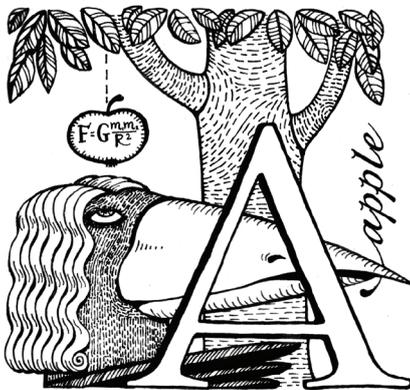


"Measure what is measurable,
and make measurable what is not so."

— Galileo Galilei



As a research university, Higher School of Economics produces a lot of high-quality knowledge and ideas, and measuring the impact of these research results has always been a very important issue. But new ambitious goals of becoming the integral part of the world academia requires new and more effective approaches to the data analysis, so in order to understand its place and contribution on the global scale better HSE created a Scientometrics Centre. The Centre was established about a year ago and has already proved to be productive not just in estimating research productivity, but also in providing the reliable data for decision making in research management and strategic planning. Scientometrics though will not be the only focus of this issue; we also continue the tradition of presenting the variety of research interests and achievements of HSE faculty members, offering three interviews with postdoc fellows working at HSE this year. In addition, two visiting scholars share with the readers their experience of working with HSE students and colleagues in Moscow and Nizhniy Novgorod. And, of course, we present short impressions of guests and speakers from the XVII April Conference which is a major research event for Higher School of Economics.

We hope that this issue of The HSE Look will help you to discover new opportunities for cross discipline networking and research collaboration.

Yulia Grinkevich
Director of Internationalization

Scientometrics at HSE

HSE is an ambitious research university, which means that apart from producing high-quality work, it also needs to measure its success. Scientometrics, broadly speaking, is a branch of knowledge concerned with measuring various characteristics of research, especially communication in research. Bibliometrics, as a sub-branch of scientometrics, has become highly accessible to the research and general public, and seemingly brought on a simple way to evaluate research productivity. However, this simplicity is deceptive, and led to the so-called "Metric Tide": an overwhelming wave of poorly thought through indicators and target goals which are used to make decisions in research management. In order to use bibliometrics reasonably and purposefully HSE created a **Scientometrics Centre** (<https://scientometrics.hse.ru/>), which is headed by **Ivan Sterligov** and focuses on the applied use of scientometrics

Best practices

Scientometrics Centre uses the best practices and approaches developed by leading centers around the world, such as Centre for Science and Technology Studies (CWTS) at Leiden University (the Netherlands). It's famous for producing Leiden Ranking,

which gives information about 750 major world universities. It's also widely known for developing SNIP (Source-Normalized Impact per Paper) metric which provides a more nuanced measure of publications' impact, especially through providing corrections for differences in various scientific fields.

HSE actively uses this indicator for analyzing publications of its researchers and faculty members in Scopus journals. It is especially useful to compare publications in different fields of HSE's research, as well as to assess the level of "fresh" publications which have not accumulated a lot of citations yet. The Faculty of Mathematics has been leading by this indicator for several years, with the Faculty of Economics taking the leading position only recently.

HSE also uses the tools developed by colleagues in Canada (Science-Metrix), France (Observatoire des sciences et des techniques - OST) and Germany (AG Bibliometrie). There are barely more than a dozen similar centers around the world, and no direct counterparts in Russia, but instead there is a small but dedicated professional community with an interest in scientometrics. Scientometrics Centre was established in late 2015 and is headed by Ivan Sterligov; its team has been working on these issues at HSE for a longer time, as a part of the Office of Research Evaluation.

Scientometrics Centre: applied instruments for research evaluation

The center works predominantly on analyzing citations of HSE publications indexed by Web of Science and Scopus, but it also analyzes other resources related to production of knowledge and research (research networks, personal pages and CVs of scientists, grant applications etc.) and does qualitative research together with Russian and international colleagues. It is not scientometrics in the strict sense, but it is part of the current understanding of how indicators and peer review make for good research evaluation tool when combined.

