

**Charles University**

**1<sup>st</sup> Medical Faculty**

**PhD- study programme: History of Medicine**

Summary of dissertation



“Analysis and contextualisation of the work and life of the pharmacologists W. Wiechowski, E. Starkenstein and G. Kuschinsky with particular focus on their contribution to modern pharmacology”

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**The dissertation had been written at the Institute of History of Medicine and Foreign Languages at the First Faculty of Medicine, Charles University Prague from 2019-2022**

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## Summary

“This dissertation explores three case studies of pharmacologists which had been the Chair of Pharmacology at the Charles University of Prague in the early to mid- 20<sup>th</sup> century and thereafter. Due to their different personal background and research interests, both their academic research work and also their personal lives are investigated, with regards to their contribution to modern pharmacology and also in terms of political victimization or preferential treatment.

The underlying methodological concept has to be seen in Heidegger’s hermeneutic phenomenological philosophy, drawing from the understanding of the individual’s experiences, adding an interpretative view to his teacher’s perception of phenomenology, Edmund Husserl.

Thematically seen, all three pharmacologists are being reviewed in terms of their academic biography, including professional influences or direct academic collaborations. To understand socio-political influences, also personal stances on philosophical issues as well as humanist interests have been considered, e.g. their ideas on public health or wider health policies, professional development of healthcare professions or their relations to the pharmaceutical industry itself. Based on a “thick description” (Geertz) the results of this research demonstrate implications of ideological interferences on academic careers, and also consider Ehrenreich’s and Cole’s “Perpetrator- Victim- Bystander- Model” “.<sup>1</sup>

The dissertation is structured into three main parts, firstly a theoretical introductory chapter dealing with methodological questions and putting it into the context of previous research. Within the second and main part all three cases are investigated with regards to the initially formulated research questions followed by the final third chapter that discusses each pharmacologist’s victimization by or involvement into Nazi structures and its effect on their research.

## Key words

Pharmacology- 20th Century- Phenomenology- Case Studies- Conceptual Framework of Victimization

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<sup>1</sup> ZAWADZKI PATRICK, Die Pharmakologie in Prag. Biographische Annäherung an W. Wiechowski, E. Starkenstein und G. Kuschinsky in: VIRUS – Beiträge zur Sozialgeschichte der Medizin (2022 currently in print)