

## **Advanced Technologies and Psychological Warfare: Focusing on Latin America**

### **(Results of conferences, round tables and workshops of Russian researchers in South America) August 27 –September 10, 2018**

The political landscape in Latin America changes drastically and very quickly now. After the symptoms of decline of the “Left Turn” several years ago one can see now the evident crisis of the right-centrist neoliberal models of the development, whether it is in Argentina where the national currency dropped for 25% percent only at the time of the visit of the Russian researchers or the systemic crisis in Brazil. The Left candidate won the presidential elections in Mexico in July 2018 and the Left have a chance to win the presidential elections in Brazil in October (or at least to show that they continue to be an influential force in this country). The symptoms of partial and unstable stabilization of the situation one can see in Venezuela. And perhaps, that is why the secretary-general of the Organization of American States (OAS) based in Washington D.C., Luis Almagro, said recently that a "military intervention" to "overthrow" Nicolas Maduro's government cannot be ruled out.

No need to explain that the local economic and social problems are accompanied by hot political clashes and psychological warfare. The advanced technologies play now and much more in future very important role in social changes and in the political struggle in the region and all over the world. The psychological warfare itself more often use new tools and instruments based on the sophisticated technologies. Some aspects of these processes were analyzed by Russian researchers at different academic events during their trip across South America in Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil.

DSc. Prof. Evgeny Pashentsev, leading researcher at the Institute of Contemporary International Studies of the [Diplomatic Academy](#) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, director of the International Centre for Social and Political Studies and Consulting ([ICSPSC](#)) and Dr. Olga Polunina, a researcher at the ICSPSC, both members of [EU-RU-CM Network](#) took part in several academic events in Argentina and Uruguay in August 2018. Konstantin Pantserev, a coordinator of African Strategic Studies at the ICSPSC and professor at Saint-Petersburg State University joined them in Brazil. The trip was organized and supported by ICSPSC, RLASSA with a kind assistance of their partners in the countries of Latin America. Prof. Darya Bazarkina and MA Diego Jiménez interviewed the Russian researchers and presented the following summary of the trip and the post-trip analysis of Russian specialists.

On 27<sup>th</sup> of August Russian researchers contributed to a workshop “New Technologies and Global Shifts on World Arena” at [CARI](#) (El Consejo Argentino para las Relaciones Internacionales) in Buenos Aires, Argentina. CARI is one of the leading Argentinean centres of study of international

relations established on 15<sup>th</sup> June 1978 for the purposes of stimulating the study and discussion of international relations issues, political and economic analysis, and cultural relations.

The workshop was organized with the help of Dr. Carola Ramon Berjano and Dr. Paulo Botta. The moderator of the workshop was Dr. Ariel González Levaggi.

Prof. Pashentsev draws attention to recent reports, such as from the UN, the World Economic Forum, the Bank of America, Merrill Lynch, the McKinsey Global Institute, Oxford University on the tendencies on the labour markets. 30% or more jobs will disappear in the coming 2-3 decades as a result of processes of the robotisation of manufacturing, finance, services, and management; this also includes high-paying positions. The optimists consider that in history some jobs disappeared and new jobs appeared in their place, a progress in action, nothing fundamentally new and dangerous. But according to Evgeny Pashentsev we are for the first time in history on the way towards the complete (but far from instantaneous) extinction of uncreative activities. The speaker gave his assessment of the possible ways to overcome the negative aspects of the technological revolution.