Last year HSE's scientometrics team finished a large-scale two-year project on ranking Russian research journals: around 700 experts were involved in assessment of journals

in 14 thematic areas which HSE focuses its research on. The resulting lists of high-quality journals will be used by various HSE commissions for review, hiring or research. The centre also updates the "blacklist" of journals which do not adhere to the desired academic standards, so that HSE researchers can make informed decisions when choosing a publication venue.

The Centre also does analytical work for clients outside HSE, including other Russian universities, office of the Russian Academic Excellence Project 5-100, and international clients. It also works on rankings performance predictions jointly with colleagues from Ranking Information Centre. Due to lack of information about the methodology of rankings calculations, it is difficult to predict how the year's results will be interpreted, and Scientometrics Centre helps to build predictions on analysis of past evaluations.

Resources for HSE researchers

In addition to the list of recommended journals and their "blacklist" the Centre also consults researchers about how best to choose publication venues and how scientometrics and its tools can help with that. Another useful instrument developed by the Centre is a database of research grants and competitions for which Russian universities are eligible, and its' possible to subscribe to the newsletter about opportunities in the fields which interest you by writing to Alfiya Enikeeva (aenikeeva@hse.ru). Scientometrics Centre also consults on how best to use SciVal database which offers an overview and analysis of research results in 220 countries and 4600 research institution. It can be used for refining the focus of research projects and finding collaborators.

The material is based on Measuring Science 1(1), 2016, a supplement to the university bulletin Okna Rosta

Post-Docs Research at HSE

In the December issue we introduced all of the post-docs recruited for 2015/16, and some of them shared their research interests and plans in detail. In this spring issue we continue the tradition of the interviews in which research fellows talk about their projects.

Kanonire Tatjana, Institute of Education

PhD of University of Latvia in Psychology

Research

It's my second year at HSE. My first year here was at the International Scientific-Educational Laboratory for Socio-Cultural Research (<http://scr.hse.ru/en/>), and since October 2015 I am working at the Centre for Education Quality Monitoring of the Institute of Education (<http://ioe.hse.ru/en/>).

Two major research topics of the Laboratory were acculturation and values. I worked on both, and I keep doing research on acculturation – it's particularly interesting for me because the data was collected in Latvia, where I am from. I stay in contact with the laboratory, but switched my major research focus to the Quality of Education and am very excited about my transfer to the Institute of Education. I particularly like that all projects have a wide scale and are very complex.

One of the current projects is aimed at monitoring the quality of higher education in cross-country comparison (multiple universities in USA, China and Russia): we examine the results of students in STEM. We put a lot of attention on research design and methodology and analyzing the data not only from Russia but also from China

Another research project is focused on primary school. We adapted and standardized the International Performance Indicators in Primary Schools (iPIPS) –the test to evaluate skills of children at the start of the school and their progress during the first year in reading, language, and math. This test also helps to predict their results at the end of the year and to evaluate the progress. Two large regions of Russia are participating in this project in 2015 – that’s over 12,000 first graders. The benefits are two-fold: teachers and parents get feedback about their students, and researchers collect a vast database for further study. The region as a whole can assess and review its educational policy.

The project I am working on is about renewing the work on the original Russian test of students’ achievements; the theoretical framework of the toolkit relies upon the concept of teaching/learning process based on Lev Vygotsky’s ideas. A couple of years ago the test were developed for the 4th grade, in mathematics and Russian language. We hope to expand the test, and to cover more grades and subjects. I’m participating in development of theoretical frame of the research on predictors of achievement in primary school; and based on it prepare the questionnaires which give us insight into the context which influences the performance at schools.

Such studies are interesting for the educational institutions, of course, but also for the researchers: they provide a chance to develop the instruments of measuring education quality and fine-tune them, as well as rich data for analysis of the assessment results.

