



"I'm afraid I can't put it more clearly", Alice replied very politely,
"for I can't understand it myself to begin with;
and being so many different sizes in a day is very confusing."

– **Alice's Adventures in Wonderland,**
Lewis Carroll

Dear colleagues,

The current issue of The HSE Look will open the series of articles introducing new faculty structure. We are starting with the Faculty of Social Sciences, which has become a new home for the School of Sociology, the School of Psychology, the School of Politics and the School of Public Administration. Four pages of our bulletin aren't enough to tell you about all of the new and interesting endeavors taking place at a new Faculty, so we decided to focus on basic facts and new developments that were recently introduced.

This year the biggest ever number of internationally hired colleagues joined the HSE, so they naturally became a part of the big faculties. And as professors are what shape the faculty, notwithstanding its size, the experiences of our new colleagues are the integral part of their department's new face. That is why we will use the opportunity to introduce both, new faculties and new professors.

Director of Internationalization
Yulia Grinkevich

Social Sciences under One Roof

In the recent issue of The HSE Look, among other news and changes to University life, we mentioned structural reform at the HSE. The Faculty of Social Sciences was the first result of this change. In this edition of our bulletin we will take a closer look at the new formation, its departments, people and projects. Four pages of our bulletin aren't enough to tell you about all of the interesting things happening in a number of new faculty's departments, so we decided to focus on basic facts and new developments that were recently introduced here.

New structure

Four former HSE faculties—sociology, psychology, politics and public administration—are now united under one roof. It is now probably the most multidisciplinary subdivision of the University. A unit of research laboratories, centers and institutes has also become part of this big project. This synthesis of education and research in the sphere of social sciences is not yet a standard practice in Russia. Our university is again at the frontier of change here and is another step towards reaching the global best practices in a modern research university administration. Another important change is the "separation" of educational tracks from departments to ensure a balance of demand in good courses and teaching staff (educational programs) and a supply of them (departments).

The home page of the faculty proclaims, "We train researchers, analysts and practitioners of sociology, political science, psychology and management, as well as specialists in education, demographics, public policy and civil society." Let us get a deeper insight into what multiple departments of the faculty actually specialize in.

Departments in the spotlight

Four former faculties that now form the base of the new faculty are now called schools. **The School of Sociology**, headed by Alexander Chepurenko, is one of the oldest departments at the HSE. It was founded in 1999 and since that time has become the leading faculty of sociology in Russia with close ties to well-established departments in Europe and the U.S. The department has launched a PhD program and several masters programs, including an *MA in Comparative Social Research* taught in English. Academic supervisors of this promising new launch are Christopher Swader, Assistant Professor in Sociology at the HSE campus in Moscow and Ronald Inglehart, professor of the Michigan University who has worked in tight collaboration with the HSE campus in St. Petersburg since 2010.

Additionally, the School of Sociology were pioneers in hiring professors from the international market. Christopher Swader (mentioned above) was one of the first sociologists who joined the faculty under the international recruitment program.

Currently along with Swader there are eight assistant professors with PhDs from overseas universities working here: Alexey Bessudnov, Ruben Flores, Benjamin Lind, Lilli Di Puppo, Sarah Busse Spencer, Kyungmin Baek, and Demetriou Charalambos.

Chepurenko recently discussed projects aimed at promoting international cooperation and fostering exchange. "In 2012 the so-called academic honor group was launched at the BA level where a group of students from the very beginning take courses only in English and receive some additional skills to prepare for an academic study track at the HSE or abroad," he said. "Another project is in the pipeline: an application to get funding for an ambitious long-term joint PhD college with the Free University Berlin is being prepared. Some other projects to support academic research and encourage integration in the international academic community are at the initial stages."

The School of Psychology was founded in 2002. Over the last two years, along with the general transformation processes taking place at the university, this department has significantly shifted its priorities. Change came with the appointment of new Dean Vasily Klucharev. The plans are breathtakingly ambitious. "You can count on the fingers of one hand those universities anywhere in the world that have developed their neuroeconomics research and teaching into full-fledged, sustained academic programs. If our plans succeed, HSE will be a unique university in Europe and beyond", said Klucharev.

