

PREFACE

The first issue of journal “Vestnik of St. Petersburg State University. Psychology” is traditionally dedicated to the theme of the annual conference “Ananyev’s Readings” last fall, which was held under the title “Man in the Modern World: Potentials and Prospects for Development” and was dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the Department of Developmental Psychology and Differential Psychology of St. Petersburg University. The history of this direction began much earlier: it was developmental psychology and differential psychology that formed the core of the themes of the psychological scientific school of Leningrad University, based by its founder B. G. Ananyev. And today the Department of Developmental Psychology and Differential Psychology continues the traditions of his research, implementing his ideas in modern conditions.

We sincerely congratulate our colleagues on the anniversary of the department, and wish them further success, prosperity and well-being!

The issue opens with an article by Professor L. A. Golovey, who has headed the department for more than 20 years since its founding. Her article is devoted to the formation of developmental psychology and differential psychology and introduces the main stages in the history of the study of these problems at Leningrad — St. Petersburg University to readers. Methodological principles and directions of research were traced by the works of B. G. Ananyev, who proceeded from the need to study a person in the unity of all his properties as an individual, the personality of the subject of activity and individuality. His works take on a new meaning in modern psychology; the ideas of integrity and continuity of human development form the basis of modern personality psychology. Article by Golovey, who was student of B. G. Ananyev, allows you to get acquainted with the history of the school of developmental psychology and differential psychology, part of which consists of the works by Larisa Golovey herself, her students and new generations of scientists who preserve and develop the traditions of the scientific school of B. G. Ananyev.

The following publications in the issue are devoted to the topics of childhood and adolescence. It opens with an article by N. F. Mikhailova and A. S. Krasko “Sex and age factors of mental development of children born to mothers with epilepsy”. Works devoted to this problem, which has obvious practical significance, according to the authors, are limited to studying the effect of individual antiepileptic drugs taken by mothers and do not contain a comprehensive assessment of this effect in connection with sex and age factors in the development of the child himself. The data obtained as a result of the empirical study confirmed the need to take into account these factors in assessing the development of a child born in conditions of illness of mothers forced to use drugs, and, in general, the legitimacy of the research approach chosen by the authors.

Article by N. A. Dovgaya, A. E. Malyh and E. O. Garmashova “Fears of modern preschool children in a sociocultural context” takes the reader into the context of the macroenvironment, which since the early 2020s is marked by large-scale events that have a significant impact on the lives and well-being of people. The results of an empirical study conducted by the authors suggest that the severity of fears in modern children corresponds to age norms, and the specificity of the cultural and historical context is manifested in their content, where the heroes of traditional children’s fairy tales that frighten children are replaced by characters in virtual horror games.

The next article in the issue is “Personal and social factors of the stress perception by senior adolescents” by M. V. Danilova is also devoted to the influence of environmental factors and the experience of stress by modern teenagers. The results of the empirical study showed that in the perception of stress by adolescents, their individual personal characteristics play an important role, and in overcoming it — social support from the environment; at the same time, gender differences were also revealed, in particular, a more intense experience of stress among girls.

The issue continues with publications devoted to the psychology of adulthood and aging, one of the most important areas in the current work of the Department of Developmental Psychology and Differential Psychology.

This section opens with an article by V. R. Manukyan “To the research of the age identification of an adult”. Age identification has a complex nature and, in accordance with the author’s assumptions, is associated with comparing oneself with peers and representatives of similar ages, with subjective age and is influenced by individual differences. A study conducted by Manukyan using a whole range of techniques revealed differences between individual stages of adulthood, in particular the periods of early and middle adulthood. In early adulthood, age identification is especially influenced by a person’s social status, particularly his professional employment. During middle adulthood, the picture becomes more complex, and age identification becomes less clear. The author’s research confirms the tendency for the role of subjective factors in human development and his sense of self to increase with age.

Next article — “Features of the experience of loneliness among adults due to their personal characteristics” by I. R. Murtazina is also devoted to the influence of subjective factors on a person’s sense of self, namely, their experience of loneliness. The phenomenon of loneliness has a complex transdisciplinary nature and is studied in many areas of scientific knowledge, using various scientific approaches for its research. Numerous empirical studies carried out on the topic of loneliness, however, cannot give a final answer to the question about the nature of loneliness, the nature of its experience by people and ways to overcome it: being a socio-cultural phenomenon, determined by the realities of time and the social ideas of people existing in society, loneliness still remains, as research shows, one of the most common feelings experienced by a person, but both its foundations and methods of experiencing are influenced by modern reality. The focus of Murtazina’s work is on personal factors in the experience of loneliness. The results of the empirical study confirmed the role of personal characteristics in the attitude of adults to loneliness, its rejection, negative or positive experiences.

