

PREFACE

The third issue of the journal “Vestnik of Saint Petersburg University. Psychology” opens with the heading of theoretical and methodological research.

The first two publications are devoted to fundamental problems of personality psychology.

In the article by S. N. Kostromina and N. V. Grishina “Wholeness as a fundamental category in describing of the nature of personality” examines the concept of wholeness as the most important characteristic of personality and as a requirement for its study. Like many concepts that describe the nature of the psyche, in particular the phenomenology of personality psychology, the concept of wholeness has undergone changes associated with the transition from a primary focus on considering the stable characteristics of the personality to describing its dynamic nature. At one time, violation of the principle of wholeness in research studying individual components of personality became one of the main reasons for the crisis in personality psychology of the 20th century. The authors of the article, within the framework of the processual approach they are developing, develop the concept of dynamic wholeness as a balance of processes of change and sustainability.

A similar topic is discussed in the following publication — the article by M. S. Guseltseva “Mindfulness as a factor of personal stability in a changing world.” In the context of ongoing sociocultural changes, the topic of personal stability acquires special significance. The publication focuses on the phenomenon of mindfulness, which is interpreted by the author as a cultural practice and a special state of consciousness and is capable, according to Guseltseva, of acting as the most constructive response to the challenges of a changing world as an alternative to schematisms and stereotypes of consciousness, behavioral automatisms, and unconscious ways of perceiving reality.

Traditionally in psychology, mindfulness is viewed rather as a phenomenon of a person’s dialogue with himself. In the approach proposed by Guseltseva, mindfulness becomes a means of “mastering” a person’s relationship with the surrounding reality, creating the possibility of a conscious choice of position and mode of behavior, which seems to be a very promising proposal for expanding research in this area.

The next article in the issue is “Two psychologies: Specifics of research models” by S. V. Morozova, I. A. Gorbunov will attract attention with its originality. The authors focus on the problems of applying mathematical methods in psychological research. This topic is discussed basing on an analysis of almost 25 thousand publications in leading journals of the American Psychological Association, as a result of which two factors were identified that determine the use of mathematical methods. It is shown that the orientation towards one or another factor — analysis of differences and analysis of relationships — reflects different research models. Each of the research models has its own set of statistical methods used, the

preferences of which can be seen in the publications of certain journals. The authors provide data on the predominant orientation of various areas of psychology towards experimental or correlational research models.

Collective article by a group of authors — E. L. Soldatova, K. V. Bartseva, E. A. Alenina, E. S. Tsigeman, M. V. Likhanov and G. A. Vartanyan “Nostalgia as a psychological phenomenon: Theoretical review of the research” is dedicated to the phenomenon of nostalgia, which rarely becomes the subject of psychological research. At the same time, in modern so-called “fluid reality” with its inherent high rates of change, transformation of the familiar world of people’s lives, and their high mobility, manifestations of nostalgia can be observed more and more often, and nostalgic experiences can become a request for psychological help. The authors present a detailed analysis of the nature of nostalgia, the characteristics of its manifestations, personal and situational factors that provoke the occurrence of nostalgic experiences, the functions of nostalgia, etc. Despite the available data, many questions remain in the understanding of nostalgia that require further empirical study, in particular the impact of the experience of nostalgia on a person’s psychological well-being.

Review article by O. A. Sagalakova, D. V. Truevtsev, O. V. Zhirnova and A. M. Sagalakov “Error-related negativity: Dynamics of a neurocognitive marker of sensitivity to inconsistency in decisions in mental disorders” is devoted to the evolution of ideas about ERN (error-related negativity) — the electrical potential of the brain, which is one of the electrophysiological markers of error monitoring, actively studied in neurocognitive research. The error monitoring system is discussed in connection with various factors — the characteristics of human activity, his individual typological characteristics, the motivational significance of the task, etc. Particular attention is paid to the analysis of the ERN as an electrophysiological marker of mental health and various types of disorders. The article is of interest to specialists in both fields of cognitive psychology and clinical psychology.

The section of empirical research opens with an article by G. D. Vzorin, A. M. Bukinich and V. V. Nurkova “Reconsidering the ‘Google effect’: Reduced productivity in externalized information recognition is expedient”. Among the discussed consequences of the influence of the Internet on the characteristics of cognitive activity, the so-called “Google effect” is noted, which means a decrease in the efficiency of a person’s reproduction of information stored on digital devices. The results of empirical tests of the effect indicate the inconsistency of the data obtained. The authors of the article conducted an experimental study based on the hypothesis about the expedient nature of the decrease in the reproducibility of stored information, as opposed to existing ideas about the automatic nature of this decrease. The data obtained allow us to give a more complex interpretation of the “Google effect,” which opens up prospects for further research.

The next article in the issue is “Anxiety, depression and stress of mothers of premature infants with intraventricular cerebral hemorrhages in the first year of their life” by N. V. Andrushchenko, R. Zh. Mukhamedrakhimov, A. S. Iova, E. A. Vershinina is devoted to a topic whose practical significance cannot be overestimated. The study participants were mothers of infants born with structural intracranial changes. The study was longitudinal in nature; three measurements were taken over the course of a year to assess mothers’ depressive experiences, anxiety, and family stress. In general, rates of depression and anxiety tend to gradually decrease, and their dynamics may be influenced by the characteristics of the treatment that infants receive.

In a collective article by E. O. Kleiman, G. L. Isurina, I. S. Korotkova and I. V. Grandilevs-kaya “Psychological factors of adaptation of medical students to a simulation-based learning environment” discusses the problems of professional medical education, in particular the use of simulation technologies in a learning environment. The study of psychological factors in students’ adaptation to new technologies involves the sequential implementation of several stages of research and the use of a set of various methods and analyzed information — conducting a focus group, survey, personal techniques, collecting psychophysiological data. The article presents the results of studying the cognitive and mental representation of a simulation training situation, describes its thematic blocks, including positive and negative attitudes towards the situation. Specific stressors associated with the use of simulation learning technologies have been identified, allowing directions for further research to be determined.

The final article of the issue is “The influence of situational factors on changes in mental state depending on the level of development of reflection (using the example of students’ educational activities)” by A. V. Makarcheva is also devoted to the psychological problems of educational activities. It is known that the psychological states of participants in this type of activity affect its productivity. A correct analysis of the dynamics of mental states, as the author rightly notes, requires taking into account the conditions and features of a specific activity situation. The focus of the study is the level of reflexivity of students as one of the factors determining the human condition. The article analyzes various factors influencing the psychological state of students, which can be taken into account when developing psychological correctional programs.

In the third issue of the journal “Vestnik of Saint Petersburg University. Psychology” presents publications reflecting a variety of research topics in modern psychology. The range of topics covered in the publications of our journal is constantly expanding, as is the geography of their authors. We hope this will attract the attention of new readers and new authors!

Editor-in-Chief of “Vestnik of Saint Petersburg University. Psychology”
Natalia Grishina