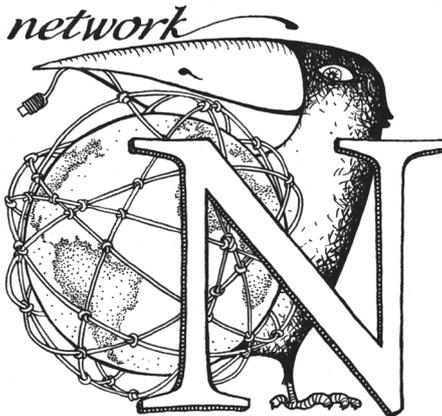


"No man is an island ..."

— John Donne



etworking is the starting point of any joint scientific project; it is what research collaboration is built on. It is hard to think of any field of research that can develop without collaboration, so it would not be a stretch to assume that networking is the starting point of any research. That is why we have decided to start a new series of materials on research life at HSE with a number of articles focused on cooperative efforts. In the current issue we will focus on several detailed examples of joint work: establishing a new lab, starting a professional discussion forum on recent publications, and the results of scientific cooperation - publication success stories. And do not miss the announcement of the XVI International April Conference, another proven instrument of scientific collaboration.

Yulia Grinkevich
Director of Internationalization

Research at HSE: the Power of Collaboration

HSE provides ample opportunities for joint scientific projects. Colleagues from other departments, labs and even campuses are usually happy to connect and find someone who already knows the ins and outs of how to organize things. In this issue the *International Laboratory for Applied Network Research* shares their experience of starting up a research unit and successful collaboration with colleagues and students. The Lab was established at HSE in summer 2014 and is characterized by common methodology rather than a research topic. Network research analysis is applied to data from a wide range of thematic fields, starting from networks in business to students' social connections. The Lab Director, Valentina Kuskova, kindly agreed to reflect on the laboratory's activities and we are excited to publish these reflections. Kuskova's closest colleagues, Stanley Wasserman (Academic Supervisor of the lab) and Olga Mayorova (Senior Research Fellow of the lab's team at the HSE Perm campus) join in and share their experiences of making an effective laboratory launch and make good use of the institutional opportunities at HSE.

The Laboratory: How to Make It Work

An important consideration in creating a new laboratory is creating the structure. The scientific advisor, Stanley Wasserman, has a lot of experience creating and running research groups, so his expertise was almost taken for granted. Looking back, that was probably the number one success factor that allowed us to take off quickly and in the right direction – the number of papers previously published, citation indices, research fit, and so on all paled in comparison.

Stanley Wasserman:

"I'm glad to have the opportunity to bring my ideas and methods to use in the new laboratory. There are lots of resources at HSE to help our lab succeed. I was amazed to discover how much support we really had access to."

So, what we do in the lab is hold weekly seminars. Most of them are educational because we have a very young team (over half of our researchers are students). We read books, discuss projects, talk about software and so on. We always welcome guest speakers and announce seminars that involve such presentations in advance.

Collaboration: Campuses and Other Research Groups

The ANR Lab has several “hubs” across HSE campuses: Moscow, St. Petersburg and Perm. The idea of uniting HSE researchers interested in social networks analysis under the umbrella of one international lab to strengthen it with our diverse training, research experience and fields of study was there from the start. We meet either in the halls of HSE or network at conferences and it seemed only natural to team up in taking on such a challenging endeavor.

Olga Mayorova:

“It was important for us from the beginning that our laboratory becomes the basis not only for international collaboration but also for inter-campus partnership. This is why we have planned events that would allow us to meet for consultations and the training of our junior staff regularly. The only real challenge is that we can’t get together in person as often as we would like to. Modern technology makes frequent communication across campuses fairly easy, but nothing can really make up for a live comment that someone can make during a seminar.”

We have also developed a “network structure” for our projects – an idea that was also there from the beginning and involves collaborating with researchers from other labs at HSE. We have several joint projects that are progressing quite well with the research and study group Network Methods and Models in Text Mining led by Galina Gradoselskaya and with the Research and Study Laboratory on Business Communications, its deputy head is Maria Pilgun.

Conferences: Success and Good Advice

In November 2014 we held our first International Conference on Social Network Analysis at HSE. Given the tight deadlines we’ve worked under (by that time, the lab was only functioning for just over four months) the conference was a great success, bringing together over 120 people from 11 different countries. Only about half of the participants were from HSE. It was an exciting event, with lots of good discussions and ideas throughout. The ultimate sign of success for us was the conclusion of the conference. At the end of the last session, when the halls of the building were already empty, the conference room was still packed full and participants were in no hurry to leave. They stayed behind and continued the discussions. Several people have joined the lab as a result of the conference. A few people have decided to work with us on projects, while not joining the laboratory as members.

If you want to organize a conference but have never done so before, remember that HSE has good resources in place to make this event a great success. Deputy Vice Rector Marina Litvintseva leads an administrative group whose primary purpose is to support international laboratories, but they are also in charge of all organized events, such as conferences, and have plenty of good advice to dispense. So, there is no need to try to invent the wheel.

