

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Theory and Philosophy of Psychology

A.A. Lebedeva. Theoretical Approaches and Methodological Issues of Life Quality Research in Human Sciences

The paper presents an analysis of different views of life quality as a multi-disciplinary research topic. The theoretical review presents a view of the problem of content of the concept of life quality in human sciences. Life quality is usually associated with objective factors, such as physical health, economic well-being, external circumstances and conditions of life, etc. However, many researchers also associate life quality with subjective evaluation of life that is dependent on individual perception of life, and an attitude towards it. Recently, the research emphasis in psychology has been shifting towards the subjective parameters of life, and the category of subjective life quality was introduced as an integral concept for the subjective basis of psychological well-being. Subjective approach to life quality seems a promising research direction, but needs more theoretical and empirical support.

Keywords: life quality, subjective well-being, positive psychology.

Special Theme of the Issue.

Cross-Cultural Psychology: Theory, Methods, Applications

R. Fischer. Applied Cross-Cultural Psychology of Social Change and Development: The Example of Well-Being and Corruption Research

What can cross-cultural psychology contribute to broad debates on societal change and development? I am arguing that cross-cultural researchers can

actively contribute in at least three domains: a) an examination of processes that are of societal importance and relevance, b) development and application of culturally sensitive change programs and c) a culture-sensitive evaluation of existing intervention programs so that the needs of communities are better met. I provide two examples that are focus on the first aspect, because this area is closest to current cross-cultural research. I discuss recent work on understanding cross-cultural differences in well-being (Fischer & Boer, 2011) and an examination of changes in corruption over time (O'Connor & Fischer, 2011). How can cross-cultural research contribute to the development and well-being of societies? What are the tools that psychologists interested in culture can use to inform politicians and political decision-making? How can we make cross-cultural relevant to everyday actions and events, considering the massive challenges that humanity faces through globalization, climate change and increasing interdependencies at a global level? In this paper I will outline three different paths that may address these broad questions of policy relevance and societal development. Engaging with these questions can help sharpening our basic research questions and theories as well as contributing to understanding and managing global issues. I will review two recent examples using traditional cross-cultural research in some more detail and discuss how it can fit in with such an agenda.

Keywords: applied cross-cultural psychology, well-being, corruption, values

S. Schwartz, T.P. Butenko, D.S. Sedova, A.S. Lipatova. A Refined

Theory of Basic Personal Values: Validation in Russia

The paper presents a refined theory of basic individual values by S. Schwartz that aims to offer more heuristic and explanatory possibilities compared to an earlier theory of 10 values (Schwartz, 1992), as well as the results of its empirical validation in Russia. The refined theory is based on the key assumption of value theory that is often ignored in research: the circular motivational continuum of values. The theory postulates 19 values placed on a circular continuum in a way that reflects their mutual compatibility (adjacent values are the most compatible, opposing values, in turn, the most conflicting). The theory was validated using a Russian version of the questionnaire in a sample of 506 respondents. Confirmatory factor analysis and multidimensional scaling indicated 19 values. The theoretically proposed order of values was mostly confirmed by the results of multidimensional scaling.

Keywords: value theory, value continuum, basic values, value structure, predictive power of values.

A.N. Tatarko. Individual Values and Social Psychological Capital: A Cross-Cultural Analysis

The paper analyses the phenomenology of social psychological capital seen as a resource of psychological relationships that forms the basis of social capital. A cross-cultural analysis of the influence of value orientations on social psychological capital was conducted. A study of three ethnic groups, Russians (N = 109), Chechens (N = 100), and Ingushs (N = 109), indicates that the influence of personal values on social psychological capital exhibits certain

cultural features. The Self-Transcendence values (Benevolence, Universalism) have positive influence on social psychological capital in multicultural societies, in contrast to Self-Enhancement values that influence it negatively. The values of Openness to Change have a positive impact on civic identity, but are negatively associated with perceived social capital. The values of Conservation have a positive influence on civic (Russian) identity within the Ingush ethnic group.

Keywords: social capital, social psychological capital, value orientations, trust, civic identity.

N.M. Lebedeva. Implicit Theories of Innovativeness: Cultural Differences

The study in a sample comprised by members of three ethnic groups (N = 804) uncovered cultural differences in implicit theories of innovativeness. Russians were more inclined to endorse individualistic theories of innovativeness, whereas respondents from North Caucasus and Tuva tended towards social ones. A universal cultural model of influence of implicit theories of innovativeness on personal experience of innovation mediated by attitudes to innovation was validated using structural equation modeling. The influence of implicit theories of innovativeness upon attitudes to innovation was more pronounced in traditional cultures of North Caucasus and Tuva, and was not significant in a more modernized Russian setting. Attitudes to innovation influenced the experience of innovation in all three cultures.

Keywords: culture, innovations, implicit theories, attitudes, behavior, traditionalism, modernization, globalization.

Work in Progress

D.V. Devyatko. Contribution of Object Representations and Visual Attributes to Illusory Visual Disappearances

The phenomenon of «motion-induced blindness» involves a visible stimulus presented against a rotating background so that the awareness of the target stimulus stops from time to time. A possible cause of such illusory disappearances is the competition between the object representations of the target stimulus and of the mask (Bonneh et al., 2001). However, no studies to date have investigated the number of visual attributes differentiating the target stimulus from the mask necessary for the disappearance mechanism of motion-induced blindness to start functioning. The number and type of differentiating attributes was systematically varied in an empirical study, and the number and duration of target stimulus disappearances was measured. Any single differentiating attribute was shown to be sufficient to cause the disappearance phenomenon. The color difference between the target stimulus and the mask influences the number of visual disappearances, whereas the movement difference influences their duration.

Keywords: motion-induced blindness, visual attributes, object representations.

V.V. Kosikhin. Psychological Substance and Assessment of the Equivalence Range Cognitive Style

The paper presents an analysis of existing approaches to understanding the psychological substance of the

«range of equivalence» cognitive style. A new interpretation of the construct is proposed, integrating a number of existing theories. New directions are suggested for the research of determinants and practical significance of the equivalence range phenomenon. An empirical study of equivalence range assessment is described. A hypothesis of association between the equivalence range phenomenon and conceptual generalization ability was proposed and confirmed. A new method for assessment of equivalence range free of the influence of conceptual generalization ability, limited sorting of objects, was developed and validated.

Keywords: cognitive style, equivalence range, categorization, free sorting of objects, limited sorting of objects, working memory.

V.N. Shlyapnikov, Yu.N. Khrulyova. Volitional Control in Junior Athletes

The results of a study of volitional control features in junior athletes are presented. A group of athletes aged 20 to 24 (N = 195) was compared to a group of students of the same age not engaged in any sports (N = 195). Significant differences between the groups were found in action orientation (HAKEMP, J. Kuhl), behavioral and social self-regulation, and self-ratings of a number of volitional qualities (discipline, goal commitment, conscientiousness, persistence, resolution, willpower, initiative, self-control, zeal, efficiency, self-assurance, orderliness, attentiveness).

Keywords: will, volitional control, self-regulation, self-control, volitional qualities, sports.

*Reviews***I.B. Rogozhkina. Developmental Effect of Learning Programming: Psychological and Educational Perspectives**

The effects of learning programming (software development) on mental and intellectual development of learners is a topical issue in contemporary psy-

chology and pedagogics. The paper presents an analysis of cognitive skills and abilities that undergo development in the process of learning programming. Psychological and educational factors influencing the learning outcomes are discussed.

Keywords: learning programming, cognitive development, social and emotional development, teaching methods.

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