

ESCP Newsletter

european society for cognitive psychology

Dear *ESCP* member,

we are approaching the end of 1999 and the over-exposed turn to 2000. It has been an excellent year for the society: the membership is steadily growing, some lost members are coming back, new opportunities are around and we had an enjoyable conference. For me it has been though. Combining the normal academic work with the *ESCP* secretariat and with the organisation of the conference was a hard job, but I am satisfied because these efforts paid off.

For the *ESCP* committee, new challenges are coming up. We are already looking forward to the possibility of organising a summer school in 2000. We are exploring proposals for conference

venues and we are thinking of the future of this society.

In this issue of the newsletter you find a comment on the conference by Johannes Engelkamp, the society's president. You also find reports on last year's activities as proposed in the business meeting. Further on, the newsletter contains comments on activities sponsored by the society in 1999 and a preliminary announcement of the next conference in Edinburgh in 2001. This newsletter brings you also some other small bits of information which are not detailed here.

André Vandierendonck
Secretary

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MEMBER'S ADDRESSES

Together with this newsletter you receive a print-out of your private record in our data-base. Please take your time to carefully check whether your data are correct and if necessary send us your corrected data either by e-mail (this avoids clerical errors on our part), by fax or by snail mail.

THE XITH CONFERENCE

Dear *ESC_oP* members,

This year's Eleventh Conference of our society was exciting. It was more than just a success. This holds true for several reasons.

1. The context of the conference was magnificent, Ghent presented itself from its best side with the historical sites under a blue September sky. The locality of the conference, a former monastery, created the atmosphere that fostered scientific communication.
2. The scientific quality of the contributions was high throughout. Interesting work was presented in a sophisticated manner. The key note papers were excellent.
3. The topics covered a wide range of subfields of cognitive psychology:
 - "Language psychology" attracted many contributions as usual. There were contributions to language perception as well as to language production. A special highlight in the field of language production was the perfect key note paper by Pim Levelt on lexical access in speech production.
 - "Attention and human performance" was also as usual a frequent topic. Task-switching and executive functions were timely and prominent topics. The latter one was also the topic of the key note paper by David Meyer and David Kieras on executive-process interactive control (EPIC).
 - "Memory" was better represented than at the last conference in Jerusalem. The contributions extended from short-term and working memory to long-term memory. This field was also highlighted by a stimulating key note presentation. Maria Brandimonte talked about prospective memory.
 - "Thinking and reasoning" was also stronger on this conference than on former conferences with a particular focus on reasoning under different aspects such as temporal, spatial, numerical. Numerical cognition was a new stimulating field at the congress. Not only was there a special symposium organized by Wim Fias and Marc Brysbaert, there was also a brilliant key note paper presented by Stanislas Dehaene on number processing.
 - "Perception and visual cognition" was represented, but this field could be stronger next time. Visual cognition was present at the conference, but somewhat distributed across different sessions—it was a somewhat embedded figure. However, it was there. Aspects of visual cognition were dealt with on the symposium of visuo-spatial working memory, on the session of attention, on the session and the symposium of visual attention, on the session of cognition, and of course on the session of visual perception. Moreover, object-processing and its relation to location processing was a theme in several contributions. What was lacking was contributions in the tradition of psychophysics. However, this may change in the future.
4. The congress organization was perfect.
 - The number of contributions was remarkably high. With more than 300 poster and paper contributions, this conference contrasted sharply with its forerunners and was

almost half the size of the Psychonomic Conference. This high interest provided the organizers with a challenge because they had not expected to receive such a large number of submissions. However, they coped in a creative manner by stretching the conference period and reducing the speaking time of oral presentations.

