatives, friends of the rejected parent, for no objective reason. The child refuses both direct interactions (meetings) with them, but also indirect interaction (telephone conversations, on-line communication). He/ she also refuses to receive attention or gifts from these people, having the tendency to apply the behavior they apply to their rejected parent (offending, refusal to communicate or interact, tendency to distort the truth about the quality of the previous interactions with them). When presenting this manifestation, the child does not have positive or qualitative relationships with the extended family/ relatives or friends of the rejected parent.

Gardner states that there are three stages of parental alienation syndrome: mild, moderate and severe. In the case of the mild level, Gardner shows that the alienation is relatively superficial, the child presenting only a few of the eight symptoms of PAS; the transition from one parent to the other is easy enough, and if difficulties arise, they are resolved when the child stays

only in the presence of the denigrated parent. In the moderate stage, alienation is more intense, almost all eight symptoms are present, the denigration campaign has started, and aggression towards the denigrated parent is more obvious. In the case of the severe stage, the eight symptoms are totally present, the child having an obviously aggressive attitude against the denigrated parent, with an obvious alliance between him/ her and the alienating parent (Biolley, 2014 apud Gardner, 2004).

In the phenomenon of parental alienation, there are two parental typologies: the alienating parent or the alienator and the alienated parent or the targeted parent. The alienating parent (alienator or denigrator) is the parent who acts voluntarily to alienate the child from the other parent (Biolley, 2014). Thus, he/ she deliberately intervenes in the relationship of his/ her child with the other parent, without thinking of the consequences that such an intrusion has on the child. For this reason, there are a number of authors who consider parental alienation to be a form of emotional abuse on the child (Lowenstein, 2015).

The alienated parent (targeted parent) is the parent in relation to whom the child rejects interaction as a result of the voluntary intervention of the other parent (Biolley, 2014). Thus, obviously, the relationship of the child with the alienated parent is affected and sometimes irremediably compromised, depending on the intensity of parental alienation in that case. Resilience, as positive adaptation can help both parents and the child in overcoming the difficult experience of divorce. (Otovescu, Otovescu, Motoi & Otovescu, 2015)

### **Objectives of the paper**

- A. Determination of the personality traits and the existence/ nonexistence of the predisposition to personality disorders of the adults involved in a situation of divorce with minors, in relation to which the court suspects the establishment of the parental alienation phenomenon,*
- B. Identification of significant differences in personality structure and possible disruptions between parents from divorced couples, from the perspective of the alienated parent and that of the alienating parent.*

### **Working method**

In the realization of this study we started from two hypotheses:

*A: There are statistically significant differences in the personality structure of alienating and alienated type parents.*

*B: There are statistically significant correlations regarding alienating and alienated type parents and certain personality disorders.*

The study involved 20 subjects from divorced/ separated couples with children, in relation to which the court suspects the establishment of the phenomenon of parental alienation (10 alienating type parents and 10

alienated type parents). The study included 10 men and 10 women aged between 26 and 59 (average age 42) coming from both urban (13 subjects) and rural areas (7 subjects), with higher education (13 subjects) and secondary education (7 subjects).

For the 20 participants, the following methods of psychological investigation were used:

- Anamnestic interview
- Questionnaire for Identification of the Establishment of the Parent Alienation Phenomenon (currently being validated and calibrated for the Romanian population)
- DECAS Personality Inventory
- MCMI – III (Multiaxial Millon Clinical Inventory)

Comparisons were made using T tests on scores obtained by targeted parents and alienating parents to determine if there were significant differences in their personality structure.

Correlations were made using the Pearson (r) correlation coefficient to determine whether there are significant correlations between alienating and alienated parent typologies and a certain personality disorder.

### **Results and discussions**

The obtained results indicate that there are no significant differences in the personality structure from the perspective of the BIG FIVE model in terms of alienating and alienated parents ( $T \geq 0.05$ )

Also, the results indicate that both alienating and alienated parents have obtained significant correlations with the Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (Axis I) and the Masochistic Type Personality Structure (Axis II) ( $p < 0.05$ ).

