



# **St. Petersburg State University**

Department of Psychology  
Division of General Psychology



# St. Petersburg State University

- Is the oldest and one of the largest universities in Russia;
- Established in 1724 by Peter the Great;
- Comprises 24 departments;
- Has 8 Nobel laureates and 2 presidents of Russia among its alumni.





# St.Petersburg State University





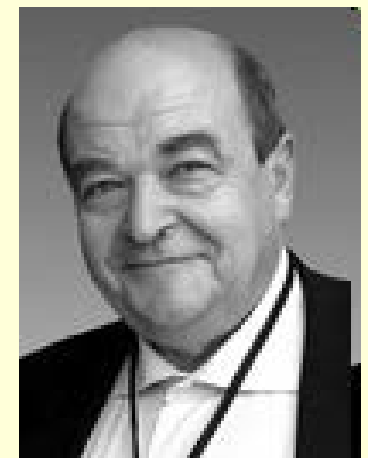
# Department of Psychology

- Was founded in 1966;
- Succeeds the traditions of Leningrad - St.Petersburg psychological school and follows the ideas of Ivan Pavlov, Vladimir Bekhterev, Vladimir Myasishev, Boris Ananyev, Lev Vekker;
- Is the second largest Department of Psychology in Russia (after Moscow State University);
- Has a vibrant collaborative research environment.



# Division of General Psychology

- Was founded in 1944 as a part of Department of Philosophy;
- Heads of the Division used to be the deans of the Department of Psychology
- Is the biggest division of our Department
- Has more than 30 full-time academic staff, 13 of them are Candidate of Psychological Sciences (PhDs), 5 are Doctors of Psychology





# The founder and dean in 1967-1972: Boris Ananyev

The leader of Leningrad- St.Petersburg scientific school of psychology:

- A complex (integrated) model of the human science
- 4 levels of human organization – as a biological individuum; as an actor modifying environment; as a social person; as an individuality selfhood
- Integrated approach to psychological studies of a human being
- Sensory system investigations
- Longitudinal studies





# Fields of research at the Division

- Cognitive psychology of consciousness
- Information and energetic issues in cognitive activity
- Embodied cognition
- Psychology of personality (cultural model of behavior, psychology of identity)
- Existential Psychology and phenomenological approach
- Psychology of sports
- Psychology of scientific thinking



# Cognitive Psychology of Consciousness Research Group headed by Prof. Victor M. Allakhverdov

- V. Allakhverdov, Professor
- V. Karpinskya, PhD
- V. Gershkovich, PhD
- N. Moroshkina, PhD
- M. Kuvaldina, PhD
- T. Mamina, PhD
- A. Chetverikov, PhD student
- N. Tukhtieva, PhD student



And many others





# **Cognitive Psychology of Consciousness Research Group headed by Prof. V. Allakhverdov : some results of our work**

- It has been shown that errors of omission tend to recur independent of the cognitive task. This is the result of “negative choice aftereffect”. Negative choice aftereffect is the inability to be aware of the things you were previously unaware of. Thus negative choice is a complex of possible but rejected meaning of the symbol.
- The existence of sensory threshold is a result of work of consciousness but not the result of some structural limitations of organism. Sometimes the subject can broaden the limits of his/her threshold of detection but then they impair the ability to verify critically the results of sensory experience
- Interference process is not two tasks influencing each others performance but the result of automatic control on the process of ignoring one task while performing the other.



# **Cognitive Psychology of Consciousness Research Group headed by Prof. V. Allakhverdov : some results of our work**

- Learning process includes the process of repeating previously made mistakes. The accuracy of the negative choice aftereffect sometimes exceeds the accuracy of repeating correct responses (i.e. learning rate). Thus we can say that its not the organism that is learning but it's the consciousness that is learning to manage the organism's performance of the task
- Adding irrelevant changes to the material can enhance the learning process, especially when those irrelevant changes form some pattern.
- Emotional reaction (that is a side effect of an insight) is a signal of the unconscious solution that has been found. This signal is not task-specific and could be transferred to some other task that is processed in parallel with the previous one.