- The conference proceedings were available at the conference. They were edited by André Vandierendonck, Marc Brysbaert and Koen Van der Goten and published by *ESC_oP*/Academia Press, in Ghent, 1999. Those who did not attend the conference but are interested in receiving the proceedings can order them:

André Vandierendonck
 Department of Experimental Psychology
 University of Ghent
 Henry Dunantlaan 2
 B-9000 Gent, Belgium

- The conference was also proficiently organized in other respects. I will mention only two. The organizers succeeded in reducing cancellations to a minimum by setting up the final programme only after the participants had registered. Also, they put the conference dinner at the end of the conference on Saturday evening, so that no contributors were penalized with a smaller audience at their presentations the following morning.

I would like to express my personal thanks and the thanks of the society to André Vandierendonck who was the hub of the congress, to Marc Brysbaert who supported him admirably in all phases and particularly in organizing the scientific programme, to Marilou Vandierendonck, André's wife, who helped the organizers to a degree which went far beyond the usual and to the whole team. All of them did a great job.

Let me conclude by stressing that this conference testified to several things,

- that we are a living, active society and that the conference is an important part of it;
- that the mutual interest among European cognitive psychologists is increasing;
- that the level of scientific quality of European cognitive psychologists has become consistently high, and this holds true for all national groups.

Although we are a growing society—seven times as many colleagues joined the society as left it during the last 4 years—the morale of paying the membership fee is not the best—more than one hundred members have not paid their fees for 1998 or longer. Therefore, I want to ask you, please help us improve our record by paying your fee if you have not yet done so.

With my best wishes,

Johannes Engelkamp
 President

XI CONFERENCE SNAPSHOTS

A number of junior scientists of the Department of Experimental Psychology of the University of Ghent explored the conference through the eye of a digital camera. The result is a number of snapshots of participants, organisers and student helpers at the reception and during the coffee breaks. The collection is highly unrepresentative but looking at the photo's may bring back memories of the conference.

The collection is presented at the website of the conference,
<http://allserv.rug.ac.be/~avandi/escop.html>.

You can freely download and print the pictures for private use.

BUSINESS MEETING REPORT

The business meeting was held on Friday September 4, 1999 during the XI *ESC_oP* Conference. Johannes Engelkamp chaired the meeting and asked the treasurer, the secretary and the journal editor to present their reports. He thanked the conference organisers and announced a number of initiatives and topics the committee is working on.

Report of the treasurer

Joachim Hoffmann, treasurer, presented the balance and discussed the problem of non-paying members. Because the balance presented was a mid-year balance, it is not included here. In the next newsletter, the entire balance for 1999 will be published.

Report of the secretary

André Vandierendonck, secretary, reported the results of the ballot on the newly proposed advisory board. A rather small number of members voted all approving the composition of the new board. The composition of the new advisory board is: Alan Baddeley, Paul Bertelson, Claus Bundesen, Ino Flores d'Arcais, Herbert Heuer, Janet Jackson, John Michon, Wolfgang Prinz, and Carlo Umiltà.

Report of the editor

Philip T. Smith, the editor of *European Journal of Cognitive Psychology* presents a report on the developments in the society's flagship. You can read this report elsewhere in this Newsletter.

André Vandierendonck
Secretary

THE JOURNAL

THE EDITOR'S REPORT ON THE JOURNAL

Year	Statistics			
	Submissions	Accepted	Revise	Rejected
1996	65			
1997	45	17	11	12
1998	70	12	28	30
1999	39	(end of August)		

Special Issue. Tore Helstrup and Bob Logie have guest-edited a Special Issue on *Imagery in Working Memory and in Mental Discovery*, which has appeared (September 1999). Suggestions for a special issue in 2001 are welcome.

Prospects. This year saw a 29% increase in the number of pages per issue, which means the number of papers per issue and thus the number of papers likely to catch the attention of the readers, has increased. (It is now about 7 per issue).

The impact factor for *EJCP* is quite good (1.05): this compares favourably with some of our competitors (*Acta Psychologica*, 0.52; *Psychological Research*, 0.65; *Applied Cognitive Psychology*, 0.78), but we still have a long way to go to catch the leaders in the field (*Cognitive Psychology*, 3.52; *Cognition*, 2.97).