Although on the level of direct observation, following the results obtained by the subjects participating in the psychological testing, it was observed that in the case of subjects belonging to the category of alienating parents, there was a tendency for them to get high scores on Histrionic, Narcissistic and Compulsive Scales (MCMI-III), the statistical results obtained did not confirm these observations;

This can be explained by the statistical error type 2 (the effect actually exists, but due to the low number of participants it could not be demonstrated);

As we can see, the results show that there are no significant differences in the personality structure with respect to alienating and alienated parents.

The obtained results indicate that the typology of both the alienating and the alienated parent strongly correlate with the posttraumatic stress disorder (axis I) and the personality structure of the masochistic type (axis II).

The current study has been conducted to investigate the extent to which there are significant differences in terms of personality structure, as regards



alienating and alienated parents, but also to investigate whether, from the perspective of the role they have in the parental alienation phenomenon (alienating or alienated parent), they are predisposed to certain personality disorders.

The present study shows that there are no significant differences in the personality structure between alienating and alienated parents, but that for both categories of parents there are statistically significant correlations with the masochist personality structure and the posttraumatic stress disorder. These results indicate that there are more similarities between the two types of parents than differences, indicating the need to replicate the study on a larger number of subjects in order to determine exactly the underlying factors of assuming the two parent types: alienating and alienated parents.

Attitudes about health and life experiences vary from an individual to another and could be caused by a lack of health information, a low socioeconomic level (Vintila et al., 2009), and a lower level of personal development. Although, life experiences are own, subjective experiences they depend not only on the individual, but also on environmental factors (Tudorel, Macsinga, & Virga, 2013). Thus, social support is an important factor which can be view as a protective factor that could reduce the effect of stressful, overwhelming life events (Tudorel & Vintila, 2018).

The present study has the clear limitation of a small number of subjects, but it is intended to be only a first step in investigating the parental typologies involved in the parental alienation phenomenon. Its novelty at present is that, besides the existing differences between the two types of parents (alienating and alienated), there are many similarities between them as well, which deserve to be investigated by further empirical studies.

## References:

- APA (2011). PsycINFO – American Psychological Association, <http://www.apa.org/pubs/databases/psycinfo/index.aspx>
- Adams M. (2006). Framing Contests in Child Custody Disputes: Parental Alienation Syndrome, Child Abuse, Gender and Fathers' Rights. *Family Legal Quarterly*. <https://doi.org/10.2307/25740570>
- Baker A. (2007). Journal File. *The American Journal of Family Therapy*, 35(3), 279–282. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01926180701274838>
- Baker A.J.L. (2005). Parent alienation strategies: A qualitative study of adults who experienced parental alienation as a child. *American Journal of Forensic Psychology*, 23(4), 41–63. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01926180500301444>

- Baker A.J.L., Burkhard B., Albertson-Kelly J. (2012). Differentiating Alienated From Not Alienated Children: A Pilot Study. *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage*, 53(3), 178–193.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/10502556.2012.663266>
- Bala N., Hunt S., McCarney C. (2010). Parental Alienation: Canadian Court Cases 1989-2008. *Family Court Review*, 48(1), 164–179.  
<https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1744-1617.2009.01296.x>
- Ben-Ami N., Baker A.J.L. (2012). The Long-Term Correlates of Childhood Exposure to Parental Alienation on Adult Self-Sufficiency and Well-Being. *The American Journal of Family Therapy*, 40(2), 169–183.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/01926187.2011.601206>
- Bernet W. (2015). Children of High-Conflict Divorce Face Many Challenges. *Psychiatric Times*. Retrieved from <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=ccm&AN=110842406&site=ehost-live>
- Bernet W., von Boch-Galhau W., Baker A.J.L., Morrison S.L. (2010). Parental Alienation, DSM-V, and ICD-11. *The American Journal of Family Therapy* (Vol. 38).  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/01926180903586583>
- Breaz A.M. (2011). *Îmbătrânirea*. Arad: Editura Universității Aurel Vlaicu.
- Bucur V., Bucur E., Goian C. (2012) Child protection – a subject of clinical sociology. *Social Research Reports*. Vol. 22, 36-43.
- Campbell T.W. (2005). Why Doesn't Parental Alienation Occur More Frequently? The Significance of Role Discrimination. *The American Journal of Family Therapy*, 33(5), 365–377.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/01926180500274567>
- Columbia B., Informa R., Number W.R., House M., Street M., Approach S., ... Syndrome P.A. (2008). A Stepwise Approach to Evaluating Children for Parental Alienation Syndrome A Stepwise Approach to Evaluating Children for Parental Alienation Syndrome. *Journal of Child Custody*, 9418(April 2012), 37–41.  
<https://doi.org/10.1300/J190v04n01>
- Cookston J.T., Fung W.W. (2011). the Kids' Turn Program Evaluation, 49(2), 348–364.
- Ellis E.M., Boyan S. (2010). Intervention Strategies for Parent Coordinators in Parental Alienation Cases. *The American Journal of Family Therapy*, 38(3), 218–236. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01926181003757074>

