Editorial for the Special Issue

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In the previous special issue of *Psychologia* on “Interactions within and between Psychological Sciences (I)”, we selected six papers from diverse fields. While we were largely satisfied with our selections, we also felt that the shooting range of psychological sciences would be farther. Thus, we re-selected manuscripts that match and broaden the scope of this special issue.

This second part of the special issue starts with the paper by Fujiwara and colleagues on domestic violence in Japan. A theory states that parents who had been abused tend to abuse their children (“the cycle of violence”). While the intergenerational continuity of child abuse has been frequently discussed under both academic and non-academic situations, little research has examined the possible multifaceted processes that lead to the transmission of abuse across generations. Further, the cycle of violence has been mainly examined in Western societies and has seldom been reported in non-Western cultures. The paper by Fujiwara and colleagues rigorously examined the data from 304 mothers and their 498 children. They confirmed the cycle of violence in Japan and found several important patterns of intergenerational transmission of child abuse. The data and discussion are of obvious importance in policy making against domestic violence in Japan.

The next paper by Takakuwa is about “horizontal hostility”, which represent asymmetric attitudes among multiple minority groups. Intergroup relations between a majority and a single minority group have been much investigated. However, attitudes among multiple minority groups have been studied less often. The paper includes a review that comprehensively describes that horizontal hostility involves two factors: the similarity between the groups and the similarity to the main stream. The paper then aimed at testing whether the previous findings would hold in Japanese society. The results confirmed the patterns of horizontal hostility and provided an additional hypothesis for the attitudes of the majority group. This paper is a valuable contribution to investigations of the increasing diversity of minority groups in Japan.

Does too much happiness lead to negative incidences or situations? This notion (“the holistic view of happiness”) is brought about in Japanese culture more than in European-American cultures. The paper by Uchida dealt with the potential difference in interpretation of happiness and found evidence for the holistic view of happiness in Japanese culture. Importantly, this difference in interpretation was not related to subjective well-being of the participants. The paper thus suggests that the concept of happiness differs substantially across cultures but it is largely independent of current situation of personal well-being.

Consumers in the present-day market are facing a complex task, namely evaluating
numerous products that differ in various aspects. Therefore, people tend to simplify the evaluation process by limiting their information acquisition. Two major strategies for limiting information acquisition are known: brand-based and attribute-based. The paper by Sakashita examined how the two limited information acquisition strategies (IAS) are utilized. The results suggested that the utilization of attribute-based limited IAS simplified the evaluation process and made it easier. On the other hand, the use of brand-based limited IAS, however, might make the task difficult. This asymmetrical effect of IAS has implications to research in consumer behavior and marketing.

The paper by Tanaka and Yamaoka investigated the transfer of mental models in a real-life setting (i.e., operations of digital cameras). Understanding mental models is critical in problem solving, design, and reasoning. In their study, it was shown that reducing the number of operational procedures could trigger the positive transfer of mental models if the other operational procedures were congruent. One important aspect of their study was that they tried to examine both young and older participants. Although the comparison did not lead to a conclusive interpretation, understanding the transfer of mental models in using everyday products would be an important issue of the aging population.

Finally, the paper by Kondo and colleagues reported a neuromagnetic study of human brightness perception. The Steven’s Law states that power function can fit the relationship between the magnitude of a physical stimulus and subjective brightness. They investigated the timing and location of the cortical response relative to parametric variations in luminance and found that the magnitude of neuromagnetic responses in the occipital region was positively correlated with the subjective ratings of perceived brightness as well as the log-scaled stimulus luminance. Their finding may open the possibility to use neuromagnetic responses as an indicator of perceived brightness, which may have a practical implication to the examining sensory functioning in children and people with disorders who often have limitations in performing a complex task.

The papers included here are not only unique contributions to current psychological sciences but also manifestations of the totality of it. The ever-increasing reach of psychological sciences would warrant yet another issue, though.