The theme of loneliness continues in the next publication — an article by E. G. Troshikhina “Married couples: the significance of psychological wellbeing and subjective loneliness for feelings of love”. The appeal to the feeling of love and its role in marital relationships

is due to its ambiguous interpretation: on the one hand, it can be considered as a predictor of relationship satisfaction, on the other, it can reasonably be considered as a consequence of this satisfaction. The author's research is based on a large sample of almost 400 married couples with different lengths of marriage; the parameters of their psychological well-being, relationship satisfaction, expressions of feelings of love and sympathy, etc., were studied. The data obtained revealed both gender differences and the influence of their duration on these relationship indicators, and most importantly, the complex nature of the relationships between the studied parameters of marital relationships and the individual personal characteristics of people, which allows us to see the prospects for further research.

The next article in the issue is "Parental burnout, post-traumatic growth and social support for mothers of children with disabilities" by S. S. Savenysheva and Yu. S. Razygraeva — again returns to health problems. The focus is on mothers of children with severe chronic diseases. The psychological problems they experience in this difficult life situation act as a source of constant stress, which, in turn, can be a potential source of so-called "parental burnout". At the same time, post-traumatic growth could become a factor preventing the negative consequences of the difficult life situation they are experiencing, which is of obvious importance not only for the mothers themselves, but also for their sick children. As a result of the empirical study conducted by the authors, a high level of perceived stress characteristic of mothers was revealed. It has been convincingly shown that the most important factor in mothers' coping with stress and their post-traumatic growth is the social support they receive.

The topic of people's satisfaction with their life situation and life in general also receives constant attention; the next article in the issue is dedicated to this — "Life satisfaction of older women and men" by E. A. Nikitina. The article presents the results of a review of modern publications and empirical data on this issue. Research devoted to it has made it possible to identify aspects of the life of older people that have the greatest significance for them, differing from the values of younger people, including spiritual values, the importance of the well-being of the family and one's own health. Nikitina's own empirical research shows that the level of life satisfaction of men and women does not differ, but it is determined by different factors, in particular, social support is more important for women. At the same time, for both men and women, subjective factors of self-esteem play an important role in the level of life satisfaction.

The topic of life satisfaction is continued in the next publication of the issue — an article by O. Yu. Strizhitskaya and M. D. Petrash "Development of the 'Construction of aging strategies' questionnaire". In the context of increasing life expectancy, the task of improving the quality of life becomes especially urgent. One of the most important areas of work of the Department of Developmental and Differential Psychology is the development of the problem of positive aging, theoretical and empirical substantiation of a constructive approach to aging, ensuring psychological well-being in older ages. The article by Strizhitskaya and Petrash presents the results of the development and psychometric testing of a methodology dedicated to identifying strategies for constructing aging, which has passed all the necessary validity testing procedures. Particularly it is shown that the scales of the developed questionnaire are associated with indicators of psychological well-being, healthy lifestyle, and positive attitudes towards aging. The relevance and significance of the methodological tool proposed by the authors ensures its widespread use for research purposes and solving practical problems.

The issue ends with a collective article by Yu. M. Milanich, G. V. Piatakova and S. V. Krainyukov “Irina Ivanovna Mamaichuk. Her scientific contribution in child clinical psychology and psychology of developmental disorders”. I. I. Mamaichuk worked for many years at the department of medical psychology and psychophysiology, her work was related to child clinical psychology. The work of her colleagues describes Mamaychuk’s research, her contribution to the development of this field, her ideas, which continue to develop in the work of her followers and students.

The first issue of the journal “Vestnik of St. Petersburg State University. Psychology”, dedicated to developmental psychology, allows you to get an idea of this area of psychological science, its achievements and current state. The authors of most part of publications are representatives of the Department of Developmental Psychology and Differential Psychology of St. Petersburg University, which just celebrated its 25th anniversary.

The Faculty of Psychology, its teachers and staff congratulate the staff of the department on its glorious anniversary and wish it further success and prosperity!

Editor-in-Chief of the journal “Vestnik of St. Petersburg State University. Psychology”
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