

Studying Technikpsychologie today:

The TU Darmstadt psychology curriculum is focussed on work, technology, and organization. Very close to this curriculum, Bramesfeld considered work and the human, product and the human, as well as Betrieb (organisation) and the human.

Psychotechnik as a term was introduced 1903 by William Stern (Weinberger, 2021). Famous German psychologists like Münsterberg, Moede, and Giese used Psychotechnik to describe human adaption to industrial processes (Subjektpsychotechnik) and vice versa.

In our view, Bramesfeld's two subterms Psycho and Technik have to change positions to TECHNIKPSYCHOLOGIE. Psychotechnik in our view today means, for example, survey, interview, and test methods (Techniken). Moreover, most other areas of psychology start with the special and end with the general: Architectural Psychology, Biological Psychology, Clinical Psychology, Differential Psychology, Environmental Psychology, Experimental Psychology, General Psychology, History of Psychology, Personality Psychology, Social Psychology. The industry used term Human Factors is not adequate as well, because it mainly describes and investigates incidents and accidents in the interaction of humans with machines (negative). However, there is the other side of the coin, where humans against all odds manage complex socio-technical systems well. Engineering psychology tries to design such socio-technical systems in a way that humans intuitively operate the machines safely in order to prevent accidents (positive). Technikpsychologie is a neutral term and includes both, human strength and weakness. Therefore, it should be used as the superior term.

Technikpsychologie is a fixed term in the German Dictionary of Psychology, defined as the science of relationships between humans and technologies (Weinberger, 2021). Weinberger emphasizes that technology is human made and in turn teaches¹ and develops humans. We also observe that technology can lead to atrophy and even sickness, disadvantages, benefits, and conflicts.

Technikpsychologie at work investigates and rationalizes human behaviour in working or studying settings. Technikpsychologie in selection (recruitment, selection, training) helps finding the right people for a job by considering the Berufskunde (professions requirements), the Arbeiterauslese (selection of workers), Arbeiterumstellung (on-the-new-job re-training), and Berufsberatung (career counselling). Like today, Bramesfeld distinguished basic subjects like physiology to be taught before starting to study the above-mentioned application fields.

¹ Teaching in the sense of trial and error