Long periods of social stagnation or rapid development in the conditions of rivalry of several geopolitical coalitions seem unlikely, continued Prof. Pashentsev. **A long period of stagnation** due to limited natural resources, growing environmental problems, a rise in income polarisation, international tensions and other factors, is practically impossible. The mankind is simply not to survive for a long period of time without radical progressive changes. The **rapid development** in the framework of global rivalry will only accelerate the introduction of the latest revolutionary technologies, which in turn will inevitably lead to qualitative changes in society. The forces of revolution and counter-revolution in such historical periods always grow together, though not uniformly and simultaneously. At the same time, it is not always easy, especially in the initial stages, to distinguish the grain from the chaff, the flowers of the revolution from the numerous voids. The new technological revolution (including robotics and the creation of artificial intelligence, the rapid development of genetics etc.) is gaining strength. It poses not only problems, but also offers their solution at a new qualitative level. There are excellent opportunities for a rapid breakthrough in the development of the countries of Latin America, but this requires appropriate global and national prerequisites. First of all, the prevention of a new, and perhaps the last in the history of mankind, nuclear world war and the restructuring of the system of international relations on a fair basis, which, in turn, requires radical progressive social and political changes in developed and developing countries concluded the speaker.



Prof. Pashentsev and Dr. Polunina at CARI. 27<sup>th</sup> of August 2018.

Dr. Polunina analyzed the role of informational impact – whether it is providing information or informational violence.

More than fifteen Argentinean specialists in international relations as well as some diplomats from other countries took part in the discussion during the seminar. Most important questions concerned the role of Russia and Latin America in overcoming the global threats and challenges, some predictions about nearest communicational future and any positive perspectives of digital communications.

Also on the 27<sup>th</sup> of August by kind invitation of Mr. Juan Battaleme, the Director of Defence M.A. Programme at the University of National Defence ([UNDEF](#)) and Government Advisor on Cybersecurity Issues, Prof. Pashentsev visited UNDEF. He submitted a lecture on topic: *Contemporary Strategic Psychological Warfare* for the participants of the Programme who are from different countries of Latin America, Africa and Asia.

Prof. Pashentsev marked that psychological warfare has several levels: tactical, operational and strategic of which each solves a specific task. The most important level is the strategic which aims at the direction of the development of a particular country or the international system as a whole in a for the leading actor desirable direction. Very often the object to which the psychological impact is directed is not aware of the character and the real scope of long-term operations that are modifying its

mode of thinking and behaviour. In socio-political terms, strategic psychological warfare (SPW) is the explicit and implicit long-term focused psychological impact of competing systems' (state, supra-state, inter-state and non-state actors) attempts to inflict damage and/ or the liquidation (or assignment) of intangible assets on the other side in order to win in the material sphere.

The speaker analyzed case-studies of psychological warfare from different countries and made some forecasts on the prospects for a closer symbiosis of SPW with advanced technologies. For example some attention was given to the schemes and current practice of the psychological warfare against Venezuela, China and Russia on the international arena and some of their response measures. Prof. Pashentsev analyzed, using open sources, the process of integration of advanced technologies in full spectrum SPW and some alarming consequences of this process for the international security.



After the lecture: Prof. Pashentsev with the participants of the Defence M.A. Programme at UNDEF. 27<sup>th</sup> of August 2018.

Next by invitation of Dr. Paulo Botta, Prof. Pashentsev submitted a lecture at Universidad de Ciencias Empresariales y Sociales, Buenos Aires where he put an accent on the consequences of the psychological warfare on business and political processes. He tried inter alia to prove serious threats of SPW instruments being used against big business in geopolitical clashes. For example, in October

2016, Russian news outlet RBC reported that there were at least seven companies registered between March and July 2016 in the UK with names similar to well-known Russian firms. The company names registered in Britain were Rosneft Oil Company Ltd, PJSC Tatneft Ltd, JSC Transneft Ltd, Oil Company LUKOIL Ltd, Surgutneftegas Ltd, PJSOC Bashneft Ltd, and Public Joint Stock Company Gazprom Neft Ltd. The companies were fakes and did not have any connection with the real Russian companies, despite the fraudulent scheme to be registered as managed by the same persons that are the top managers of the real companies. The registration of limited companies with standard charter is easily done online in 24 hours and only costs £12. In the beginning of 2017, five Russian oil companies have won appeals and lawsuits in the UK to have their fraudulent and unconnected ‘doppelgangers’ registered in 2016 removed from the UK Companies House, according to court rulings. If RBC did not ring the alarm bell, there would not have been such reaction by Russian companies, and mainstream media could potentially have spread disinformation connected with the activities of so-called big Russian oil companies in the UK noted the speaker. The lecture awoke an interest of the international business MA programme students coming from the countries of Latin America, the EU and the USA. During the trip the Russian researchers were interviewed by local electronic media.



