

## Introduction

The latest issue of *Przeegląd Psychologiczny* (Psychological Review) (57, issue 3) was devoted to social motivations, and is the aftermath of a major interest in this important issue, including the international conference organized in Cracow by Jagiellonian University, the University of Gdańsk and the Society for the Study of Motivation (USA), held from 30<sup>th</sup> June till 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2013 and bearing the name "Motivation in Social Context". This conference is the second one in the cycle "Self-regulation, Motivation, and Gender: Perspectives and Applications", initiated by the Institute of Psychology of the University of Gdańsk in collaboration with the Society for the Study of Motivation. The first edition of the conference was held in Gdańsk, from 3<sup>rd</sup> till 6<sup>th</sup> June, 2010.

You will find the review of the Cracow conference by Rex A. Wright, professor of psychology at the University of North Texas, Austin (Denton), at the end of this issue of *Przeegląd* (Psychological Review).

Rex A. Wright was the co-organizer of both of the conferences as a representative of the Society for the Study of Motivation. We are grateful to him for his support, assistance, industriousness, excellent ideas, and being open to new approaches to motivational psychology. He devoted a considerable amount of energy and time to make sure that both of the conferences were successful in their scientific aspect. Professor Wright delivered an excellent address on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2013, and its title was "Effort underpinnings of gender differences in cardiovascular response: Now, where was I?".

Among numerous outstanding participants in the conference from all over the world, you will find papers (either in the original version, or translated into Polish) contributed to this issue of *Przeegląd Psychologiczny* (Psychological Review) by the three world-famous social psychologists (alphabetical order): Richard Sorrentino, Bernard Weiner, and Rex A. Wright. We want to thank our foreign guests for their effort and contribution!

The cycle of papers has alphabetical order. Our guests are to be first.

At the beginning you can find the article written by world famous scientist Richard M. Sorrentino. He is an outstanding researcher in motivation and cognition, a professor at the University of Western Ontario in Canada. The author broke away from the conventional patterns of thinking about motivation in the category of the hierarchy of needs. He also introduced an empirically supported, and backed up by intercultural research, theory concerning the influence of reaction to uncertainty on emotions, self-esteem and optim-

ism. The paper, published in this issue of *Przegląd Psychologiczny* (Psychological Review), and bearing the title "Looking for  $B = f(P, E)$ : You should too" presents a well-considered and proved thesis of the necessity of interactive: "personality x situation" approach to research into motivation. The author indicates, how important it is in science to accept an exception to generally accepted rules, and how incomplete are the phenomena described by known theories in the field of social psychology. Sorrentino also emphasizes the importance of the cultural context in constructing a theory of motivation.

Next article, bearing the title "An anecdotal history of motivation" is commenced by a post-classic advocate of the attribution theory, Bernard Weiner, a disciple of Fritz Heider and Konrad Lorenz, a holder of numerous degrees *honoris causa*, and a "distinguished professor" at the University of California, Los Angeles. The paper by Weiner vividly presents the comprehensive view of the pivotal figures and important theories in motivational psychology, and also presents the elements of the interpersonal and social context in which these theories were formulated, and which have so far been unknown. This text will certainly serve as a map of scientific solutions in the field of motivation. It will also make it possible to become acquainted with the intricacies of the career and personal life of the great representatives of social motivational psychology.

It is also (as in the case of two previous authors) the first time that the author of the following consecutive paper, the above-presented Rex A. Wright, has contributed to an issue of *Przegląd Psychologiczny* (Psychological Review). His paper, bearing the title "Effort underpinnings of gender differences in cardiovascular response: Now where was I?", presents laboratory research on the reaction of the cardio-vascular system (an innovative use of a dependent variable) in reference to the psychology of gender differences. What is interesting, is the fact that cardiovascular response is the same in the case of men and women when they equally appreciate success and skills. The assessment and importance of skills for both of the genders, changing, also change their cardiovascular responses.

The three papers by the guests of our conference are followed by three Polish reports on research (also alphabetical order). The fourth consecutive paper, by: Hanna Brycz, Paweł Jurek, Beata Pastwa-Wojciechowska, Aleksandra Peplińska and Mariola Bidzan, bearing the title "Self-attributions of meta-knowledge of the self in terms of Bernard Weiner's theory" draws upon the post-classic theory of Bernard Weiner, and the relatively new conception of the metaknowledge of self. The research indicates that a good insight into one's own lack of objectivity (the high level of the metaknowledge of self) opposite to the lower level of error recognition in oneself (the low level of the metaknowledge of self) is conducive to recognizing the non-controlled causes of one's own behaviour.

The paper by Mariusz Lipowski, Małgorzata Lipowska, Zdzisław Nieckarz, Sylwia Celińska-Nieckarz and Natasza Kosakowska-Berezecka (the fifth consecutive one) (title: "Psychological gender and age of female and male managers as determinants of hope for success") attempts to deal with an im-

portant and timely issue concerning the psychology of management in the context of genders. The authors looked for connections between the psychological gender of staff and line managers and the strength of their hopes of success. As it was expected, androgynous manageresses matched „male“ men as far the level of hopes for success was concerned.

The last paper (sixth) by Ewa Szumowska and Malgorzata Kossowska bearing the title “Causal attributions of immoral behaviors in relation to moral identity and moral strictness” refers, on the one hand, to the issue of three attributive perspectives (perpetrator, a passive observer and a victim), and, on the other hand, to the moral identity of the attributing person. The obtained results seem to be interesting, even though no always were the hypotheses formulated in the paper confirmed.

We express our gratitude to the editor-in-chief of *Przegląd Psychologiczny* (Psychological Review), Professor Andrzej E. Sękowski, for making it possible for us to edit the issue devoted to social motivations. Owing to that, we hope not only to make readers better acquainted with the newest discoveries in this field, but also to inspire other investigators to apply a theory of social motivation more broadly in research in the various fields of psychology. We believe that the results of the presented research, having their practical implications, will prove useful in the daily work of psychologists of various specializations.

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