The strategy of the young and enthusiastic team is to be active in cutting edge interdisciplinary research at the intersection of psychology, economics, management and other disciplines. Additionally, they want to equip their labs with state of the art technology including a transcranial magnetic stimulator, a piece of research equipment that just a few places can boast of owning. Hiring international faculty and inviting more guest researchers and teachers from abroad is a big part of this strategy. "We hope to facilitate our faculty's integration into the global academic space. My colleagues and I see great potential for our faculty in this respect," explained Klucharev. In 2013 the school welcomed their first research professor, Joseph MacInnes. In September 2014 the international team of psychologists grew by three, adding tenure-track academics Marie Arsalidou, Tadama Sawada and Matteo Feurra. Read interviews with Arsalidou and Sawada later in this issue.

The school also plans to increase the number of courses taught in English. Two new English masters' programs have already been launched. One of them, *Cognitive sciences and technologies: from neuron to cognition*, promises students international experience through cooperation with its partners École normale supérieure (Paris) and Aarhus University (Denmark). The founders of the new track assure that the program will enable students to become part of the technological revolution in the cognitive sciences.

The School of Politics, founded in 1998, is the oldest subdivision in this cluster. It is headed by Andrey Melvil, who at the same time manages the Faculty of Social Sciences. Melvil has an academic background of nearly 40 years and was awarded the title of the

Honored Scientist of Russia. The school's major areas of research and study include comparative politics, Russian and Eurasian studies, regional politics and more. The key principles of research and education offered here are the parallel study of political science and political practices, the combination of social science and mathematical disciplines, and the in-depth study of foreign languages. The school has several labs and includes students in ongoing research processes on par with their supervisors and teachers.

The trademark of the academic community working at the school is expertise in state building and nation formation, the post-Soviet space, regime change, comparative authoritarianism and democratization. This reputation attracted international academics interested in research fields mentioned earlier. The first international professor, Ekim Arbatli, joined the school in 2012. She was followed by the young researchers Michael Rochlitz and Dina Balalayeva, who started working here as assistant professors in 2014.

The School of Public Administration, founded in 2003, is the youngest element of "the universe of social sciences," and is headed by Fyodor Prokopov. It specializes in the theory and practice of public administration, civil service, urban economics and municipal management, health care management, science and innovations management, organization theory, NGO management and other areas of study. This department is a new player in the arena of international faculty recruitment. In 2014 the school welcomed Jesse Campbell and Tim Jäkel, their first tenure-track colleagues from abroad.

The Faculty of Social Sciences has quite a number of **associated departments** such as the Public Policy Department, the Institute of Demography, the Institute of Education, the Institute of Practical Psychology and the Institute for Social Development Studies.

The **Public Policy Department** (mentioned earlier) is currently beginning its international faculty recruitment as well. Mahama Tawat is a new assistant professor at the department. Find an interview with Tawat later in this issue. Another new beginning at the Public Policy Department is the English taught double degree master's program in *Political Analysis and Public Policy* launched in spring 2014. It took our colleagues five years to get this joint project with the University of Bologna off the ground. Now it has two tracks: political analysis and public policy, and human rights and democratic governance. The content is being constantly developed and updated and lecturers are being invited from leading Russian, European and North American universities.

Several **research labs and centers** are also united under the roof of the Faculty of Social Sciences. They are the Laboratory for Political Studies, the Laboratory for Studies in Economic Sociology, the International Laboratory of Positive Psychology of Motivation and Personality, the Laboratory of Entrepreneurship Research, the Laboratory for Cognitive Research, the Center for Studies of Civil Society and the Nonprofit Sector, and the Center of Longitude Studies.

Welcome Aboard

In this section we will continue our discussion of the new Faculty of Social Sciences and we would like to introduce some new international professors who joined the campus this year. We wish our new colleagues a great beginning at the HSE!