Psychology Press offers *ESC_oP* members a 30% discount on personal subscription to Psychology Press journals. (An announcement was included with the last journal issue. A.V.)

Submissions by country of origin		
Country	1997	1998
Australia	1	1
Belgium	8	6
Canada	1	0
Finland	0	1
France	2	12
Germany	7	4
Greece	0	1
Israel	4	1
Italy	3	8
Netherlands	1	3
Norway	0	2
Spain	1	5
Sweden	2	2
Switzerland	0	1
Taiwan	0	1
UK	12	20
USA	2	2
Yugoslavia	1	0

Philip T. Smith
Editor

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.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PUBLISHER

New Developments

The European Journal of Cognitive Psychology continues to increase both in circulation and in impact factor rankings. Psychology Press are implementing various new developments which we hope will continue to increase its visibility and reputation.

Online Access

Together with other journals published by Psychology Press, The European Journal of Cognitive Psychology can now be accessed electronically. Anyone using the web can visit the journal at: www.catchword.com/titles/09541446.htm

Visitors can see contents listings for issues from Volume 9, Issue 1 (1997) to the most recent issue. Any user can view the first page of each article free of charge. Full text searching across all journals held in the system is also possible, (including psychology journals from a variety of other publishers), and you can personalise and save your search parameters for future use.

If your library holds an institutional subscription to the journal, the library and all linked sites are entitled to free access to the full text of the journal. The librarian just needs to register as a user, via the web site, and full access will be enabled. Depending on the networking arrangements within your institution, free access to the full text of the journal will also be available to individuals.

Psychology Press hopes that by making the journal available electronically, new readers will become aware of the journal, read the articles published in it and consider submitting papers to it. As an *ESCP* member, you can help increase the visibility of the journal in three ways:

- Looking at and making use of the online journal yourself, and sending us feedback about how it could be improved.
- Checking whether your library has registered for free access to Psychology Press journals, and if not, encouraging them to do so.
- Mentioning the online journal to colleagues and students who are not members of *ESCP*.

Email Contents Alerting Service

As each issue of the European Journal of Cognitive Psychology goes to press, the contents list for the issue is posted to a listserv email service. Anyone interested in receiving a notice of what's forthcoming in the journal can register to receive an email containing the contents list free of charge. This service is also available for all other Psychology Press/Taylor & Francis journals. To register, go to the web site for the journal on: www.catchword.com/titles/09541446.htm

Again, you can help increase the visibility of the journal by encouraging colleagues who are not members of *ESCP* to use the free contents alerting service.

Web Page

Finally, please have a look at the Psychology Press web page for the journal and let us know what you think could be added or changed to make it more effective:

www.tandf.co.uk/journals/tf/09541446.html.

Rohays Perry
Psychology Press

OBITUARY: STEEN F. LARSEN (1944–1999)

It is with great sadness that we report the sudden and tragic death of our colleague Professor Steen Folke Larsen. Steen was well known, both personally and through his publications, to many members of *ESCP*. His work in the field of memory, especially autobiographic memory, brought him renown and respect throughout the international community of cognitive psychologists. Steen's wide network of colleagues and collaborators throughout the world, and his tireless efforts on behalf of Danish psychological research, made him a very important figure in the Danish academic and scientific scene. The quality of his research and the integrity of his scientific judgement were recognised by all who knew him, psychologists and non-psychologists alike. He had recently stepped down from being Head of the Institute of Psychology at the University of Aarhus, in order to devote his administrative efforts to his demanding work as a member of the Danish Research Council for the Humanities. Steen was also director of a major national strategic research program in cognitive psychology and cognitive neuroscience. This responsibility he approached with the unflagging energy, and determination to unite inclusiveness with rigour, which were the hallmarks of his own research and of his overall approach to psychological science. All of us who knew Steen as a departmental colleague remember and honour a teacher whose insight, breadth of knowledge, and deep understanding inspired generations of Aarhus students. We remember Steen, too, for his wit, his good humour, and his kindness. He lacked all traces of arrogance or self-aggrandizement. He knew the value of his work, but did not seek to establish that value at the expense of others. We have lost a scientist at the peak of his career. Steen Folke Larsen's friends and colleagues also pay tribute to a memorable and deeply missed human being.