Students and Research

The most important aspect of an international laboratory is the development of its young talent. It’s rare that a high school student enters the university with the dream of becoming a scientist, in social sciences especially. Stumbling across the excitement that the

research process brings is something that could happen accidentally (and does not happen often enough), or something that students could get introduced to systematically. Those that find the process of figuring things out exciting are often here to stay. So summer schools, conferences, hallway talks - anything that can get students to pay attention to what kinds of research is being produced is very important. When students get introduced to research as undergrads, they get a real head start in terms of getting their research careers on the right track.

Summer Schools

I think HSE does a good job of organizing summer schools. There are many, they are successful and there is a good set of best practices that have been developed over many years. We have certainly relied on expertise of the HSE international laboratory administrative group.

In 2014 the lab held two summer schools, “Theory and Methods of Network Analysis” in Moscow and “Social Network Analysis Methods and Applications” in St. Petersburg. The latter one was done in cooperation with the Sociology of Education and Science Laboratory. We had joint interests and worked on several projects in 2014. The two summer schools were announced jointly, but held separately. As far as funding goes, our “sister” laboratory used the HSE support funds for summer schools while we have used our own laboratory funds.

Several projects that were started by students during our summer schools are still in the process of development, and some of them were presented at the conference that we held in November. We find this to be very exciting, and a sign that the school has fulfilled its purpose.

If as a researcher you are looking to join a summer school as an advanced participant, then just reach out to organizers when the school is announced. We would most certainly welcome outside expertise at any time!

Stanley Wasserman is Rudy Professor of Statistics, Psychology and Sociology at Indiana University, USA and Chief Scientist at the Visible Path Corporation, NY. He received his PhD in Statistics at Harvard University and his research interests are Mathematical Psychology and Sociology, Applied Statistics, and Social Networks. Wasserman is a fellow of the Royal Statistical Society and an honorary fellow of the American Statistical Association and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He is one of the founders and editors of the Network Science journal published by Cambridge University Press, a co-author of the book Social Network Analysis: Methods and Applications (1994, with Faust K.), and a co-editor of the book Advances in Social Network Analysis: Research from the Social and Behavioral Sciences (with Galaskiewicz, J.), which greatly shaped the field of network analysis methods.

Valentina Kuskova is an Assistant Professor at the HSE Faculty of Management and Deputy First Vice Rector on issues relating to international faculty recruitment. She received her PhD in Organizational Behavior and Human Resources at Indiana University, USA. Her research interests are job and life satisfaction and its relationship with performance; in-role (task performance) and extra-role behavior (organizational citizenship behaviors and counterproductive work behaviors); leadership behaviors and organizational fairness; methodological issues and research design.

Olga Mayorova is an Associate Professor at the School of Management at the HSE Perm. She received her PhD in Sociology from University of Arizona, USA. During her work in the USA, Mayorova studied social networks of the American corporate elite, social stratification in Russia, the integration of Georgian refugees and the participation of state and private companies in the market of education services and entertainment for children in the USA. While working as a senior research fellow at the American Sociological Association, she did evaluative research of educational programmes. Her main research interests are network analysis, social stratification and organizational theory.

Journal Club at the Centre for Cognition and Decision Making

Discussing research whether it's your own work or someone else's project is a big part of academic life. International professors, postdocs and students are often those who initiate and take an active part in these discussions at HSE. **Marco Colosio**, a PhD student at the Centre for Cognition and Decision Making heads the Journal Club where researchers, graduate and undergraduate students present and critique recent publications in cognitive neuroscience and neuroeconomics literature. "Our goal is to have a comfortable atmosphere in which everyone can openly share ideas and learn from each other", announced the club's moderator in an email last year. **Marco Colosio** shared his thoughts on running the Journal Club with *The HSE Look*.

Making It Happen

The Journal Club was initiated by the supervisors at the Centre for Cognition and Decision Making. The idea was to meet regularly and discuss recent groundbreaking papers on the subject of cognitive neuroscience published in scientific journals. So there are about 10 – 15 people meeting every Wednesday, including PhD students and supervisors. Additionally, we are also actively engaging master students. At each meeting one speaker briefly presents a paper published recently in a peer-reviewed journal and then the paper is discussed and criticized by the participants.

Journals and Papers

We aim to discuss fresh papers from high ranked journals, which contents has a strong relevance for everybody involved. Yet, both in psychology and other branches of science it often is the case that a journal that is not considered the main one, features articles that analyze a good collection of data. This is why we pay attention not only to top journals in our field but try more or less to monitor everything that is published on Cognitive Neuroscience. Sometimes it is not an easy task to pick a paper for the meeting as our group is strongly multidisciplinary (with a

strong component of biologists and psychologists) and the paper that is being presented needs to be relevant for everybody at the meeting. We don't exclude participants from other disciplines. For example, we recently had a speaker from the Faculty of Mathematics and she discussed a paper on genetics. There is also a tight collaboration with economists, as we discuss neuroeconomics a lot.