Tadamasa Sawada grew up and studied in Japan. In 2006 he defended his PhD dissertation at the Tokyo Institute of Technology and shortly after that he went to the U.S. where he worked as a postdoctoral research fellow at Purdue University in West Lafayette, The Ohio State University, and the State University of New York. Sawada is a co-author of the book *Making a Machine That Sees Like Us*, which was released by Oxford University Press in 2014. Since September 2014 Sawada has worked as an Assistant Professor at the HSE Faculty of Social Sciences. In his free time in Moscow Sawada enjoys walks around the city, visits museums and admires historical architecture.

- What is your research about?

- I have been studying human visual perception using psychophysical experiments and computational mathematical modeling, 3D perception in particular. The world out there is 3D, its image on a retina is 2D, and our perception is 3D. The human visual system is recovering the third dimension from the retinal image. This is so called an ill-posed problem. This is one of the most amazing aspects of the brain.

- What is the practical application of your work?

- It can be applied for developing robot vision as well as supporting human vision. Human-robot interaction is getting more and more important these days for helping elderly and disabled people and making jobs currently performed by humans easier.

- A book written by you and your colleagues recently emerged from the Oxford University press. What are your impressions from this collaborative work?

- There are good aspects in publishing books, but for me this format is a little outdated. This format has existed for 4,000 years! Another problem is language as the means of transferring knowledge. Any information expressed by words is always limited in terms of the context load. If we read some scientific papers written a century ago they are often hard to understand, because people who wrote them lived in another context. In the case of 3D perception, if we can visualize problems with the help of interactive demos then it becomes much clearer. Writing texts is important but there is always some additional media available. If you can present your idea better by using movies, or interactive demos, you should do it. Recently, when I was submitting a paper to be published, reviewers asked me to make some demos. People really like this kind of visualization because it facilitates their understanding of complex problems.

Marie Arsalidou grew up in Cyprus. She studied in the Clarion University of Pennsylvania in the United States and York University in Canada where she received a PhD in psychology. After defending her PhD thesis Arsalidou worked as a researcher at York University and at a children's research hospital. Since September 2014 she has worked as an Assistant Professor at the HSE Faculty of Social Sciences. Besides work Marie enjoys cooking. Her specialty is a creative blend of Mediterranean and North American cuisine.

- Why did you choose psychology?

- To be honest I didn't know that I would end up doing neuropsychology. I started with an interest in human thought which has progressed with an interest into the human brain and especially its development and now I am doing neuroimaging. Psychology is very broad. On the one hand it can be very theoretical and on the other hand it can be very empirical in terms of how we study things and also how we evaluate it: from simple paper-and-pencil test to very high-end equipment such as functional magnetic resonance imaging when you see activity in the brain while you are doing things. So, there is quite a range. We learn new things every day. What changes are the methods and the techniques? The tools we use now to study the human brain and human thought have changed. Now we have magnetic encephalography that can track eye movements, we can study brain activity using MRIs. There are many new tools that can give us answers to things that we were not able to answer before, which is exciting.

- Some of your work was covered by the media. Is it a good thing?

- Media often sensationalize findings. It might be okay to get the first impression of what scientists do through the media, but if you want to understand what actually is behind it, you should read the real publication in a journal. I do think that it is good to be covered by the media because it gives people the first snapshot of what researchers are doing but from thereon I would be a bit careful with the interpretations done by journalists. So, if you hear that we can now read your thoughts this is not true.

- What are your work plans for your first year at the HSE?

- I plan to start a lab with energetic students that I met this year. I already met the first group of master's students in the English-speaking program and I am really excited to work with them. I've been also contacted by students from other universities. My priority now is to start the lab and obtain research resources to begin testing and collecting data.

Mahama Tawat comes from Cameroon, where he studied political science at a bachelor's program. After that he studied at universities in Stockholm, Malmö, Uppsala, and Dalarna in Sweden. Tawat received his PhD from the University of Otago, New Zealand in 2012. He also worked as a teacher and researcher in Sweden, New Zealand and Poland. In his free time Tawat likes dancing salsa, visiting cultural events and reading. Travelling is on the list as well, doing the Trans-Siberian is a dream Tawat has held since his geography lessons in high-school.