Dorthe Berntsen
Pia Fromholt
Boje Katzenelson
Jens Mammen
Kim Plunkett
Henrik Poulsen
Chris Sinha

THE NEXT CONFERENCE: EDINBURGH 2001

The venue for the XIIth Conference is Edinburgh. Irving Biederman will present the Broadbent lecture and Alfonso Caramazza is a speaker invited by the local organisers. Below you find a copy of the poster that announced the Edinburgh Conference during the last *ESC_oP* meeting. Some of the details on the poster may change, but take note of the date.



SPONSORED ACTIVITIES: SUMMER SCHOOL

Organiser's report

Between 18 and 22 September, the former Franciscan monastery La Foresta in Leuven, Belgium was the venue for the International Summer School on Eye Movements, jointly organized by NICI (University of Nijmegen, The Netherlands) and the Laboratory of Experimental Psychology (University of Leuven, Belgium). The Summer School was sponsored by the Covenant Leuven-Nijmegen, by the European Society for Cognitive Psychology, and by three leading eye tracker manufacturers (Fourward Technologies, Skalar, and SMI).

Purpose of the Summer School was to bring together an international group of young researchers that are relatively new to the study of eye movements and to give them the opportunity to interact with and learn from experienced researchers. Specifically, we were aiming for students with 1-2 years of experience in eye movement work, or a strong intention to begin eye movement research to examine specific issues in their field of study.

Thanks to the generous support of our sponsors we could include 34 students from 11 different countries and research backgrounds ranging from psychology and neurophysiology to robot vision and virtual reality. They were offered a top-level program with lectures, poster presentations, exercises and panel discussions with some of the leading researchers studying eye movements or using eye movements as a tool to investigate motor neuron programming, the processes and neuronal substrates involved in object and scene recognition, reading, visual attention, and complex real-world task performance.

The major themes treated in the Summer School were

1. Modeling Saccade Properties and Eye-Head Interaction (John van Opstal, University of Nijmegen, The Netherlands);
2. Eye Tracking Methodology (Peter De Graef, University of Leuven, Belgium; Angélique Hendriks, University of Nijmegen, The Netherlands);
3. Neurophysiology of Oculomotor Behavior (Douglas Munoz, Queen's University, Canada);
4. Eye Movements and Pathology (Christopher Kennard, Imperial College School of Medicine, UK);
5. Reading (Keith Rayner, University of Massachusetts, USA);
6. Neurophysiology of Visual Perception (Carol Colby, Carnegie Mellon University, USA);
7. Object and Scene Perception (John Henderson, Michigan State University, USA);
8. Eye Movements in Complex Tasks (Mary Hayhoe, University of Rochester, USA).

Readers interested in a more details about the Summer School can consult the website at <http://www.psy.kuleuven.ac.be.summerschool>, or can contact the local organizers Peter.DeGraef@psy.kuleuven.ac.be or Karl.Verfaillie@psy.kuleuven.ac.be.

Peter De Graef
Karl Verfaillie
University of Leuven

Impressions of a participant

On a beautiful Saturday in September, a group of about thirty young researchers from all over the world, came together in what was once a Franciscan monastery in Vaalbeek, Leuven. They were there to learn from experienced researchers in the field about the study of eye movements.

