

Marek Leśniak, post-doctoral degree
Department of Law and Administration
Silesian University, Katowice, Poland

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Barbara Gawda's book entitled "The psychology of handwriting" is a valuable interdisciplinary study of the relationship between psychological characteristics and handwriting. This area has explored for a long time whether it is possible to identify a person's personality and other traits on the basis of his/her handwriting. The author has performed very extensive research in this area, and what is of particular value, is that she has replicated all of her previous studies using the most modern computer software to analyze graphical patterns. The work is carried out very diligently in terms of methodology. She analyzes syndromes/ groups of handwriting features, not single features. The book is the result of an extensive work. Laborious analyses were carried out on 1174 handwriting specimens. With this at hand, many aspects have been taken into consideration, such as personality traits, temperamental traits, emotional patterns such as state anxiety, trait anxiety, mental disorders such as schizophrenia, depression, bipolar affective disorder, and antisocial personality disorder. The results of all these analyses are elaborated on and lead to the formulation of conclusions which are particularly important; handwriting parameters are not specific to particular personality/temperament traits or mental disorders. They confirm the thesis that there are currently no grounds to assess psychological traits based on handwriting characteristics.

The author synthesises data from worldwide and Polish literature on handwriting in relation to psychological characteristics. This meta-analysis includes the latest data from many fields such as graphology, neurophysiology, neuropsychology, psychology, and forensic science - it is therefore a particularly valuable study of various data and concepts dispersed between diverse fields of scientific research.

The original and innovative *network theory* has been proposed by Barbara Gawda to summarize and explain the theoretical background of the lack of relationships between psyche and handwriting. It is a constructive explanation of the research to date on the psyche-handwriting relationship. Thus, she has an innovative contribution to interdisciplinary studies in the field of handwriting research. The work "The psychology of handwriting" settles many

ongoing disputes. Barbara Gawda points the way towards new scientific research on relationships between psychological characteristics and handwriting patterns.

Marek Leńnik