- What are your research interests?

- I have two major research interests. On the one hand, I focus on migration policy. The issues I study relate to border control, the political, socioeconomic and cultural processes that immigrants undergo once they are admitted in a country, and so on. On the other hand, I deal with public management reform, particularly the concepts of good governance and New Public Management, a business-like model of management of public services.

- What do you plan to do during your first year at the HSE?

- During my first year at the HSE, I aim to publish more articles out of my PhD thesis on Danish and Swedish immigrant integration policies in peer-reviewed journals of note. I will also supervise students and start working on an article related to either migration or public management reform in Russia. Concerning migration, I would say that Russia is at the stage where France

and Britain were in the 1970s, or Spain and Italy in the 1980s. Migration is becoming an important issue for the public. Then, Russia's transformation in the 1990s is a textbook case for those who study public management reforms and policy change. The country is again restructuring. These are interesting topics and interesting times to be here.

- Why did you choose the HSE?

- This was on par with the jobs I had applied for and for which I had made the short-list, for example at the University of Copenhagen and the University of Southern Denmark. I was re-assured by the liberal ethos of the HSE. You want to feel safe in expressing your ideas and letting your students think by themselves. Finally, a former PhD supervisor of mine at the University of Otago in New Zealand and a specialist in Russia's foreign policy towards the Balkans, Dr. Jim Headley described the HSE to me as a "strong institution".

EU and Russian Programs to Support Researchers

On October 6 the HSE hosted a seminar "Horizon 2020 and International Researchers' Mobility: EU Supporting Tools". Although the title of the seminar demonstrated that a special emphasis is to be put on European tools to back up research and mobility, other programs such as Russian Federal Targeted Program to support R&D were also brought to light. Among the speakers were experts in EU-Russia science and technology cooperation: representatives of the EU delegation to Russia, guests from Bulgaria's Institute for Research and Development and other colleagues.

"Horizon 2020 for a bright future" – this is the motto of the EU's largest framework program, which was launched in January 2014. This is a seven-year research support program that is aimed at bringing innovative ideas to life. Innovation is a key word here. Innovations are sought after and supported in different ways depending on where the applicant's institution is located. Horizon 2020 chose a challenge-based approach in defining its thematic pillars. So, there are three big areas all proposals should fall into – excellent science, industrial leadership and the betterment of society.

At the seminar an overview of financing tools available to applicants was given - European Council research grants, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions and financial tools for small and medium-sized enterprises. The website of the Horizon 2020 program is interactive and easy to navigate and helps users to quickly find answers on questions concerning project proposals. There are step-by-step instructions and clear texts explaining policies. According to the seminar speakers, it became much easier to apply for the program thanks to the somewhat simplified procedure and online application.

How can Russia-based scholars and institutions participate in this EU framework program? This is a question many researchers in Russia think about. Conditions for Russia have changed. While during the previous program Russia was listed as an automatically eligible non-EU country for funding, this time it is not the case. So funding can be granted only if there is a "bilateral scientific or technological agreement or similar arrangement between the EU and the country where the applicant is based." Another way to garner EU support might be to explain how the project is "deemed essential for carrying out the action by the Commission or the relevant funding body because it provides outstanding competence or expertise, access to research infrastructure, access to particular geographical environments, and access to data."

Bilateral scientific or technological agreements can also be arranged by finding financial support at home. To that end Russia's new Federal Targeted Program, "Research and Development in Priority Areas of Russia's Scientific and Technological Complex 2014-2020," might be of great interest. The website of the program is in Russian <http://www.fcpir.ru/>, although it is discussed in English here: http://ifaculty.hse.ru/the_hse_look.

The seminar was organized by the HSE and EURAXESS portal, a pan-European online platform providing access to useful information and support services to researchers wishing to pursue their research careers in Europe. For access to the EURAXESS portal and detailed information on Horizon 2020 please visit: <http://ec.europa.eu>.

Follow the news on the website of the HSE International Center for the Promotion of Mobility of Researchers, Students and Postgraduates at: <http://fp.hse.ru/en/mobility/>.