- Emery R.E. (2005). PARENTAL ALIENATION SYNDROME: Proponents Bear the Burden of Proof. *Family Court Review*, 43(1), 8–13. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1744-1617.2005.00002.x>
- Evans R.A., Gardner R.A. (2006). Parental Alienation Syndrome. *The Florida Bar Journal*, (April).
- Finzi-Dottan R., Goldblatt H., Cohen-Masica O. (2012). The experience of motherhood for alienated mothers. *Child and Family Social Work*, 17(3), 316–325. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-2206.2011.00782.x>
- Fond-Harmant L., Gavrilă-Ardelean M. (2016). The contribution of the human development theory for the education and mental health of the child, *JEP* 14 (3), 174-181.
- Garber B.D. (2011). Parental Alienation and the Dynamics of the Enmeshed Parent-Child Dyad: Adultification, Parentification, and Infantilization. *Family Court Review*, 49(2), 322–335. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1744-1617.2011.01374.x>
- Gardner R.A. (2002). Parental Alienation Syndrome vs. Parental Alienation: Which Diagnosis Should Evaluators Use in Child-Custody Disputes? *The American Journal of Family Therapy*, 30(2), 93–115. <https://doi.org/10.1080/019261802753573821>
- Gardner R.A. (2002). Denial of the parental alienation syndrome also harms women. *The American Journal of Family Therapy*, 30(3), 191–202. <https://doi.org/10.1080/019261802753577520>
- Gavreliuc A. (2012). Continuity and change of values and attitudes in generational cohorts of the post-communist Romania, *Cognition, Brain and Behavior*, 2, 191-212.
- Gavrilă-Ardelean M., Horvath A. (2008). *Abuzul copilului*. Timișoara: Colecția Medica, Editura Mirton,
- Giancarlo C., Rottmann K. (2015). Kids Come Last: The Effect of Family Law Involvement in Parental Alienation. *International Journal of Interdisciplinary Social Sciences: Annual Review*, 9(May), 27–42.
- Gith E. (2013). The Attitude of the Shari'a Courts to Parental Alienation Syndrome: Understanding the Dynamics of the Syndrome in Arab Society. *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage*, 54(7), 537–549. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10502556.2013.828982>
- Godbout E., Parent C. (2012). The Life Paths and Lived Experiences of Adults Who Have Experienced Parental Alienation: A Retrospective Study. *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage*, 53(1), 34–54. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10502556.2012.635967>
- Goian C. (editor) (2013). *Teaching social work practice*. București: Pro Universitaria

