

Workaholism: a difficult definition.

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It is reported a series of contributions on the concept of Workaholism, the pathological addiction to work. Several definitions of workaholism are provided, starting with hypothesis on its etiology, still uncertain and limited to a few experimental interventions.

Measurement instruments so far developed are selected and introduced, in particular the two instruments mainly used by the scientific community: the WorkBat (Spence & Robbins, 1992) and the Wart (Robinson, 1995). These tests were considered based on their psychometric characteristics as well as subsequent critical works.

This study summarizes a series of papers on the association between workaholism and disorders of body and mental well-being, particularly stress and Type-A behaviour.

Conclusions of this paper are meant to be a critical starting point vis-à-vis of the studies so far developed, by highlighting what makes them weaker from a scientific perspective.

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