Mr. Mariano Corbino, founder of *Mente Inter-Nazionale* interviewed Prof. Pashentsev in Buenos Aires.

On 30<sup>th</sup> of August Prof. Evgeny Pashentsev and Dr. Olga Polunina visited the University of the Republic (*Universidad de la República*, sometimes *UdelaR*) which is the most important, oldest, and

largest university of Uruguay. It was founded on 18 July in Montevideo, where most of its buildings and facilities are still located. Russian researchers took part there in the research seminar with master students specializing in international relations at the Faculty of Social Sciences. In the invitation and organization of this event took an active part the researchers of the Faculty: Prof. Luis Bértola, Prof. Fernández Luzuriaga and others. The topic of the workshop was about the new theatres and methods of contemporary warfare with special reference to the issues of psychological warfare.

According to Prof. Pashentsev the technologies of “pseudo-revolution” are used from the outside in order to prevent a democratically-oriented way out of the crisis. In practice, the democracy in this case being used as a front for advancing forces, policies, and goals which then bear little resemblance to democracy as such. When authentic democratic forces are weak, it is possible to establish pseudo-democratic bodies which lead the “revolution” for the benefit of a new reaction and they do so by means of communication methods.

When the government tries to defend itself and counteracts, images of “victims and casualties” via mass media and rumours are deployed increasing active support for the “democratic”, “national” “opposition” against the “bloody regime” both inside the country and on the part of world opinion. If initially, the display of victims is carefully organized, later due to escalation, producing violence and chaos, massacres are inevitable as the regime loses power, and society risks to engulf in violent rage. In case of an open crisis, people are ready to appeal to arms, and violence becomes massive and more and more indiscriminate. If constant manipulations through mass media are further added, the boiling pot of social discontent is no longer containable. The unleashing of such chaos and violence – or regime change management by means of chaos and violence – excludes and blocks the development of genuine democracy.

Case-studies of PSYOPs, sampled manipulative techniques and instruments, other illustrations of contemporary psychological warfare aroused huge interest and vivid discussion among students, they also shared their concerns about current events, provided some interesting examples and showed the desire to learn more about strategic communication.



Prof. Pashentsev at the research seminar. University of the Republic. 30<sup>th</sup> of August 2018.

Dr. Polunina spoke about the phenomenon of psychological warfare, its global and interdisciplinary character. She also dwelled upon global virtual space and its role in forming public consciousness. One the most important requirements for successful actions in the sphere of psychological warfare is creating conducive inner and outer conditions for putting mechanisms of concealed or latent management by means of informational expansion. It is the process of establishing control above the strategic resources, informational and communicational structure and national mass media, intensifying own mass media on the informational and virtual spaces of the object interested. This topic also produced interest among the students and they continued asking questions about digital communications, about recommendations how to stay alert for manipulations and so on.



At the research seminar: Dr. Polunina talks at the research seminar. University of the Republic. 30<sup>th</sup> of August 2018.

After the seminar Prof. Pashentsev was introduced to Dr. Diego Piñeiro, the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences. At the meeting with him Prof. Pashentsev tried to focus on the opportunities for mutual collaboration on the basis of RLASSA between Russian and Uruguayan specialists in international relations. Russian researchers received as a gift a selection of monographs and collections of articles from the faculty.

