

Alexander R. Luria (1902–1977)

Although Luria gives much of the credit for his success to Vygotsky (see Luria, 1979), he was an important figure in his own right, particularly in neuropsychology. Towards the end of Vygotsky's life, he had been involved in testing their theory that as the historical nature of society changes there will be concomitant changes in structure and content of consciousness. The theory was tested in Uzbekistan (1931–1932) and was published by Luria (1976). The work was suppressed in the Soviet Union because it was considered inconsistent with Stalinist notions of psychology—primarily Pavlovian. In fact, it was considered even subversive. Vygotsky and Luria were not popular and Luria was forced to explore other areas and forgo openly pursuing the research program of Vygotsky. He pursued a medical degree and focused on neurological studies for which he is famous. It was not until the 1970s that he was able to reintroduce the ideas of Vygotsky without difficulty. As with Vygotsky, I direct you to the section on cultural-historical psychology later on and also to the various papers available at the web site listed below.

References

Luria, A. R. (1976). *Cognitive development: Its cultural and social foundations*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Luria, A. R. (1979). *The making of mind: A personal account of Soviet psychology*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Various books and papers of Luria are available at:

www.marxists.org/archive/luria/