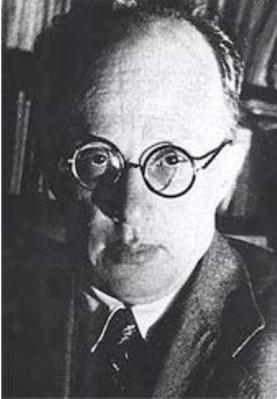




## **Sergey Leonidovich Rubinstein**

Russian Psychologist

1889-1960



Sergey Rubinstein was an eminent Russian psychologist. He studied in Germany at the University of Freiberg, Berlin, and Marburg where he wrote and defended his thesis “Eine Studie zum Problem der Method” (A study of the Problem of Method). He discovered fundamentally new and highly promising trends in the development of psychological science and philosophy, which provided the foundation for studies in many different disciplines. He authored the Soviet Union’s first original ontology and philosophical anthropology. Rubinstein was also the first Russian psychologist to receive the State Prize (1942). His main specialty was on the development of personality and motivation (this is the area related to Dr. Masgutova’s work). Rubinstein understood and articulated how motivation is reduced when basic functioning is impaired. Conversely, as basic functioning improves and becomes less of a burden, motivation gains strength, personal goals emerge, and intention appears.

This idea is very basic to the MNRI concept that dysfunction in children or adults can be ameliorated by attending to the underlying function of reflex patterns. Rubinstein emphasized the close relationship between consciousness and praxis, as embodied in three principles, that psyche was a result of evolution and amenable to change, that consciousness and praxis exist in unity, and that theory and praxis exist in unity (Educational Psychology, p. 360). Rubinstein’s idea of personality development and motivation is highly complementary to Vigotsky’s and Bernstein’s views and is a basis for insight for the Masgutova Method®.

### **Credits and Further Reading:**

Rubinstein, S. L., “The Principles of General Psychology,” Moscow, 1940

Rubinstein, S. L., “The Principle of Creative Spontaneous Activity,” Published in the Journal of Psychology, 1986 no. 4