On 3 – 5<sup>th</sup> September 2018 Prof. Pashentsev, Prof. Pantserov, Dr. Polunina took part in a conference in São Paulo. The 10<sup>th</sup> National Meeting of the Brazilian Defence Studies Association (ENABED) was hosted by the University of São Paulo united several hundreds of specialists in military studies, international security and international relations not only from Brazil but from other countries of Latin America. With the theme “National Defense and International Security in Times of Crisis: Sovereignty and Democracy in Debate” the National Meeting was aimed to develop a program to strengthen national security from a democratic perspective, when some of the country's strategic sectors of the economy and defense sector are being under the attack, and persistent attempts are being made to impose unusual policing functions on the armed forces. The fact that among the participants

of the meeting there was approximately equal representation of civil and military means, among other things, an existence of a sufficiently powerful barrier to the use of armed forces for anti-democratic purposes. The scope of issues discussed and the high professional level of many subject sections reflects the country's great research potential in the field of security, which should be used as much as possible in solving acute problems of the country. The fact that they are really sharp and require their immediate solution, acknowledged in their papers many ENABED participants.



At the opening session of the ENABED. 3<sup>rd</sup> of September 2018.



Discussions on the sidelines of the ABED conference.



Coordinators of the Russian – Latin American Strategic Studies Association ([RLASSA](#))  
Prof. Evgeny Pashentsev and Prof, Héctor Luis Saint-Pierre. At the ENABED.  
4<sup>th</sup> of September 2018.

At the background from the left to the right: Prof. Amâncio Jorge Silva Nunes de Oliveira  
and Prof. Samuel Alves Soares.

Prof. Pashentsev, Prof. Pantserov and Dr. Polunina were invited to ENABED by Prof. Alcides Costa Vaz, the President of the Brazilian Defence Studies Association to take part in the round table “Battlefields, methods and instruments of war from the Russian perspective” held on 4<sup>th</sup> of September. The round table was organized with the great support on behalf of Prof. Hector Luis Saint-Pierre, Director of the Institute of Public Policy and International Relations at the State University of Sao Paulo (UNESP). The moderator of the round table was Prof. Amâncio Jorge Silva Nunes de Oliveira.

Among six ENABED round tables it was the only one held in English but in spite of this fact it could attract the attention of nearly fifty researchers.

Prof. Pashentsev while speaking about the global context of social instability and geopolitical tensions stressed the peculiarities of the psychological warfare in Latin America. Starting from the internal and external factors of crisis, Prof. dwelled upon the redistribution of the control over media and their role as political weapon in Latin America. From classical manipulative effects on the basis of the mass media Evgeny Pashentsev went on with contemporary issues within the framework of psychological warfare that is predictive analytics. The predictive analytics is a variety of statistical techniques including predicting modeling, machine learning and data mining that analyze current and historical events in order to make predictions about the future events. Among programmes based on Big Data predictive analytics the speaker mentioned the Intelligence Advanced Research Project Activity Open Source Indicators program, Early Model Based Event Recognition using Surrogates (EMBERS) as a large-scale big data analytics system for forecasting significant societal events, such as civil unrest events on the basis of continuous, automated analysis of large volumes of publicly available data. It has been operational since November 2012 and delivered approximately 50 predictions each day for countries of Latin America. Two key examples according of the authors of that programme were the series of protests in Brazil in June 2013 and the violent student-led protests in Venezuela in February 2014. Prof. Pashentsev emphasized the role of those actors who own such techniques of influencing public audiences whether they are state or non-state actors.



From the left to the right: Prof. Konstantin Pantserev, Prof. Evgeny Pashentsev, Prof. Amâncio Jorge Silva Nunes de Oliveira, Dr. Olga Polunina. At the ENABED, 4<sup>th</sup> of September 2018.

Prof. Pantserev spoke about countries of Latin America and Africa at the age of global information warfare highlighting the problem of safeguarding of the information security. He emphasizes that it is necessary to keep in mind that ICT, when used effectively, are able to destroy existing orders, to overthrow political regimes that used to be rather stable and influential. That is why it seems very important not only to create favorable conditions for the development of the ICT sector in a country but also to think about how to defend national interests in the field of information.

