

Special Issue: “Cognitive Science in Moscow” 2017 Conference

This winter issue of the Russian Journal of Cognitive Science is dedicated to the fourth “Cognitive Science in Moscow: New Research” conference that took place on June 15, 2017. “Cognitive Science in Moscow” is a one-day event which has been held biennially since 2011. According to the event concept proposed by the organizers, the only form of research presentation at the conference are posters, which promote better understanding and active discussions.

In 2017, the conference was organized by the Moscow Cognitive Science Seminar and supported by the International Institute of Psychosomatic Health, the Institute of Practical Psychology and Psychoanalysis and by the Research Institute of Neuropsychology of Speech and Writing. The conference brought together more than three hundred participants who attended over 100 poster presentations and workshops in Russian and English. The program committee made a selection of conference papers after a careful review. Unlike the previous years, presentations of new methods and tools such as software, linguistic corpora, atlases and standardized stimuli databases were called for and selected for the program, along with traditional papers describing the results of empirical research. These presentations attracted considerable attention and comprised a special section of the conference proceedings book. Notably, the audience choice award was won by a paper from the Methods and Tools section (“Alexander Luria Digital Archive — Work in Progress” by Tatiana V. Akhutina and colleagues).

As in the previous years, the conference attracted presenters and attendees from places other than Moscow. A substantial number of researchers visited from Saint Petersburg and Yaroslavl. There were also participants from Voronezh, Nizhny Novgorod, Barnaul and Haifa (Israel).

As in the [year 2015](#), the authors of the works that received the highest ratings from the conference program committee were invited to submit their papers for this special issue. The findings that were presented at the conference primarily in Russian are now being published in English as a series of research notes. The special issue incorporates six papers presenting research in psycholinguistics, neurolinguistics, psychophysics, cognitive development and animal cognition.

“Attention, Working Memory and Listening in Simultaneous Interpretation” by Roman Koshkin and colleagues describes the results of an interdisciplinary neurolinguistic study in the complex domain of cognitive and neurophysiological processes underlying simultaneous interpretation between two natural languages. “Comprehension of Locative and Instrumental Constructions by Russian-American Heritage Speakers: Testing Predictions of the Isomorphic Mapping Hypothesis” by Anna Chrabaszcz and Olga Dragoy targets another problem related to cross-

cultural communication. This article presents a psycholinguistic study on the strategies of speech comprehension in bilinguals compared to monolinguals.

In “The Relations Between Theory of Mind and Behavioral Control Among Primary School Age Children”, Galina A. Vilenskaya and Evgeniya I. Lebedeva demonstrate that by primary school age the interrelation between theory of mind and behavioral control either attenuates or completely disappears. This work convincingly illustrates that the so-called “null results” data which do not provide evidence for rejecting the statistical null hypothesis may be no less interesting and informative than the so-called “positive results” data, and should be more seriously considered in the world of academic publications.

This also holds true for the so-called “negative results” of studies which fail to collect evidence supporting initial research hypotheses. Maxim I. Morozov’s work “How the Strength of the Link Between an Object and Its Category Label Influences Visual Search Performance” is a case in point. It started with a research hypothesis that was rejected in the end. However, we can see from this paper that even in such a well-elaborated research field as visual search there is a place for new and unexpected experimental effects requiring detailed further research. Similarly, in their paper “The Role of Academic Self-Concept and Emotional Self-Efficacy in Feedback Effects on Anagram Solving”, Elena A. Shepeleva and colleagues made an original contribution to the classic research topic of the role of positive and negative feedback in learning and education.

Last but not the least, Nina A. Bondarenko’s work “Anxiety and the Problem of ‘Inattentive’ Animals in Water Maze Tests” is devoted to an attempt to reveal the possible mechanisms of ignoring an underwater platform in rats performing a water maze test. This behavior is similar to inattention observed in humans experiencing anxiety, and is considerably more pronounced in “anxious” rats.

Interested readers can find even more notable studies in the field of cognitive science conducted by Russian authors in the volume of [conference proceedings](#) that incorporated 111 papers and was published in June 2017¹.

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¹ Pechenkova E. V. & Falikman M. V. (Eds.) [Cognitive Science in Moscow: New Research] (In Russian). Moscow: BukiVedi, IPPiP, 2017.