

# КОНФЕРЕНЦИИ

## 83<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF THE EASTERN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

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A brief review of the International Program of the 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association (EPA) that took place on 1—4 March 2012 in Pittsburgh (USA) is submitted in the publication.

**Key words:** American Psychological Association (APA), Eastern Psychological Association (EPA), cross-national scientific cooperation, international students, intercultural adaptation.

Since 2010 the representatives of the Peoples' Friendship University of Russia (PFUR) Center for Personality Studies have worked in close cooperation with the American Psychological Association's Divisions of International Psychology and Social Issues.

In November 2010 Professor Harold Takooshian (Council of Representatives, International Division of the American Psychological Association) visited the PFUR. This visit was part of a six-day international conference devoted to 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the classic obedience experiments by Stanley Milgram at Yale. This unusual multi-site conference using Internet technologies brought together more than 300 Russian students and faculty with U.S. and U.K. colleagues [12]. Professor Harold Takooshian had a full day of workshops in the PFUR, including a film and presentation on Psi Chi, the International Honor Society for Psychology, and the debut in Russia of two classic films by Stanley Milgram, "Conformity and Obedience" and "Human aggression" [12]. On behalf of the American Psychology Association after the conference Professor Harold Takooshian invited the representatives of the PFUR to participate in the annual meeting of the EPA.

Eastern Psychological Association (EPA) was founded in 1896 and is the oldest of the regional Psychological Associations in the United States. In different years the presidents of the EPA were such famous psychologists as Robert S. Woodworth (1929—1930), James M. Cattell (1933—1934), Gordon W. Allport (1942—1943), Anne Anastasi (1946—1947), B.F. Skinner (1954—1955), Julian B. Rotter (1976—1977), Robert

Sternberg (2007—2008), and many others. EPA's sole purpose is to advance the science and profession through the dissemination of professional information about the field of Psychology. EPA achieves this goal by conducting its annual meeting where the members of EPA present the latest advances in professional and scientific work to their colleagues. For many psychologists, the annual EPA meeting represents an important opportunity to hear what is happening across the landscape of psychology and to use that information to develop their own career [8; 13].

In March 2011 the PFUR scientific team participated in the EPA meeting in Cambridge and made presentations at the panel on "Russian psychology today: Current trends" [10]. The summaries of these presentations were published in the *APA International Psychology Bulletin* [1—3; 5—7]. The PFUR associate professors Irina Novikova, Elena Chebotareva, and Alexey Novikov were registered as APA Division 52 of International Psychology members [4; 9].

On March 1—4, 2012, over 1650 psychologists and students gathered at the Pittsburgh Westin Convention Center for the 83<sup>rd</sup> annual meetings of the Eastern Psychological Association. Since 2003, this marks 10 years that the EPA has included an international track in its program — the first of seven U.S. regionals to do so [11].

In 2012 the EPA International Program included a discussion about a variety of global topics: cross-cultural research, the United Nations, humanitarian outreaches, adaptation of international students, psychology in Russia, and cross-national assessment. In addition, the officers of Psi Chi — the International Honor Society in Psychology — offered a lively session on "Psi Chi goes global", arranged by President-Elect Mercedes McCormick, who also serves as the Eastern Vice President of Psi Chi [8; 11].

Two of the five EPA international symposia were organized by the representatives of the People's Friendship University (Fig. 1).



**Fig. 1.** Russian delegation at EPA 2012 in Pittsburg (Irina Novikova, Anastasia Chebotareva, Olga Kadilnikova, Elena Chebotareva, Ksenia Shkvarilo, and Alexey Novikov)

The first symposium on “Adaptation of international students in Russian Universities” chaired by Irina Novikova was devoted to the discussion of various predictors of effective intercultural adaptation of the international students. Most studies of the adaptation of international students in Russia, which were discussed at the symposia, were conducted in the Peoples’ Friendship University of Russia, so that at the beginning of the session there was screened a short film about the University in the English language.

In the presentation on *Personal traits as a factor of intercultural adaptation of international students in Russian universities* Irina Novikova showed that the tolerance as a personal trait is connected to the intercultural adaptation and there are cultural specifics in it. For example, the most significant predictor of the effective intercultural adaptation for Latin American students is ethnic tolerance, for Arab students it is personal tolerance. Also, Irina Novikova presented a study of the curiosity within the framework of the system-functional approach which was developed by the Department of Social and Differential Psychology of the PFUR under the direction of Professor Alexander Krupnov. This research stated that curiosity, especially its cognitive and reflective components, has a special importance in the intercultural adaptation of Latin American students.

Elena Chebotareva presented the results of a study on *Value orientations of Russian and international students*. The research conducted revealed the correlations of the life-meaningfulness with many factors of intercultural adaptation. The students from Central Asia and Africa have the most harmonious value orientations combination, the students from China and the Middle East — the most controversial one.

Alexey Novikov made a presentation on *Psychological and linguistic problems of international students’ studying the Russian language*. He described the specific cultural styles of foreign language acquisition that should be considered for the foreign students’ successful adaptation.

In addition, Henry Solomon of Marymount Manhattan College presented his work on *Use of Skype for teaching cross-nationally*.

The second symposium on “Applied psychology research in Russia” chaired by Elena Chebotareva was mainly represented by the young scientists and students presenting their studies.

Olga Kadilnikova made a presentation on *Hardiness relation to intercultural adaptation of international students*. This research discovered that the hardiness is linked directly to the conformity and inversely to the feeling of alienation in Haitian students; risk taking is inversely related to the African students’ satisfaction with their adaptation.

The research of Elena Chebotareva and Natalia Kozlova on *Value orientations of Russian young married couples* proved that the life-meaningfulness is associated with the students’ adaptation to their family life.

In the presentation on *Are non-academic forms of intelligence related with cross-cultural adaptation?* Ksenia Shkvarilo discovered that the emotional and social intelligence play important roles in students’ cross-cultural adaptation.

In her report on *Cultural interaction in contemporary Russian art* Anastasia Chebotareva showed the process of intercultural communication reflected in contemporary Russian art.

The research results presented at both international symposia aroused a great interest among the conference participants, which spoke highly of the importance, novelty and practical value of the researches.

On March 7, 2012, the Russian team participated in a forum on “Psychology in Russia: New trends” chaired by Professor David Malcolm at Fordham University in Manhattan, which was attended by 25 students and faculty from several US schools. This forum was hosted by Fordham University, in cooperation with the American Psychological Association's Divisions of International Psychology and Social Issues.

After the end of the visit to the United States all the members of the Russian delegation (associate professors Irina Novikova, Elena Chebotareva, Alexey Novikov and students Olga Kadilnikova, Ksenia Shkvarilo, Anastasia Chebotareva) received the Certificates of Recognition from the APA Divisions of International Psychology and Social Issues for efforts in Greater New York to further the mission to apply psychology to address social issues world-wide.

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## **83-Я ЕЖЕГОДНАЯ КОНФЕРЕНЦИЯ ВОСТОЧНОЙ ПСИХОЛОГИЧЕСКОЙ АССОЦИАЦИИ**

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**Ключевые слова:** Американская психологическая ассоциация (АРА), Восточная психологическая ассоциация (ЕРА), международное научное сотрудничество, иностранные студенты, межкультурная адаптация.