Teaching

I am also involved into the Master’s Programme “Educational and Psychological Measurement”: our students are very motivated, they participate a lot in the research carried out within the Institute of Education – one of the groups recently returned from a “field trip” during which they were collecting data and supervised the procedure. I think that this programme has a lot of potential for attracting students: it offers very up-to-date methodology, courses of a very good quality, and interaction with the leading specialists who are often invited for lectures and research events. There are no similar educational products in Russian regions which can rival it. It can be very interesting for students from abroad as well.

Buzmakov Aleksey, Laboratory of Interdisciplinary Empirical Studies, HSE Perm

PhD of Université de Lorraine (France) in Computer Science

Research

I am working in data mining and machine learning; Most of it is about developing new algorithms for extracting knowledge from datasets. Currently my work at the Laboratory is in the Group for Applied Markets and Enterprises Studies (AMES) and concerns retail: we have a dataset of sold products in a given supermarket, their prices and the clients’ sets of purchased products.

Laboratory focuses primarily on research in economics, while I am more a Computer Science researcher, but in this case I apply data mining to research tasks in economics. Aside from specific research tasks, we hope to mutually enrich the methods and models which we use.

For example, the supermarket announces discounts and special deals. It wants to know which goods would attract the most people to buy some other goods as well; how to attract more people while holding fewer special deals, etc. It’s a task which is often approached from the side of economics, but in my case I work with it through machine learning methods. To put it simply, we have a receipt, and we can see if the special deal items were purchased. After that we can set the task of finding the goods which correlate (individually or as a set) with the special deals and sales. For my own research I hope that I’ll also develop a better algorithm - my own research has been focused on building new algorithms for data mining.

Collaboration between campuses

I work a lot with HSE in Moscow as well, in particular with my research supervisor (I did both a PhD in France and wrote a dissertation at HSE), Prof. Sergei O. Kuznetsov. In Perm I collaborate a lot with the economists at the Laboratory, in particular with Dmitriy Potapov, who is the head of the laboratory and Deputy Director of campus for research.

Aaron T. Hale-Dorrell, The International Center for the History and Sociology of World War II and Its Consequences

PhD in Russian and East European History, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (USA)

Research interests

Food production in USSR for me is a jumping point for broader research in rural society and agriculture. These

things do not get a lot of attention from historians, both in Russian and English-language scholarship. I feel like I'm filling the need here and trying to call attention to the fact that these are important issues. Our image of what life was like in Soviet Union is bare shelves and similar things – well, it is only one part of the story. As late as 1960, almost half a population lived outside the cities, there was a lot going on in the countryside. My research is about food, but as a way to understand the bigger questions.

New ideas

There is a new project that is still very much on the drawing board. I want to look at the market where people sold their extra produce to people in the city or to each other. It'll be interesting to study from a long-term perspective, starting with the war years where it was an important part of how

people scraped by – and later when the markets persisted even though the ideology wanted them to go away. What can we learn from the way these things were changing? I want to think of them from the perspective of economic history and social history.

The Center

The War itself looms so large but for many it is a launching point for the research. Basically, we focus on everything but the traditional military history. That's one of the really important things about the way this Center is conceived: it's not just military history, there are people doing cultural history, social history, history of avant-garde artists before the war, the Komsomol movement, etc. I think that it's important to take the things we know about WWII and the surrounding years and looking at them in a new way, using different sources.

