

Lev S. Vygotsky (1896–1934)

Vygotsky lived a short life. He died of tuberculosis at the age of 37. His time in psychology was brief—a mere ten years, but in that short time he made considerable contributions to what is now known as the cultural-historical approach to psychology (see the later entry). His close collaborator Alexander Luria (1979) considered him a genius. Together they and A. N. Leontiev forged the foundation of a psychology based on the premise that much of what constitutes individual psychology must be conceived of as being initially of external, social origins, which, upon internalization, forms the structure and content of the individual mind. The concept of *sociogenesis* was not new; it had already been proposed by people like James Mark Baldwin and John Dewey but Vygotsky was able to develop a research program that investigated those processes along with his collaborators. Luria writes of this in his book which is available to you online at the website indicated for Luria in the next section. Since there is a great deal about Vygotsky available online I will not expand on this but simply direct you to the later section on cultural-historical psychology where this is developed more fully.

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

Various papers of Vygotsky are available at:

www.marxists.org/archive/vygotsky/