Special Theme of the Issue.
New methods of psychological assessment

Guest editors — E.A. Orel, E.N. Osin

EDITORIAL

"Psychology. Journal of the Higher School of Ecfonomics" is continuing a series of special issues devoted to new methods of psychological assessment. The present issue contains several articles presenting the development and validation of new measurement instruments aimed to enrich the psychometric toolkit of Russian psychologists. The appearance of new psychometric work carried out in line with contemporary methodological standards is, in our view, an important event for Russian psychology.

Since the infamous Act of the Central Committee of the Communist Party "On pedological perversions in the Narkompros system" of July 4, 1936, which *de facto* prohibited the measurement and assessment of individual differences, Soviet psychometrics had to practically go underground. As a result, by the early 1990s, when Russian psychologists were finally able to choose their professional directions without any regard for ideology, there had been no culture and tradition of psychological assessment formed in the country. Methodologically poor practices, such as straightforward transla-

tions instead of cultural adaptations and validations of foreign-language instruments, open publications of stimulus material and keys for instruments used in high-stakes assessment, spreading into practice of "original" non-validated instruments based on hypotheses rather than scientific evidence, were, regrettably, all too characteristic of Russian psychological assessment in the 1990s and early 2000s.

However, recently there have been a number of positive developments. Thanks to a joint effort of academic and business communities, the Russian Standard for Personnel Testing has been developed (Baturin et al., 2015) and implemented by all the leading companies working in the national assessment industry. Russian-language courses in psychological assessment are steadily gaining popularity in online education platforms and new educational programs training specialists in psychometrics and assessment in line with state-of-the-art practices are being created. We hope that the present issue will contribute to this overall positive trend.

Each of the papers in the special issue presents the development and

validation of a new psychometric instrument. The opening paper by P.A. Sabadosh presents Engagement with Beauty Scale, which measures aesthetic attitudes. The paper by A.A. Zolotaryova describes the English-language adaptation of a short version of Brief Differential Perfectionism Inventory. Besides its high methodological standard, this work is remarkable for presenting an originally Russian instrument to English-speaking researchers. The article of M.D. Malashenko and E. A. Strizhova discusses the measurement of basic affect based on the circumplex model of M. Yik, J. Russell, and J. Steiger, expanding our possibilities for affect research and cross-cultural comparisons. The special issue is concluded by the work of K.A. Chistopolskaya, T.V. Zhuravleva, S.N. Enikolopov and E.L. Nikolaev, describing the validation of three instruments measuring the suicidal aspects of personality; these tools can be used by clinical practitioners.

The instruments presented in the special issue are directed at various objects of measurement within the human mind: the perception of beauty, emotional states, perfectionism, and suicidal ideation. They are all united by the high standard of psychometric work conducted by their respective authors. We hope that this work proves useful and will be appreciated by researchers and practitioners.

Ekaterina Orel, Evgeny Osin

References

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