Visiting Scholars



The HSE Look is happy to promote upcoming **short-term visits to HSE by international scholars**, which were supported by institutional or faculty funding based on the hosting departments' applications. The following visits are scheduled for May and June. For details, please, contact the hosting department or visiting scholar@hse.ru

Sebastian Van Strien, Professor, Mathematics Department, Imperial College London

Hosting department: Faculty of Informatics, Mathematics, and Computer Science (HSE Nizhny Novgorod)

Dates: May 7 – 14, 2016

Hans-Werner Sinn, President, IFO Institute, and Gerlinda Sinn, Lecturer, LMU-München, Department of Economics
Hosting Department at HSE: International College of Economics and Finance

Dates: May 10 – 15, 2016

Uskali Mäki,

Professor of practical philosophy,
University of Helsinki

Hosting Department at HSE: Department of Political Science, Faculty of Social Sciences

Dates: May 15 – 22, 2016

Peter Anstey,

Professor of Philosophy at University of Sydney (Australia)
Hosting department at HSE: School of Philosophy, Faculty of Humanities

Dates: May 17 – 21, 2016

Stephen C Armstrong,

Appointment Professor of Innovation in 2014, Toronto Institute for Advanced Manufacturing, University of Toronto

Hosting department at HSE: School of Psychology, Faculty of Social Sciences

Dates: May 21 – 27, 2016

Marcello Mariani, Associate Professor of Management and Marketing, University of Bologna

Hosting Department at HSE: School of Business Administration, Faculty of Business and Management

Dates: May 22 – 29, 2016

Gabriel Abend, Associate Professor of Sociology, New York University

Hosting department at HSE: School of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences

Dates: May 30 – June 5, 2016

Rudolf Dekker, Director of the Center for the Study of Egodocuments and History, Huizinga Institut, University of Amsterdam (the Netherlands)

Hosting department at HSE: School of Philosophy, Faculty of Humanities

Dates: June 1 – 4, 2016

Marina Vasilyeva,

Associate Professor, Lynch School of Education, Boston College

Hosting department at HSE: Institute of Education

Dates: June 1 – 15, 2016

Juan Barata Mir,

PhD in Public Law, Principal adviser to the Representative on Freedom of the Media, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)

Hosting department at HSE: School of Media, Faculty of Communications, Media and Design

Dates: June 3 – 11, 2016

Candace Kruttschnitt,

Professor, University of Toronto, Canada.

Hosting department at HSE: School of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences

Dates: June 9 – 15, 2016

Arkady Shemyakin,

Professor, University of St. Thomas

Hosting Department at HSE: Faculty of Economic sciences, Department of Applied Economics

Dates: June 20 – 24, 2016

Jeroen van de Ven,

Associate Professor, University of Amsterdam

Hosting Department at HSE: Faculty of Economic sciences, International College of Economics and Finance

Dates: June 25 – 30, 2016

Marie Claire Villeval,

Director, GATE (Groupe d'Analyse et de Théorie Economique Lyon St Etienne)

Hosting Department at HSE: Faculty of Economic sciences, International College of Economics and Finance

Dates: June 25 – 30, 2016

Science's Reflection in Literature

Dr. Elmar Schenkel is a Professor at the Institute of English Studies, University of Leipzig and visited HSE in Nizhny Novgorod in early April at the invitation of the Faculty of Humanities.

My major focus is the interrelation between science, myth and literature. I am looking at relations between physics and literature, technology, religion and literature, at how

scientists feature in literature, like Darwin, Tesla and others. This approach is quite new to the students, and they show a great interest in the lectures and ask many good questions.

How did you start collaborating with colleagues at Nizhny Novgorod?

We have a long-standing relationship which started at a conference 20 years ago, and last year I visited HSE with

a German delegation, we were trying to establish closer relationships with Russian universities. I can definitely say that while a year ago there was a certain worry if all the political events and their media coverage affect the interactions, but I see for sure that on the 'human' level there is absolutely no animosity on either side, and we can and want to work together in an unhindered way.

I enjoy visiting HSE at Nizhniy Novgorod both for the collaboration with colleagues and for the rich cultural experience this city offers: exhibitions, Russian paintings, modern photography exhibitions.

How is your work with the students organized?