- Goian C. (2004). *Deprinderi in Asistență Socială*, Editura Institutul European.
- Green R. (2006). Parental Alienation Syndrome and the Transsexual Parent. *International Journal of Transgenderism*, 9(1), 9–13. <https://doi.org/10.1300/J485v09n01>
- Jaffe, Ashbourne, & Mamo, 2010, Ellis, E. M. (2005). Help for the Alienated Parent. *American Journal of Family Therapy*, 33(5), 415–426. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01926180500274518>
- Jaffe P.G., Ashbourne D., Mamo A.A. (2010). Early Identification and Prevention of Parent–Child Alienation: A Framework for Balancing Risks and Benefits of Intervention. *Family Court Review*, 48(1), 136–152. <https://doi.org/http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.1744-1617.2009.01294.x>
- Johnston J.R. (2004). Rejoinder to Gardner’s “Commentary on Kelly and Johnston’s ‘The Alienated Child: A Reformulation of Parental Alienation Syndrome.’” *Family Court Review*, 42(4), 622–628. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1531244504268658>
- Kelly J.B. (2010). Commentary on “Family Bridges: Using Insights From Social Science To Reconnect Parents and Alienated Children” (Warshak, 2010). *Family Court Review*, 48(1), 81–90. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1744-1617.2009.01289.x>
- Kruk E. (2010). Collateral Damage: The Lived Experiences of Divorced Mothers Without Custody. *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage*, 51(8), 526–543. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10502556.2010.504103>
- Laughrea K. (2008). Alienated Family Relationship Scale. *Journal of College Student Psychotherapy* <http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/wcsp20>
- López T.J., Iglesias V.E.N. García P.F. (2014). Parental Alienation Gradient: Strategies for a Syndrome. *The American Journal of Family Therapy*, 42(3), 217–231. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01926187.2013.820116>
- Lowenstein L.F. (2011). What if the Custodial Parent Refuses to Cooperate With Child Contact Decisions? *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage*, 52(5), 322–325. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10502556.2011.585088>
- Luftman V.H., Veltkamp L.J., Clark J.J., Lannacone S., Snooks, H. (2005). Practice guidelines in child custody evaluations for licensed clinical social workers. *Clinical Social Work Journal* (Vol. 33). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10615-005-4947-4>
- Meier J.S. (2009). A Historical Perspective on Parental Alienation Syndrome and Parental Alienation. *Journal of Child Custody*, 6(3–4), 232–257. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15379410903084681>

- Mone J.G., Biringen Z. (2006). Perceived Parent-Child Alienation: Empirical Assessment of Parent-Child Relationships Within Divorced and Intact Families. *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage*, 45(3-4), 131-156. <https://doi.org/10.1300/J087v45n03>
- Moné J.G., Biringen Z. (2012). Assessing Parental Alienation: Empirical Assessment of College Students' Recollections of Parental Alienation During Their Childhoods. *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage*, 53(3), 157-177. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10502556.2012.663265>
- Moné J.G., MacPhee D., Anderson S.K., Banning J.H. (2011). Family Members' Narratives of Divorce and Interparental Conflict: Implications for Parental Alienation. *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage*, 52(8), 642-667. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10502556.2011.619940>
- Neustein A., Leshner M. (2009). Evaluating PAS: A critique of Elizabeth Ellis's "A stepwise approach to evaluating children for PAS." *Journal of Child Custody Research Issues and Practices*, 6(3-4), 322-325. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15379410903084715>
- (Neustein & Leshner, 2009)(Neustein & Leshner, 2009)(Ellis, 2005)Ellis, E. M. (2005). Help for the Alienated Parent. *American Journal of Family Therapy*, 33(5), 415-426. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01926180500274518>
- Nichols A.M. (2013). Toward a Child-Centered Approach to Evaluating Claims of Alienation in High-Conflict Custody Disputes. *Mich. L. Rev.*, 112(May), 663-688.
- Otovescu C., Otovescu A., Motoi G., Otovescu D. (2015). Resources of resilience amongst the urban population. *Revista de cercetare și intervenție socială*, vol. 48, 32-49
- Pepiton M.B., Alvis L.J., Allen K., Logid G. (2012). Is Parental Alienation Disorder a Valid Concept? Not According to Scientific Evidence. A Review of Parental Alienation, DSM-5 and ICD-11 by William Bernet. *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse*, 21(2), 244-253. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10538712.2011.628272>
- Rea, K.M.K. (2015). Family reflections: A promising therapeutic program designed to treat severely alienated children and their family system. *American Journal of Family Therapy*, 43(2), 197-207. <https://doi.org/http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/01926187.2015.1007769>
- Rowen J., Emery R. (2014). Examining parental denigration behaviors of co-parents as reported by young adults and their association with parent-child closeness. *Couple and Family Psychology: Research and Practice*, 3(3), 165. <https://doi.org/10.1037/cfp0000026>