Konstantin Pantserev traces the realization of this task in the reduction of the technological dependence from the United States and other Western countries. In his opinion it can be achieved by the realization of following measures: 1) the construction of regional data centers which would be responsible for the regional Internet-traffic and won't be under control of the US special services (such data centers can be constructed in Brazil and Argentina in Latin America and in South Africa, Nigeria and Kenya in Africa); 2) the construction of the alternative optic-fiber cable network which won't pass via the USA; 3) the elaboration of local software and hardware as well as the construction of local innovation centers which would be aimed on the realization of the demands of local citizenry.

Dr. Polunina contributed to the questions of cyber- and digital security. The development of ICT and the 4th industrial revolution that we are experiencing nowadays is about the convergence of the digital, the physical and the human. Digital is not about technologies, digital is about people. And it can be a very sharp problem for Latin America. The jobs market in Latin America sits at the intersection of the opportunity and concern. The opportunity is huge for Latin America to move closer to its economic vision of thriving entrepreneurship, innovation and inclusion connected with developing of ICT. The concern is that the Fourth Industrial Revolution will likely result in the loss of thousands of manual labour jobs as many traditional jobs are disappearing and being replaced by jobs that require a new set of digital skills – skills that the majority of the population lacks.

The discussion during the round table concentrated around important questions of the responsibility for the peace and war on the global scale, possible mistakes of global actors and the value of such mistakes, the importance of communication management in the attempts to solve or fuel social problems. All of the participants of the discussion however came to the common conclusion that Latin America is a sphere of psychological warfare and all powerful global actors are responsible for preventing further confrontation.

But it is important to emphasize that the level of studies of theory and practice of psychological warfare is clearly insufficient for the largest country in Latin America to defend its sovereignty against growing internal and external threats. One can mention only several papers on the theme of psychological warfare at this big conference on military studies: *The Military Sociology of the Psychological Warfare: A Sketch on the Participation of Janowitz* by Paulo Henrique Montini dos Santos Ribeiro (Academia da Força Aérea). *The Influence and Use of Social Media in Hybrid*

*Warfare: The Case of Syria* by Helmut Augusto Ramírez Braun (Exército do Chile); *Representations of Postmodern Warfare in Punk: “Digital Control and Man’s Obsolescence”* by Thiago Borne Ferreira (Universidade do Vale do Taquari - Univates). And the role, scope and methods of psychological warfare based on sophisticated technologies there seem practically *Terra Incognita* if to analyze not only the ENABED materials but Brazilian open sources of information as a whole. That is rather disturbing because the country and the whole world enter the period of long conflicts and bigger global threats that had ever been before inevitably accompanied by hot clashes on the battlefields of HT psychological warfare.



The informal communication after the round table *Battlefields, methods and instruments of warfare from the Russian perspective* held on 4<sup>th</sup> of September 2018 at the ENABED.



The participants of the round table *Battlefields, methods and instruments of warfare from the Russian perspective* held on 4<sup>th</sup> of September at the ENABED.

September 5<sup>th</sup> Prof. Evgeny Pashentsev met with Prof. Dr. Sebastiao Carlos Velasco e Cruz, the Director of the U.S. Studies Institute in his office and later took part in the preliminary defence of the MA Thesis “Neutrality in the Relations between Russia-Serbia (2007-2017)”. The thesis was submitted to the Program Post-graduate degree in International Relations at the State University Paulista “Júlio de Mesquita Filho”(Unesp), Universidade Estadual de Campinas (Unicamp) and the Pontifical University and the Cross.

