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Subject: The role of meaning in life in the social readaptation of prisoners.
An anthropological and pedagogical study.

The dissertation concerns the anthropological-pedagogical aspects of meaning in life as it pertains to prisoners during the process of their social adaptation to life at liberty. As part of the research project undertaken in this thesis, interviews with inmates were conducted. These interviews provided a deep insight into their life and identified the sources of belief that life is worth living by viewing personally significant beliefs, meaningful actions and experiences.

In order to determine the importance of meaning in life for the successful social readaptation of prisoners, the study referred to elements of pedagogical, psychological, sociological and philosophical theories and concepts concerning the mechanisms of human behaviour. The effect of integrating the assumptions resulting from them was the development of a construct built around adaptation mechanisms which condition the proper socialisation of prisoners. This construct represents a multifactorial cognitive model of the aim and sense of life and was subjected to verification in a qualitative study.

The aim of the study was to delve into the world of the incarcerated and the penitentiary reality in order to grasp those moments in which one's life history appears as a presence, rather than a mere set of facts or loosely connected threads, in which lessons (and mistakes) from the past are revealed and reflected in present and prospective thinking, action, and interpersonal relations. On this basis, an attempt was made to show the influence of meaning in life on the mechanisms of reintegration into mainstream social life.