Finding Something In Common

When we have our meetings with economists we choose fields where our interests intersect and try to discuss the results that are relevant for both of us. For example, now I am very interested in identity economics, which tries to explain how economic choices are made based on your identity. For example, why people donate for charity: to be perceived by society as a good person, to be perceived by themselves as a good person or is it pure altruism? This is a very hot topic now in neuroeconomics. In this case working in tandem is very beneficial – you are good in your area and you integrate this knowledge with the knowledge of the expert in another field. Since two brains are better than one, this is probably the better approach you can have to find a satisfying solution.

Why Participating?

I can name at least three things that a participant of our club benefits from: first, our meetings facilitate the review of specific research studies and allow you to be updated about the latest research trends in cognitive neuroscience. Second, one learns to critique and appraise research. And third, you exchange ideas with your colleagues and students during the discussions.

Marco Colosio comes from Italy, where he received a Master's degree in experimental Psychology and Cognitive Sciences from the University of Padua (Italy). During his studies Colosio did a research internship at Ruhr University Bochum (Germany), where he investigated the neural mechanisms of reward processing in active and observational learning. Since August 2014 Colosio has been a PhD student at the HSE School of Psychology. Colosio is currently working on a project concerning the neural basis of cognitive dissonance and its modulation. His interests also include pure neuroeconomics - economical sides of behavior, brain activity and economic decision making. In Moscow he enjoys the rich cultural opportunities offered by the city and its hectic rhythm, although sometimes he misses both the tranquility and the delicious wines from his native region of Italy.

New Publications

Continuing on the topic of collaboration in research, let us turn to the result of such collaboration - publication success stories. We congratulate Udara Peiris and Dina Balalaeva on the acceptance of their articles and wish them further success in their academic endeavors. If you want to share your recent publications with colleagues, please send us a quick note at ifaculty.support@hse.ru. We look forward to hearing from you and sharing your success with the global academic community.

Two papers by **Udara Peiris**, an Assistant Professor at the International College of Economics and Finance have been accepted for publication. They are **“Collateral and the Efficiency of Monetary Policy”** coauthored with A.P. Vardoulakis, which will be published in Economic Theory and **“International Monetary Equilibrium with Default”** written together with D.P. Tsomocos will appear in the Journal of Mathematical Economics later this year.

It took Peiris quite a while to get these works published. “Most of my papers have some relevance to the recent global financial crisis and government-central bank policy, so that helps keep me motivated and focused on the papers after many years of working on them,” said Peiris. Both papers were written in collaboration with researchers based outside Russia, but according to Peiris, it did not cause any difficulties. “There really is not much difference if we are in the same country or not,” he continued. “Of course, if we were in the same department, then we would see each other every day and progress would be faster. The time-zone differences place more restrictions on when I can communicate by Skype, but it is not a big deal. It is important to be able to meet every few months and I am grateful that the University supports this.”

Discussing research with colleagues is a common practice at ICEF and for this purpose regular “brown-bag” seminars are held where on-going research is presented and discussed over lunch. “It is informal but most faculty members attend and are generous in the amount and quality of feedback,” said Peiris. “Other than this, we have quite a collaborative atmosphere in the department and I have regular conversations about research with colleagues, regardless of whether we are in the same field.”

We would also like to congratulate Assistant Professor at the School of Political Science, the Faculty of Social Sciences, **Dina Balalaeva** on having her article **“Political Competition, Agenda Power, and Incentives to Innovate: An Empirical Examination of Vested-Interest Theory”** accepted for publication in the international peer-reviewed journal Review of Policy Research. Balalaeva is an active participant of the working group on publishing in political science launched by Assistant Professor at the Faculty of World Economy and International Affairs, Andrej Krickovic and Assistant Professor at the School of Political Science, Ekim Arbatli.

Get Registered for the XVI April International Academic Conference

The central annual academic event organized by HSE will take place on **April 7 – 10, 2015 in Moscow**. The XVI April International Academic Conference on Economic and Social Development is traditionally supported by the World Bank and the Programme Committee is chaired by Professor **Evgeny Yasin**. Special topics for the conference 2015 include:

- **Institutions and Economic Growth**
- **Reasons for Reforms’ Success and Failure**
- **Global World: Integration or Disintegration?**
- **Demand for Law: Factors and Dynamics**

Quite a few honorary guests will attend the conference this year, including Vaclav Klaus, President of the Czech Republic from 2003 to 2013; Dale Jorgenson, Samuel W. Morris University Professor of Economics at Harvard University; Guillermo Owen, Distinguished Professor, Department of Applied Mathematics, at the Graduate School of Engineering and Applied Sciences of the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California and other prominent researchers and officials.

The programme of the conference features sessions and roundtables on the problems of economic and social development as well as PhD seminars. Take advantage of lower participation fees by registering before **March 10, 2015**. For details on fees, guests and the programme please see: <http://conf.hse.ru/en/2015/>.

Published by the Higher School of Economics.

The issue was prepared by the Office of Internationalization.

Editor: Natasha Rubanova. Illustrator: Katya Bauman

Find back issues and subscription at faculty.hse.ru/the_hse_look

Release date: 26.02.2015