# Research group on Qualitative Methods in Studying Cognitive Performance and Intelligence

**Mental imagery, qualitative studies of thinking and reasoning, cognitive habits, cognitive and metacognitive skills**

- Maria V. Osorina
- Olga V. Shcherbakova
- Marina O. Avanesyan
- Natalia P. Shpikova





# Psychology of Sports and Physical Activity Research Group

## Teaching:

- Personality in sport- health-improvement activity
- Mental processes and the psycho-motor functions
- Influence of psychic states on efficacy in sports and leisure activities
- Psychology of career in sports
- Behavioral approach to psychology of the athletes
- Psychology of management in sports
- Psychological assistance in sports
- Psychology of coach
- Psychology of advertisement in sports





# Research interests

- Theoretical and procedural problems of psychological assistance in sports
- Aggression in sports
- Problems of confidence of an athlete
- Preventive maintenance and the correction of mental functions by the means of physical culture
- Self-adjustment of the athlete
- Individual style of sport activity and the psychic state of the athlete
- The behavior of sports fans





# Professor Victor M. Allakhverdov, Head of the Division



*Research interests:*

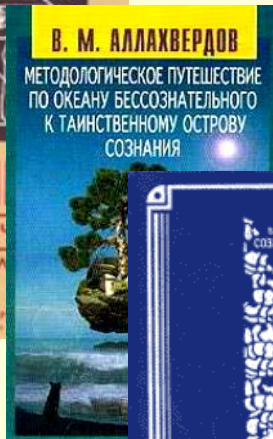
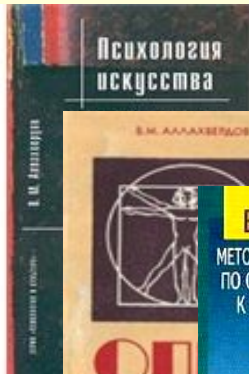
- **Ontological problem.** Why the conscious processing is needed in the situations when the unconscious processing is faster and more efficient?
- **Ethical Problem.** How can we investigate a free will action with a deterministic approach of Natural Sciences?
- **Epistemological Problem.** How can we compare representations of the objects with the external world objects?

“Psychology of Art”

“Experience of  
Theoretical Psychology”

“Methodological journey  
through the ocean of  
unconsciousness to the  
island of consciousness”

“Consciousness  
as a paradox”





## Professor Natalia V. Grishina

### *Teaching:*

- Psychology of conflict
- Existential psychology
- Psychology of crisis situation

### *Research interests:*

- Psychology of situation and situational approach
- Life scenarios
- Psychology of conflict





# Professor Natalia V. Grishina



## *Projects*

- Technology of psychological mediation in interpersonal conflicts.
- Book on Psychology of Conflict that became a textbook for all Russian students





# Professor Olga I. Danilenko

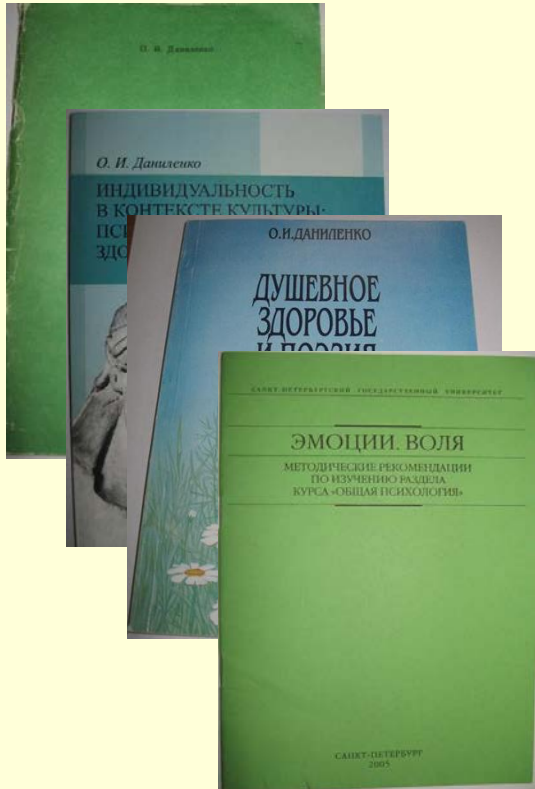
## *Teaching:*

- General Psychology: emotions, will
- Psychology of symbolic forms of behavior
- Individuality in context of modern culture





# Professor Olga I. Danilenko Research interests



- Mental Health and culture
- Culture as a source of coping with problems
- Psychology of cultural forms of behavior
- Psychology of preferences in Arts



# Maria V. Osorina, associate professor, deputy Head of the Division



## *Teaching:*

- General Psychology: Cognitive processes
- Development of Intellectual Skills
- Psychological Traditions of Children Subculture
- Psychological Analysis of Situations
- Processes of Texts' Understanding





## Maria V. Osorina: research interests and main results

- Mental imagery, role of mental imagery in understanding texts of various types
- Ontogenesis of iconic language of children's drawings
- Everyday fantasizing in children and adults
- Methods of explication the subjects “tacit knowledge” in investigation of thinking processes
- Cognitive habits of the students

Consulting on psychological aspects of environmental and situational design in theatres, museums, books, schools, etc.



