

Editorial

The first issue of 2014 opens with the special section “The Second Russian-Japanese Forum of Social Sciences and Humanities”. This forum was welcomed by Lomonosov Moscow State University in October 2013 and included a seminar on psychology. A team of researchers from the Graduate School of Arts and Letters of Tohoku University led by Dr. Tsuneyuki Abe, the head of Psychology Chair, and the Lomonosov Moscow State University Faculty of Psychology professors discussed current advances in psychological science in Russia and Japan with an emphasis on psychophysiology and social psychology. The corresponding section of the journal presents articles based on the seminar papers.

Tsuneyuki Abe, Juthatip Wiwattanapantuwong and Akio Honda explore the experience of a survivor in a great natural disaster. In the article “Dark, cold, and hungry, but full of mutual trust: Manners among the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake victims” they deconstruct simplified “urban legends” about extremely high levels of helpfulness among Japanese earthquake victims, and present valuable insights into actual resources promoting solidarity and support.

The issue of extremism is analyzed in two articles: Yury P. Zinchenko suggests a system approach perspective as the methodological basis for research on this phenomenon, and Aleksandr E. Raevskiy reflects on psychological aspects of the “Aum Shinrikyo” affair. The article by Yury P. Zinchenko and Olga Y. Zotova “Security in the worldview of Russians” helps to develop a positive agenda for maintaining security in a culturally sensitive way. Certain aspects of psychological security and well-being are addressed in the article “Interpersonal confidence as a factor in the prevention of disorganized interaction” by Aleksandr I. Dontsov and Elena B. Pereygina. The article by Nobuyuki Sakai “The psychology of eating: from the experimental, the social and the applied psychological points of view” bridges some gaps between psychophysiology and social psychological research on cultural diversity.

This collaborative work produced significant results. During May 21–25 2014 the delegation of the Russian Psychological Society visited the Japanese Psychological Association. In Tokyo Memorandum of Understanding between the Russian Psychological Society and the Japanese Psychological Association was signed by the president of the Russian Psychological Society, Professor Yury Zinchenko and the president of the Japanese Psychological Association, Professor Takao Sato.

The “Developmental psychology” section provides two articles dealing with issues of children’s social development. They discuss psychological boundaries of “I” in the role play of peer-unaccepted children (Elena V. Filippova and Tatyana V. Pivnenko) and social anxiety in children, comparing orphans and children in birth families (Tamara V. Avakyan and Svetlana S. Volikova). Kokurina Irina G. and Solina Elena I., on the other hand, discuss representations of happiness and life satisfaction in the group of educated and socially active young people.

The “Psychological diagnostics” section presents discussions on psychometric properties of the Russian version of the Empathy Quotient (Vladimir Kosonogov) and F. B. Berezin’s version of the Minnesota multiphase personal questionnaire (Maria A. Dzherelievskaya, Anna V. Vizgina, Sergey R. Pantileev and Ludmila L. Yashina). In the work by Olga A. Mikhailova, stimulus determinants of the change blindness phenomenon are described.

The “Clinical psychology” section provides a diverse range of articles dealing with internet addiction in teenagers and its impact on the development of their higher mental functions (Anna V. Katasonova, Sergey V. Perkovsky and Natalya A. Kravtsova), sense of humor disorders in patients with schizophrenia and affective disorders (Alyona N. Ivanova, Sergey N. Enikolopov and Olga V.), and the multi-disciplinary issue of social representations of drugs explored in a wide sample of Russian youths by Irina B. Bovina and her colleagues.

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Available online: 30 March 2014