During the trip of Russian researchers a new book *Strategic Communication in EU-Russia Relations: Tensions, Challenges and Opportunities* (edited by Evgeny Pashentsev and Erik Vlaeminck) was presented at different audiences. The book was published in April 2018 by the International Centre for Socio-Political Studies and Consulting (ICSPSC), with the academic support of the Institute of Contemporary International Studies and the Department of International Security at the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and European-Russian Communication Management Network (EURUCM Network), 2018. The contributors – five authors come from Russia and six from the EU member states (Belgium, France, Italy and Romania). There is a sharp deterioration of relations between Russia and the EU in recent years, most notably since the outbreak of the crisis in Ukraine. Despite the importance of the events in Ukraine (and their

different and rather often diametrically opposing interpretations), the contributors of the book try to show that the ongoing deterioration is complicated by a combination of *various factors*. There are serious grounds for imagining further degradation of EU-Russia relations up to the highly undesirable and dangerous point of collapse and the use of military means. However, at the same time, there are also opportunities to increase trust, and build over time friendly relations between states not only in Europe but throughout the world. Of course, this will require radical changes in different countries taking into account their national backgrounds, historical experience and shared realities and trends of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Strategic communication (here understood as the synchronization of deeds words and images of state, interstate and non-state actors on most important and long term issues) plays and will play an even more important role in these crucial processes. The authors attempt to identify these challenges in the context of the scientific and technological, social and geopolitical shifts in the international arena.

The Latin American countries because of the internal factors and rising pressure coming from Trump administration are really interested to widen their foreign ties in different regions of the world not least including the EU and Russia. And it is quite understandable that the relations between these big Eurasia actors are of great interest to the Latin American researchers. Among the papers at the ENABED. devoted to the security issues of Russia one could mention: *Russia and the Geopolitics of the Arctic: A Historical Perspective* by Pedro Mendes Martins (Escola de Comando e Estado-Maior do Exército), Peter Allemand Young Silva (Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro); *The Global Presence of Russia: Defence Policy, Assertiveness, and Strategic Imperatives* by Antonio Henrique Lucena Silva (Centro Universitário Estácio Recife), Heviane Santana de Lima (Faculdade Estácio do Recife); *War Hybrid Cybersecurity: An Analysis of the Conflict Russia-Ukraine (2014-2016) under the Perspective of Information Technology* –by Fernando Henry Casalunga (Universidade Federal De Pernambuco) and others. Even the new Brazilian textbook on geopolitics by Dr. Augusto W.M. Teixeira Júnior presented at ABED conference has a special paragraph devoted to the re-emergence of Russia in contemporary global politics.



Dr. Augusto W.M. Teixeira and Prof. Evgeny Pashentsev at the presentation of the book *Geopolítica*.  
The ENABED. 4<sup>th</sup> of September 2018.

Summing up the results of the trip, it should be recognized as successful and useful for both Russian researchers and their Latin American colleagues.

The patriotic and nationally oriented forces in the region are once again has a chance to advance in the leading countries of Latin America. Those forces are very diverse and have different potential for progressive development. The reforms finally failed not only because of the global economic crisis of 2008-2009, serious mistakes and external pressure, but because those programmes were in the framework of the existing global order of things inevitably collapsing now. Such a new model demands huge attention not only to the peculiarities of the “communal” Latin American experience but to the opportunities and risks of advanced technologies (robotization, AI etc.). The progressive circles simply can’t only repeat their **former** limited successes because the times changed radically and irreversibly. There are no resources for left populism anymore and any attempts of that kind can provoke the traditional extreme right bloody decisions, also finally doomed to death because of new realities. The problem of Latin America that the political mentality there from Right to Left is predominantly is of the past decades with an evident incapacity to generate new ideas and proceed with innovative decisions on strategic level. For the Right it is quite understandable and typical (in their vast majority they only want to keep in safety or redistribute among themselves their assets), but is a bit confusing to observe rather often “radical conservatism” in the circles sincerely aiming to transform the current social system in a progressive way. Such mode of mentality and political behavior one can meet of course not only in Latin America, innovative radicalism is much more in

need than before but less available because of its complexity, new paths are still in progress only but they and only they have a strategic perspective...

Hyperlinks to Pictures:

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/nyrfj52vp107f20/AADtbCH37gK0-XJ\\_toQUmIOYa?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/nyrfj52vp107f20/AADtbCH37gK0-XJ_toQUmIOYa?dl=0) – CARI

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2018

Prof. Darya Bazarkina, MA Diego Jiménez October 15, 2018