One of the invited speakers, Heiner Deubel, could not make it but there was still enough of expertise around. Carol Colby and Douglas Munoz unravelled the neurophysiological mysteries of the oculomotor system while Christopher Kennard explained some of its dysfunctions. The characteristics of eye movements in complex tasks was very nicely illustrated by Mary Hayhoe. Keith Rayner and John Henderson spoke about the basic processes of eye movements in reading and scene perception, respectively. And finally, John van Opstal (a very entertaining speaker by the way) showed us his model of the saccade generator. This computer simulation was also available on computers at the summer school to be "played" with. Besides these specific lectures, there were also two more general ones about recording methodologies and data reduction and analysis. An attempt was made to integrate some of the knowledge from all these specific fields in a panel discussion on transsaccadic information integration.

Interaction with the audience was encouraged and participants got the chance to present some of their own work during a poster session. In between lectures, during coffee breaks and at lunch time, there was plenty of opportunity to have informal talks with the specialists present and discussions sometimes continued until late in the evening.

Finally, theory was put into practice during a visit to the laboratory of Leuven where several experiments with the Eye-link system and the Purkinje-image eyetracker were conducted. This trip was ended with a visit to the city centre and a nice social dinner. For some of the participants this was actually the beginning of the evening and one did not have to be an eye movement specialist to notice the sleep in some of the participants eyes on Wednesday morning...

After five days of broadening debate, each of the participants went his or her own way, i.e., home or to the ECEM-10 conference in Utrecht which started on September 23.

Mandy Ghyselinck
University of Ghent

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***ESC_oP* SUMMER SCHOOL ON LEARNING**

Joachim Hoffmann is preparing a summer school on Learning to be held in the summer of 2000. To that end Joachim submitted a proposal for funding at the Volkswagen Stiftung. You will hear more about it, as soon as the funding situation is clear and the concrete plans can be realised.

EDCBS

The “*European Diploma in Cognitive and Brain Sciences*” is organized by Werner Schneider, Wolfgang Prinz, Mañuel Carreiras and Jan Theeuwes. It is a European initiative that brings together PhD students and top researchers all over Europe, with the goal of promoting, fostering and developing European research within the areas of cognitive and brain sciences, by means of a summer school for young scientists.

The summer school consists of 8 modules (4 method modules and 4 ‘content’ modules) and will be held in 2000 and 2001 at the Hanse Institute of Advanced Study, Delmenhorst, Germany and at the Universidad de La Laguna, Tenerife, Spain. The summer school is intended for students who are working towards a PhD and who are in their first or second year of their PhD-training. Each student is required to attend all the modules.

The modules of this summer school are the following:

1. June 19 through July 1, 2000
Module 1: Visual attention
Module 2: Methods in animal research
2. October 9 through October 21, 2000
Module 3: Executive control
Module 4: Methods of Modelling
3. June 18 through June 30, 2001
Module 5: Language processing
Module 6: Methods of neuropsychological research
4. October 8 through October 20, 2001
Module 7: Cognitive aging
Module 8: Methods of brain imaging

The committee of $\mathcal{E}SC_o\mathcal{P}$ has decided to sponsor this initiative by granting the amount of Euro 2500 in 2000 and conditionally depending on the financial situation of the society, the same amount for 2001.

International Society of Political Psychology Conference

The twenty-third annual scientific meeting of the ISPP is held from July 1–4, 2000 in Seattle, Washington. More information can be found on the society’s website:
<http://ispp.org/ISPP/meet.html>.

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.

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`

**EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY
MEMBERSHIP PROPOSAL FORM**

LAST NAME
FIRST NAME(s) DATE OF BIRTH
TYPE OF MEMBER: <input type="checkbox"/> Full member <input type="checkbox"/> Associate member <input type="checkbox"/> Affiliate member

FULL CURRENT PROFESSIONAL ADDRESS: Telephone: Fax:
E-mail:

DEGREES	Year of Degree	University
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EXPERIENCE	Dates	Post
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CURRENT RESEARCH INTERESTS:
1. 4.
2. 5.
3. 6.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS:

PROPOSED BY (Name): (Signature)
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Please do not exceed the space indicated for each section. If necessary, list only selected publications indicating that the list is incomplete.