I am giving a two-week course of lectures on comparative literature, American and British, for HSE students at Nizhniy Novgorod. Apart from that I give individual lectures on eccentrics in science, game theory, German philosophy, children's literature and travel writing... I try to involve students in discussions; the class is not too big, so we have a chance to talk about the differences and similarities

in perception, from Russian and German perspectives. I try to make use of the situation to foster intercultural understanding.

I am very impressed by the level of knowledge and engagement in topics which students demonstrate. They have a very good background in terms of literature and history, and are ready to participate when I put questions to the audience.

Do you also have a joint research project with HSE colleagues?

I have a joint project with a colleague on Eastern-Western travel writing, and she gave lectures at a conference I organized in Leipzig. Several students got interested in the lecture I gave on the eccentrics in science, and they would like to come to Leipzig and do a thesis there under my supervision. I already have a very positive experience of supervising a student from Nizhniy Novgorod who came to my home university through an exchange programme. As for the future, we are planning to keep working on intercultural encounters between East and West as well as on spirituality and literature.

Audiovisual Production: What's Important for Collaborations?

Tatiana Rakhmanova is a Director and Producer at Wilton Films, a renown documentarist who also teaches at College of Cinematography (ESEC) in Paris. She visited HSE in April at the invitation of the School of Media at the Faculty of Communications, Media and Design.

What is your field of interests?

I work at the University of French Television, I teach how a person with a lot of experience in audiovisual production, i.e. a journalist or a cameraman, can start doing documentaries. I am a documentarist, and when I come to Russia I am always sad to see that so few movies are done in joint production. There are no insurmountable obstacles: the level is good, directing approach differs, but not much. The main differences are in how the production process is organized, and it's hard to learn what they are by just studying the final product. You can analyze how BBC made this documentary or another in terms of content, but you cannot see the process – and I am trying to fill this gap in the knowledge.

Did you have joint projects with HSE before 2016?

With colleagues from HSE whom I know from my previous work at Internews we organized a short-term school for Russian producers and directors, so that they can learn how the production process is organized in the West and thus make collaborations and joint production easier.

I love that the Media department here is very lively and energetic, there is always something new going on, people are trying new formats. Students are very engaged in their projects, and they have a very strong background. It's a group of Master's students, and I very much enjoy working with them.

Do you get to know the students' larger projects at the programme?

I am here for two weeks and for quite an intense programme, and I am also giving some home tasks for students. At our first class I asked the students about their ongoing projects and interests, so that in my part of the course they could do something relevant to their professional interests as well.

We are talking less about documentaries per se, and more about production – for example, they asked me to analyze how the budget is planned for a documentary or a joint production. And it is indeed very important to understand how to plan a budget, otherwise after it is approved, you will discover that there is not enough money to actually produce a movie or that the resources are not properly distributed between different production needs. And in the end you as a producer but as a director as well won't be able to make a film you wanted to make.

The students work individually or in small groups, and prepare a proposal and a budget for joint production. It is usually based on the project they are doing over a different and longer course, and we see how it can be adapted into a brief description (1-2 pages) and a joint production pitch.

What else are the students interested in?

One student who is not in my group has also joining the class and came up to ask how to go from reporting as a journalist to doing documentaries. Of course, all of them are interested in how the producers work and what is their role in the West, concerning non-fiction movies. I also try to give the the specific terms and expressions in English, because, as is the usual case with language in different professional spheres, it is hard to learn them from a dictionary.

Another important topic is the basis for collaboration : what is the added value which you bring to the movie and what do you expect in return? And I do not mean the money, the focus is on the content and how the movie will benefit from being produced jointly by teams from different countries. The big questions is : why should your project be interesting for somebody else?

Almost all of my movies are produced in collaboration. It is better in terms of funding and in terms of autonomy of the director and producer; when you have only one source of funding for the project, you have little to no space for negotiations and arguing for your vision.

I am showing small excerpts from the movies as well. Naturally, I tell a lot about my experience in producing movies – not because I think it is universal or exceptional, but because it allows me to illustrate how things are done.