- Sava A.F. (2013). *Psihologia Validată Științific – Ghid Practic de Cercetare în Psihologie*, 282-323, Iasi: Editura Polirom
- Siegel J.C., Langford J.S. (1998) MMPI-2 Validity Scales and Suspected Parental Alienation Syndrome. *American Journal of Forensic Psychology*, Volume 16, Number 4, 1998, p. 5-14, [https://canadiancrc.com/Parental\\_Alienation\\_Syndrome\\_Canada/MMPI-2\\_Validity\\_Scales\\_and\\_Suspected\\_Parental\\_Alienation\\_Syndrome.aspx](https://canadiancrc.com/Parental_Alienation_Syndrome_Canada/MMPI-2_Validity_Scales_and_Suspected_Parental_Alienation_Syndrome.aspx)
- Smith L.S. (2016). Family-Based Therapy for Parent-Child Reunification. *Journal of Clinical Psychology*, 72(5), 498–512. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jclp.22259>
- Spruijt E., Eikelenboom B., Harmeling J., Stokkers R., Kormos H. (2005). Parental Alienation Syndrome (PAS) in the Netherlands. *American Journal of Family Therapy*, 33(4), 303–317. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01926180590962110>
- Sullivan M.J., Ward P.A., Deutsch R.M. (2010). Overcoming Barriers Family Camp: a Program for High-Conflict Divorced Families Where a Child Is Resisting Contact With a Parent. *Family Court Review*, 48(1), 116– 135. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1744-1617.2009.01293.x>
- Summers D.M., Summers C.C. (2006). Unadulterated Arrogance: Autopsy of the Narcissistic Parental Alienator. *The American Journal of Family Therapy*, 34(5), 399–428. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01926180600817885>
- Swami V., Vintila M., Tudorel O., Goian C., Barron D. (2018). Factor Structure and Psychometric Properties of a Romanian Translation of the Drive for Muscularity Scale. *Body Image*, 25; 48-55;
- Tudorel O.I., Macinga I., Virgă D. (2013). Actualizarea de sine: de la starea de bine la viziunea asupra lumii. *Romanian Journal of Applied Psychology*, 15 (1), 20-26;
- Tudorel O.I., Vintilă M. (2018). The role of Social Support on Internet Addiction. *Revista de Asistentă Socială*, 1;
- Vassiliou D., Cartwright G.F., Gardner R.A. (2001). The Lost Parents' Perspective on Parental Alienation Syndrome THE NATURE OF PARENTAL ALIENATION SYNDROME. *The American Journal of Family Therapy*, 29, 181–191. <https://doi.org/10.1080/019261801750424307>
- Viljoen M., van Rensburg E. (2014). Exploring the Lived Experiences of Psychologists Working With Parental Alienation Syndrome. *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage*, 55(4), 253–275. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10502556.2014.901833>

- Vintilă M., Marklinder I., Nydahl M., Istrat D., Kuglis A. (2009). Health awareness and behaviour of the elderly: between needs and reality. A comparative study. *Revista de Psihologie Aplicată*, 11(2), 81-87;
- Walker L.E., Shapiro D.L. (2010). Parental Alienation Disorder: Why Label Children with a Mental Diagnosis? *Journal of Child Custody*, 7(4), 266– 286. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15379418.2010.521041>
- Walters M.G., Friedlander S. (2010). Finding a Tenable Middle Space: Understanding the Role of Clinical Interventions When a Child Refuses Contact with a Parent. *Journal of Child Custody*, 7(4), 287–328. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15379418.2010.521027>
- Warshak R. A., Otis M.R. (2010). Helping Alienated Children With Family Bridges: Practice, Research, and the Pursuit of “Humbition.” *Family Court Review*, 48(1), 91–97. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1744-1617.2009.01290.x>