

ESCOP Newsletter

european society for cognitive psychology

Dear *ESCOP* member,

just a short newsflash this time. Our main concern right now is the organisation of the XIth conference. The call for papers has been very successful. Apart from the four invited speakers, we have received an offer of 9 symposia with about 50 contributions, and about 290 submissions for oral presentations and posters. Obviously we will have to make a selection and then find a way to squeeze it all in a three and a half day program. The result of this process is conveyed to you separately.

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Apart from this little piece of information, this newsletter does not report on the congress, but on other things that are going on in the society. So, take your time and look at what's up.

There is one point that concerns our full members, namely the election of the new advisory board. Read about the Committee's proposal for the new composition of the advisory board and join the election ballot.

André Vandierendonck
Secretary

MEMBER'S OPINIONS

A society like ours runs on the actions and the initiatives taken by members, be it in the committee, be it in another position. The Newsletter offers a forum for member's opinions on the society. Short texts expressing an opinion, or a suggestion about actions that the society should take are welcomed. You are invited to send your text to the secretary by e-mail: Andre.Vandierendonck@rug.ac.be.

COMPOSITION OF A NEW ADVISORY BOARD

The general assembly at the Jerusalem conference approved a change in the constitution with respect to the composition of the advisory board. The changed articles were published in the previous newsletter. Following up on this change, the Committee has worked out a proposal for the composition of the advisory board new style. The relevant article stipulates that the advisory board shall consist of minimally 6 and maximally 12 members that have been Committee members of the society.

The rationale behind the advisory board—which is an organ we must have because we are a Stichting under Dutch law—is that people with experience and commitment to the society provide their expertise for the good of the society. In this line of thinking, the Committee proposes that the board consists of the so-called “gang of five” who were in fact our founding “fathers” (sorry, Janet), the former presidents, secretaries and treasurers. The five founders are: Alan Baddeley (our first president), Paul Bertelson (former president), John Michon, Janet Jackson (our first secretary) and Wolfgang Prinz (our first treasurer). Other former presidents are Carlo Umiltà and Ino Flores d’Arcais. We cannot call upon another former secretary, Philip T. Smith, because he is still serving on the Committee as journal editor, but we call on the former treasurers Herbert Heuer and Claus Bundesen. In all, the Committee thus proposes 9 members for the advisory board.

The Committee discussed other possibilities as well. Over the years, several persons have proved their commitment to *ESC_oP* by serving as a Committee member. We would end up with a group which is definitely larger than 12, and so more or less arbitrary decisions would have to be made. The nine persons proposed all served in the function of founder, president, secretary or treasurer. All of them accepted to stand for the election and the Committee hopes to exploit their expertise.

Because the society is indebted immensely to this group of people, the Committee proposes them to the membership as a group. So for this time, we would like the full members to vote for or against this group of people.

How can you vote? For the sake of this election a special e-mail address has been set up, namely escop-ballot@expsy.rug.ac.be. You can send an e-mail message to this address containing in the body of the mail the simple sentence

Firstname Lastname approves the proposed advisory board

or

Firstname Lastname disapproves the proposed advisory board

If for some reason, your mail bounces, send the message to the secretary

Andre.Vandierendonck@rug.ac.be.

On behalf of the Committee, I sincerely hope, you do a small effort and express your vote.

BALANCE 1998

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Development of Financial Status in DEM			
31.12.1990	23.687		
31.12.1991	29.975	31.12.1992	47.826
31.12.1993	55.439	31.12.1994	75.150
31.12.1995	58.939	31.12.1996	78.591
31.12.1997	59.546	31.12.1998	37.602

A word of comment. The annual balance tends to be higher in the even than in the odd numbered years. This is a consequence of the fact that a large part of the members paid their fee for two years at once. This oscillation is bound to disappear because this way of paying is no longer encouraged. The drop in the years 1997 and 1998 is due to the summer school, to the sponsoring of some workshops and to a different method used by Psychology Press to exchange the journal fees and benefits since 1998.

The Secretary

SPONSORED ACTIVITIES IN 1999

Because the society had two consecutive expensive years (1997 and 1998) no announcement was made for sponsorship of activities. Nevertheless there was an old request by John Richardson to support the **7th European Workshop on Imagery and Cognition (EWIC)**. Because the strong links between EWIC and *ESCoP* and because also the previous EWIC in 1997 was sponsored, the Committee decided to grant DEM 2.000,- to this workshop.

Meanwhile, the Committee has been exploring the possibilities for organizing a summer school in 2000. There are no definitive plans yet, although some suggestions have been and have been explored. In this process, an initiative by the universities of Nijmegen (The Netherlands) and Leuven (Belgium) was in progress for a summer school on eye movements. This summer school will be held just before the European Conference on Eye Movements (ECEM). Because of the Committee's commitment to summer schools, the Committee granted DEM 2.000,- to this summer school. The purpose of this support is to give an extra financial support to *ESCoP* members who want to participate in this workshop. So, if you are young and interested in this summer school look out for the announcement. For more information, contact Professor Géry d'Ydewalle at KULeuven (Gery.DYdewalle@psy.kuleuven.ac.be) or consult the website <http://michotte.psy.kuleuven.ac.be/summerschool>.

An offer from Guilford Press

Guilford Publications Inc. offers *ESCoP* members a discount of 20% on a Guilford journal or newsletter of their choice. Information about Guilford publications can be found at the following website: <http://www.guilford.com>. If you order online, in order to receive the discount, you must enter "Dept. 1A" on the comments line of the online order form. The company draws our attention especially to the journals *Social Cognition* and *Journal of Social and Clinical Psychology*.

AN AWARD FOR EARLY CAREER ACHIEVEMENT

During his presidency, Ino Flores d'Arcais, proposed the initiative to have in each conference an invited address presented by a young European psychologist. The basic idea was promotion and support of researchers early in their career. This is not necessarily "young" of course. So, in 1995 Régine Kolinsky (Brussels) was the first to present the address and Axel Buchner (Trier) was the second in 1996 in Würzburg. Due to particular circumstances, there was no young psychologist address in Jerusalem, but in Ghent, Maria Brandimonte (Trieste) is the third person to be awarded with this invitation.

In its winter meeting, the Committee discussed this event which is becoming a tradition. The Committee members felt the necessity to come up with a better name and a better clarification of the status of the event. This discussion resulted in the agreement to grant an Award every two years to a bright European cognitive psychologist, early in his or her career and member of *ESC_oP*. The committee decided also to name the Award after one of the founding fathers of the society. Because there is already the Broadbent lecture, it was decided not take a person from the UK. So the Committee thought of Paul Bertelson, who—hesitantly—agreed.

From the next conference on (Edinburgh 2001), the **Paul Bertelson Award** will be granted. The Committee will define a procedure to select the possible candidates. The recipient of the award will be asked to present an invited address.

THE MAILING LIST

If you have any initiatives or interesting information you want to share with the other members of the society, you can simply mail it to

`escop-list@rug.ac.be`

and it is spread out to everyone who is subscribed to that list.

To subscribe yourself to this list, if you are not already, send e-mail to

`majordomo@rug.ac.be`

and place in the body of your mailing the following text:

`subscribe escop-list`

ESC_oP WEBSITE

Some time ago, Axel Cleeremans offered to produce a website for the society. Part of the website is ready now. Congratulations to Axel are in order, for he produced a website that is great according to esthetic as well as ergonomic criteria. The website's URL is:

`http://www.ulb.ac.be/assoc/escop/`

Please consult and send your comments either to Axel or to the secretary.