## Valeria A. Gershkovich, assistant professor

### *Teaching:*

- Experimental Psychology
- Cognitive Psychology
- Research Methods (investigation designs) in Psychology
- Methodological Issues in Psychology



**PhD: in 2006**

**Goal-directed Ignoring of Information during  
Performance of Memory Tasks**



# Valeria Gershkovich: research interests and main results

- **Memory illusions (false memories, choice blindness and its aftereffects):**

Results demonstrate that subjects when challenged with the contradictions of their memories tend to reduce them and create false memories.

- **The role of cognitive control in different learning and memory tasks. Conscious and nonconscious ignoring of information.**

Results demonstrate that ignoring of information during tasks performance evoke interference effects.



## Olga V. Shcherbakova, assistant professor

### *Teaching:*

- General Psychology
- Psycholinguistics
- Intelligence and Creativity
- Text's Comprehension
- Neuropsychology
- Psychology of Conflict (practical course)
- General Principles of Psychological Practice
- Psychology of Personality
- Research Methods (investigation designs) in Psychology
- Qualitative Research Methods in Psychology

**PhD: in 2009**

**Cognitive Mechanisms of Humor Comprehension**





# Olga Shcherbakova: research interests and main results

- **Embodied cognition and mental imagery in text's comprehension:**

It was shown that mental imagery often function as an archived motor schemas that activate semantic representation of the text

- **EEG-correlates of mental effort during conceptual thinking:**

It was shown that **higher** efficiency in conceptual thinking requires **fewer** mental effort (in terms of EEG)

- **Intellectual competencies within the individual cognitive performance**

The set of basic intellectual competencies was described; it was shown that some of them function as the fixed patterns of cognitive performance





## Nadezda V. Moroshkina, assistant professor



### *Teaching:*

- Experimental Psychology
- Introduction to Cognitive Psychology
- Cognitive Psychology
- Research Methods (investigation designs) in Psychology

**PhD: in 2006**



# Research interests and main results:

## Ambiguous figure perception:

The mechanisms of intentional control

## The mechanisms of implicit learning:

- In artificial grammar learning task,
- In categorization task,
- In social perception task.



We study interaction between implicit and explicit knowledge which are formed during the learning process.

The ***effect of “loosing trust” to hidden hints*** was obtained in the situation of conflict between implicit and explicit knowledge.



## **Julia E. Zaitseva**

### **Assistant Professor**

#### ***Teaching:***

- General psychology: Personality Psychology. Identity.
- Psychodiagnostic
- Qualitative research methods
- Internal meaning systems and motivation

**PhD: in 2004**

**Respect of one's dignity as a psychological phenomenon**



## Zaitseva Julia, *Research Interests*

Self-Consciousness Phenomena & Moral Consciousness  
Development:

- Sense of one's Dignity and dignified behavior on the different stages of moral development
- Self-Narratives, Life goals and Identity processes
- Self-presentation & Trust phenomena in Internet-Communication

Mixed studies methods: qualitative & quantitative



## Tatiana M. Mamina, Senior Lecturer

### *Teaching:*

- Psycholinguistics (lectures and seminars);
- Psychology of consciousness (seminars);
- Methodological issues of psychology (seminars);
- Practice in Experimental Psychology

**PhD: in 2012**

**Influence of polysemantics on perception and remembering**





# **Tatyana Mamina: research interests and main results**

## **Influence of polysemantics on perception, remembering and retrieval of homonyms:**

Results demonstrate that meaning of a word-homonym that are not current for the on-going task inhibits perception and memorizing of this word-homonym.

Refreshing of all the meanings of the word-homonym that were previously unaware of enhances the efficacy of perceptual and memory tasks performance



## Marina O. Avanesyan, Lecturer



### *Teaching:*

Seminars in General Psychology  
(Cognitive processes, Personality)

### *Research interests:*

Psychological processes of  
metaphor understanding and  
creation.



## Yanina A. Ledovaya, Senior Lecturer




### *Teaching:*

- Methodology and Philosophy of Psychology
- Psychology of Personality
- Psychodiagnostics
- Thinking and Speech research Methods
- General Principles of Psychological Practice

### *Research interests:*

- Embodied cognition and abstract concepts
- Conceptual thinking and metaphor





# Nargiz H. Tukhtieva

Senior Lecturer

## *Teaching:*

- General Principles of Psychological Practice

Practical courses on:

- Personality and Emotions colloquium
- Psychology of Conflict
- Personality psychology

## *Research interests:*

- Einstellung effect (Luchins effect, effect of Uznadze)
- The influence of irrelevant parameters of a task on cognitive performance



# Welcome to the Department of Psychology!

