

MEMORABLE DATES
ПАМЯТНЫЕ ДАТЫ

Lyudmila Filippovna Obukhova
22 July 1938 – 20 July 2016

We regret to inform you that Lyudmila Filippovna Obukhova, the famous Russian psychologist, expert in developmental psychology, child-development psychology, Professor, Doctor of Psychology, Head of Developmental Psychology Department of MGPPU, winner of the Russian Federation President Prize in Education, and member of the Academy of Natural Sciences, passed away suddenly on 20th July, 2016.

Ludmila Filippovna Obukhova was born on 22nd July 1938 in Moscow, in a very modest working family. She graduated from the Psychology Department of the Philosophical Faculty of Moscow State University named after M.V. Lomonosov (1955–1960). After graduation, she worked at the Psychology Department of Moscow State University as a researcher, Associate Professor, and Professor of Psychology through to 1999.

In the 1970s Lyudmila Filippovna supervised a group of deaf-and-blind students in the Psychology Faculty of Moscow State University. She dedicated a lot of effort to the work in the boarding school for deaf-and-blind in Zagorsk, where she discovered the “pragmatism” of cultural-historical theory, which was based on the principles of working with deaf-and-blind children.

In 1972, L.F. Obukhova defended her PhD thesis on the topic of “Formation of the Elements of Scientific Thinking in a Child” under the guidance of P.Y. Galperin. She carried out a detailed analysis of the teaching of J. Piaget, and she analyzed some of his provisions by experimental verification. In order to study the specific features of a child’s thinking (J. Piaget phenomena), she implemented the method of planned formation of mental actions worked out by P.Y. Galperin and demonstrated entirely new possibilities for understanding the problems of education and the development of relationships in childhood. The works by L.F. Obukhova retain their significance for organizing scientific research in pre-school education activity, for solving practical problems on the development of children’s thinking, and for analysing the levels of cognitive activity in children.

Lyudmila Filippovna has held true to the ideas of P.Y. Galperin all her life. Her lectures about Galperin’s

main scientific ideas became a classic of Russian psychology.

In her doctorate thesis, “Ways of scientific studies of a child’s mentality in the twentieth century” (1996), L.F. Obukhova shows a system of possible interpretations of a child’s mental development. The paper conceptually summarizes the essential characteristics of the theories pertaining to the development of a child’s mind within the framework of cultural-historical and natural and scientific paradigms. L.F. Obukhova reveals a possible genetic-modelling approach in psychological science.

The basic works by L.F. Obukhova are as follows: “Stages in the Development of Children’s Thinking (1972), “Jean Piaget’s Concept: Pros and Cons” (1981), “Contemporary American Developmental Psychology” (1986), “The Forms and Role-Modelling Functions in Childhood” (combined work, 1994) “Development of Pre-school Children’s Creative Thinking” (combined work, 1995.), “The Development of Divergent Thinking” (combined work, 1995.), “Uncompleted Arguments: P.Y. Galperin and J. Piaget (1996)”, “Jean Piaget: Theory, Experiments and Discussions” (combined work, 2001), “M.I. Lisina’ Concept and Contemporary Psychology: Exchange of Ideas” (2009), “Socio-Cognitive Approach to the Study of a Child’s Intellectual Development” (2010), “P.Y. Galperin’s Theory – the Formation of a New Branch in Psychology” (2010), “The Modern Child: Steps to Understanding” (2010) “Vygotsky and Developmental Psychology, then and now” (2012), “P.Y. Galperin – Equal to the Best” (2012), “Developmental Psychology at the Turn of the New Century” (2014), and many others.

Lyudmila Filippovna is the author of the fundamental course book “Developmental Psychology”, which was first released in 1996, then reissued several times, and became a classic. L.F. Obukhova was a member of the Editorial Board of the journals “Vestnik Moskovskogo Universiteta. Psychology Series”, “Psychological Science and Education”, “Cultural-Historical Psychology”. Over 30 Ph.D. theses and many diploma papers have been successfully defended under the guidance of L.F. Obukhova.

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The name of L.F. Obukhova is associated with establishing the Faculty of Educational Psychology of MGPPU. She was the founder and irreplaceable Head of the Developmental Psychology Department of MGPPU. She initiated the organization of the International Masters programme "Developmental Psychology" within the University. Thanks largely to the enthusiasm of Lyudmila Filippovna, lecture rooms named after V.V. Davydov, P.Y. Galperin, and J. Piaget; and other standard authors of domestic and foreign psychology were created at MGPPU. Lyudmila Filippovna delivered lectures on basic disciplines to the students of the various faculties of MGPPU and in many other domestic and foreign universities. Over recent years, she has been enthusiastically working on documentaries dedicated to various aspects of developmental psychology.

Lyudmila Filippovna was given State and Professional Awards for her major contribution to the development of the national psychology, including the Medal in commemoration of the 850th Anniversary of Moscow, the Medal of K.D. Ushinsky, the Medal of M.V. Lomonosov,

the "Golden Psi" Honorary Award. She is the Laureate of the Russian Federation President Prize in Education, and a member of the International Society of Psychology of Cultural-Historical Activity (ISCAR).

Lyudmila Philippovna was a remarkable personality with a wonderful, gentle smile, a delicate woman, with remarkable awareness, and acceptance. She was a psychologist in her heart, not just by profession. Lyudmila Philippovna was respected by all the people with whom she interacted, and they felt her benevolence, kindness, and emotional generosity. She was attentive and caring towards her colleagues and the numerous students, post-graduate students, who appreciated her brilliant pedagogical gift, and exceptional dedication to psychological creative work.

In Loving Memory.

The executive management of MGPPU, the academic teaching staff, as well as the students and post-graduate students of the University extend their profound and sincere condolences to the family members, those close, and the colleagues of Lyudmila Filippovna.