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**OPENING REMARKS TO THE READERS OF THE SPECIAL ISSUE
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Dear Readers!

It is a great pleasure to introduce a new issue of our scientific journal to you. This issue is intended to expand the role of psychology in the modern life of everyone who undertakes to read it. The goal of this issue is to acquaint readers with research that reflects current issues of Social Psychology, Personality Psychology, and modern Philosophy of Mind.

The authors of the articles are students of the Professional Master Programme “Psychology”, lecturers and researchers of the Study Field “Psychology” of the Baltic International Academy, as well as Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics, University of Oxford (UK) and Department of Civil Law Disciplines, V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University (Ukraine).

This issue contains both empirical studies and studies that are theoretical in nature and represent the problems at the nexus of Psychology, Philosophy and Law Science.

The article by Associate Professor, Doctor of Psychology Ishgaley Ishmuhametov is devoted to empirical research of loneliness in old age: a study of elderly people in Latvia. The research involved

older people living in various social settings: alone, with relatives or in nursing homes. The research results presented by the author showed that people who feel the need for close relationships are most prone to loneliness. This highlights the importance of developing social bondings and support for older people, especially those living in social service institutions. The results show the possibility that both men and women are equally affected by loneliness, and that people with higher levels of education may experience less loneliness. This information can be useful in developing programs and support mechanisms for older people who are struggling with loneliness.

The following three articles were written by students during their bachelor studies in the Psychology Programme.

The article by master's student Marija Stepanjko, is devoted to empirical research of emotional intelligence and psychological well-being. Emotional intelligence allows people to have a more positive outlook on the world, higher self-esteem and greater resilience, which is essential for psychological well-being. The research results support the idea that emotional intelligence and psychological well-being are interrelated. High emotional intelligence and high psychological well-being go hand in hand. As well as low emotional intelligence and low psychological well-being correspond to each other. The author draws attention to the fact that emotional intelligence is a flexible construct that can be developed in order to strengthen one's ability to understand and regulate emotions, both one's own and those of others, which will help in communication and increase the level of psychological well-being.

The article by master's student Aleksandra Teterina is devoted to empirical research of the relationship between self-esteem and achievement motivation among students. Self-esteem is considered from two points of view: as a stable personal trait (global self-esteem) or as a state self-esteem. The state self-esteem can also be domain-specific, e.g. social self-esteem, performance self-esteem and appearance self-esteem. Achievement motivation is seen as the desire "to work well and be successful, as well as the desire to overcome difficulties and cope with obstacles that arise along the way". Positive relationships with the large effect sizes between achievement motivation and state self-esteem, performance-oriented self-esteem, social self-esteem, and global self-esteem were revealed. A moderate positive relationship between achievement motivation and appearance-oriented self-esteem was found. The high achievement motivation and high self-esteem correspond with each other. The low achievement motivation and low self-esteem correspond with each other. The author of the article hopes that information about the relationships found will enable educators and psychologists to develop targeted methods and strategies to support students' self-esteem and motivation.

The article by master's student Jevgeni Nietosniitty is devoted to research of the relationship of the academic achievement motivation with self-esteem and anxiety of students. Being successful at college or university studies has a big impact on students' life. For this reason, it is important to understand the factors, which relate to study motivation. Previous research suggests, that two such factors may be self-esteem and anxiety. However, there is lacking amount of research on the topic. Especially the effect of specific aspects of self-esteem and anxiety on various aspects of academic achievement motivation remains scarcely studied. In this study the relationship between various aspects of self-esteem, anxiety and academic achievement motivation is assessed and results are analysed. The relationship between self-esteem and achievement motivation as well as between anxiety and achievement motivation and their various aspects was found.

The article by Doctor of Philosophy Vsevolods Kachans is dedicated to the method of scientific modelling and the limits of its application in the research of the mind. Firstly, to the problem of the epistemic essence and typology of models in science; secondly, to the problems of determining the scope and boundaries of the application of the modelling method in studies of the human psyche. The main part of the article is devoted to the consideration of various concepts of modelling the functions of consciousness. In this context, the article analyses behaviourism, the models of which do not meet

the requirements of the completeness principle. In addition, a special place in the article is given to the idea of computer modelling of consciousness and its justification within the framework of the functionalist approach as the most recognised in modern psychology. The spread of functionalism is associated with the successful use of the concept of machine modelling of rational functions proposed by A. Turing and his followers. At the same time, the author of the article dwells on a critical analysis of functionalism from the standpoint of J. Searle's emergent naturalism and D. Chalmers' epiphenomenalism. In this context, it is shown that the creation of effective computer programs is not a sufficient basis for the universalisation of the functionalist approach in the study of the psyche and consciousness. Thus, the application of this approach in the study of the psyche must be accompanied by an understanding and consideration of its scope and boundaries.

The article by Ph.D. in Law, Associate Professor, Viktor Savchenko, Research Fellow, Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics, University of Oxford (UK) and Associate Professor at the Department of Civil Law Disciplines at V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University, is devoted to three psychological constants of free will: 1) the existence of a choice of actions, 2) independent decision-making, and 3) the variability of existing options. The issue of free will is the subject of scientific research in psychology, philosophy and jurisprudence. The psychological understanding of free will has its specificity and is based on three constants. The author defines that the cancellation of one of the given constants will lead to the levelling of freedom of will. The article examines how limiting the options for choosing actions occurs by creating a dilemma, a false dilemma, or when we apply "Hobson's choice" or the catch-22 technique. The author emphasises that there are other ways of influencing free will, but they are united by a single goal – to create circumstances when the choice of actions will be limited. A person always has the freedom to choose actions. Exceptions are only cases of unconsciousness and not being aware of one's actions. The author substantiates the thesis that the basis of social relations is the concept of the existence of free will. The ability to oppose one's free will to external influence is associated with willpower and self-control.

Based on the Baltic International Academy, all studies of explicit and implicit assessments of hardiness and its components were carried out for research participants whose professions are associated with risk: for professions associated with unconditional execution of orders, for security guards, for long-distance truck drivers, and for professional soccer players. The research was carried out under the guidance of Doctor of Psychology, Professor of Psychology Irina Plotka. The research involved: Nina Blumenau, Doctor of Engineering Sciences, Associate Professor of Psychology and Dmitry Igonin - Doctor of Psychology, Head of the Scientific Agency Latenta LTD, Member of the Board of the Latvian Association of Professional Psychologists (EFPA Member). Undergraduates also contributed to the study of implicit attitudes to hardiness using the IAT and explicit attitudes towards hardiness: Tatjana Gajevskaja (hospital guards), Evgeny Kunavin (soccer players), Daiga Kruzite (long-distance truck drivers) and Jelena Šaplavska who defended her doctoral dissertation (on professions related to risk) in 2014. In this issue of the journal, we present the work of Prof. Irina Plotka and Associate Professor Nina Blumenau linking all four studies.

We hope that the research presented in this issue will be of interest to readers.

We expect for a friendly and business-like perception of the journal by readers who can potentially be not only its readers, but also the authors of its publications.

We would like to thank all the authors who contributed to this issue!