Are you discussing the promotion of documentaries and movies?

We are discussing festivals a lot. If you want to be internationally competitive, you need to participate in the festivals. You need to do a lot of “homework” and find the festival which suit you genre, topic, etc. Of course, you can go to Cannes, but there are too many participants for you to be properly noticed. And when you find a good match, it gives you a better chance at networking with colleagues and at getting noticed.

Impressions from the XVII April Conference



In late April HSE hosted XVII April International Academic Conference on Economic and Social Development. If you were one of the presenters at the conference, the final version of the report (up to 20 000 symbols with spaces) should be sent before May 27, 2016 to the Conference Organizing Committee on aprilconference.hse@gmail.com – please, see the Conference website for more details.

The HSE Look asked several faculty members and guests about their participation in the conference.

Tim Jaekel, Assistant Professor at the School of Public Administration, Faculty of Social Sciences

What are your impressions from the April conference?

The April conference offers a great opportunity to present and discuss my research findings with international peers

not just from HSE, but from around the globe. This is the first main benefit from partaking in the conference. The exchange of knowledge and networking opportunities across disciplines is the second big benefit from attending this event. In a variety of sessions on different topics the April conference brings together researchers from different fields - not just traditional economics, and public administration, but also political and behavioral sciences.

This is a significant advantage compared to other more single-themed conferences.

At the April conference I can just go 'shopping' and learn about new developments in these fields. This kind of peer discussion is essential for innovative research.

Which other sessions are you going to attend?

Apart from Public Administration, I am planning to attend sessions on spatial econometrics, social network analysis and a keynote from Daniel Treisman, a political scientist.

Did you get any feedback based on your presentation?

Yes, I received useful comments and remarks from the audience. In my paper "Peer review in public sector organizations" I analyze why some top-level public administrators invite a peer review to learn about the strengths and weaknesses of their agencies while others do not. A visit by a team of 'critical friends' will help to correct errors and improve long-term performance. But a review may also reveal underperformance, and this will scratch the performance reputation of public managers. For hypothesis tests I examine a unique dataset of peer performance evaluations in English local councils between 2010 and 2015. The estimation approach is survival analysis.

Vicente Carabias,
Lecturer of Technology Foresight and Head
of Sustainable Energy Systems at Institute
of Sustainable Development, ZHAW Zurich
University of Applied Sciences.

What did you like most about the April Conference?

First of all, I must say that the conference is very well-prepared and organized. Secondly, there are many interesting reports about the technological foresight in other countries, particularly in Russia, which is difficult for me and my colleagues to learn otherwise from Switzerland.

Did you also present findings of your own or did you mostly participate in the discussion?

I have given a presentation about a horizon scanning study for the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development on future STI issues of relevance for the post-2015 development agenda. The comments were useful for reflecting on further work. It was a global study, and now we need to break down the results to look closely at the regional and country level.

I've also discussed collaboration plans with colleagues from HSE Foresight Centre, and we had a meeting about a starting cooperation on "Participative Foresight for Smarter Cities" as well as on further plans.

Emre Dogan,
Research Fellow at the International Laboratory
of Decision Choice and Analysis

What did you present at the conference?

It's a research on cost sharing, specifically on minimum cost sharing tree problems. Originally, it was developed by mathematicians, and recently it is addressed by economists as well.

The problem was formulated after WWI, in the Czech Republic, when a company that wanted to distribute electricity in the rural areas contacted mathematician Otakar Boruvka in order to find a cost effective infrastructure network. He mathematically modeled the problem and provided an efficient algorithm that yields such a network.

Economists, on their part, are interested in distributing the cost of the infrastructure network among its beneficiaries addressing some fairness concerns. That's what we do. There are already many plausible nice solutions in the literature, and today I presented a new and a more egalitarian one.

What other sessions interested you?

I attended some of the theory sessions, and the session of my advisor. I was also interested in the sessions about Russia today, the political situation here, economics and future perspectives.

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