

Introduction from the President

Dear Members,

ESCOP 2007 in Marseille, the 15th Conference of ESCOP, fully lived up to the great expectations generated by previous conferences of the Society. Since the first open conference of ESCOP was held in Madrid in 1987, the number of participants has grown, and the scientific quality of the presentations has been steadily increasing. Today, the conferences of the European Society for Cognitive Psychology are the biggest and the most important conferences held in Europe in our field. ESCOP 2007 furthered this development. Jonathan Grainger and his team invested a lot of work in organizing and promoting the conference. As a result, 720 people attended the meeting, and the quality of the presentations was higher than ever before. We had 4 days full of interesting scientific presentations and enjoyable social interactions. Thanks to Jonathan and his crew!

At the Business Meeting held during the conference in Marseille, the proposal of the Executive Committee for a new constitution for ESCOP was approved. Most of the changes made to the old formulations are minor simplifications and uncontroversial updatings, but others are intended to strengthen the organization. In particular, to ensure that the President has solid experience in the way the Society is run, the rule that a two-year period as President is followed by a two-year period as Vice-President has been replaced by a rule that the two-year period as President is preceded by a two-year period as President-Elect.

According to both the old and the new constitution, the Committee, each year, can elect a few full members for the status of honorary member. This status can be granted to full members who have been officers of the Society and have contributed to the advancement of cognitive psychology in Europe. As announced at the conference, we have granted the status of honorary member to Asher Koriat and Wolfgang Prinz. Both Asher and Wolfgang have served on the Committee, Wolfgang as the first Treasurer of the Society. Both Asher and Wolfgang also have contributed very strongly to the advancement of cognitive psychology in Europe. Congratulations to Asher and Wolfgang!

As you will see, this Newsletter contains calls for the ESCOP Early Career Stimulus, the ESCOP Early Career Publication Award, ESCOP Activity Funding, and support for ESCOP Summer Schools. We hope to get many responses to these initiatives. Please consider them carefully.

Claus Bundesen

Report on ESCOP 2007 in Marseille



ESCOP 2007 in Marseille did its best to live up to the rather high standards set by Escop conference organizers in the past. It is obviously not up to the local organizers to decide whether or not we actually achieved that goal, but we can at least express our satisfaction with the way things turned out. After a hot and humid Wednesday afternoon (apologies for the heat in the “grand amphi”), the weather turned out to be very pleasant, thus definitely helping to make the outside coffee breaks and lunch program all work out fine.



720 people attended the conference, with 28 different countries represented. There were 245 oral presentations organized in five parallel sessions per day, and 421 poster presentations divided over three poster sessions. One great satisfaction was the general agreement that the scientific program was top quality, greatly helped by the excellent presentations from our invited speakers. The scientific committee expressly limited the number of oral presentations, and we believe that this turned out to be a good move, in spite of the deception that this might have caused to some authors. The downside was that we ended up with more posters than we could handle in the limited space available. Clearly, if this policy is to be pursued, then poster sessions need to be given the best possible conditions.



The conference ended with dinner on the Saturday night at the Palais du Pharo – a particularly beautiful location overlooking the old harbour of Marseille. During the pre-dinner drinks, two members of the local organizing committee and two members of Escop were very officially admitted as members in a local wine society - la confrérie des échansons du Roi René. If you happen to notice these individuals behaving strangely in any way, please immediately contact the Escop secretary!

We hope you enjoyed the conference, and your stay in Marseille. The road works in front of the railway station and the university are now almost complete – so your next visit to Marseille will be even better! Come back and visit us any time.

Jonathan Grainger



THE EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY

Over the last years, the European Journal of Cognitive Psychology is upward-bound. The impact factor is rising on average with 0.12 points per year, an increase which outperforms competitors as the rank position of the journal within the domain of experimental psychology journals is rising on average 2 positions per year. Also the number of submissions is increasing from 62 in 2003 to 95 last year. This year, already 85 submissions were logged for 2007 (October 31).

At the end of June, all papers submitted for consideration by the present editorial team since January 2005 were tabulated. Of the 238 papers, 24% resulted in an acceptance after some revisions to the paper; 42% resulted in a rejection, either immediately (38%) or after a revision (4%). The delay between definitive acceptance of the manuscripts and their publication hovers around one year, which is too long. An agreement was reached with the publisher to increase the number of journal pages from 2008 on. With an extra 128 pages, the total number of pages per annum will then amount 1088. This should help to decrease the average publication delay.

Special issues. The journal continues to publish special issues, because there is a continuing need to increase the journal's international impact and visibility. In 2007, a special issue was published on '*Bridging cognitive science and education*' with Lisa Son and myself as guest editors (288 pp.). Another thematic issue on '*Verbalizing visual memories*' under guest editorship of Toby Lloyd-Jones, Maria Brandimonte and Karl-Heinz Bäuml will appear as the second issue of 2008. Until the end of December 2007, the call for a special issue on '*Aging, Cognition and Neuroscience*' with Soledad Ballesteros, Patrick Lemaire and Lars-Göran Nilsson as guest editors remains open for submissions.

Editorial Board. Klaus Rothermund of Jena University has accepted to join the editorial board to handle manuscripts addressing emotional and social aspects of cognition. This extension of the board was really needed to cope with the diversity of the

papers submitted to the journal. Note, however, that this does not imply a broadening of the scope of the journal. Furthermore, Nelson Cowan is stepping down from the board but will continue to handle revisions of papers he handled initially. Andrew Conway of Princeton University has accepted to take Nelson's place.

Brief reports. From now on, the journal will also publish short empirical or methodological reports of no more than 4000 words, with a maximum of 20 references and four tables or figures. Manuscripts fitting the scope of the journal and meeting these criteria will be handled on a faster editorial track. The possible action outcomes are: 'accept', 'accept with minor revision' or 'reject'. Papers requiring more thorough revision involving a second round of reviewing will be rejected. The authors will have to state with the initial submission whether they submit the paper as a 'short article'. Once accepted, these papers will be published faster.

Future special issue. Because production of a special issue has to be planned and prepared well in advance, we are looking now for proposals for a new thematic issue to be published late 2009 or early 2010. Although one proposal has already been made, the call for proposals remains open. Proposals for a thematic issue can be sent to the editor (by e-mail: Andre.Vandierendonck@UGent.be) until January 31, 2008. Proposals should motivate the importance and timeliness of the theme, the names and affiliations of the guest editors, a short description of the topic and a list of authors engaged to contribute to the issue.

André Vandierendonck
Editor

Early Career Publication Award goes to Mante Nieuwland

The ESCoP Early Career Publication Award for the best publication in 2006 by a PhD student goes to Mante Nieuwland for his paper: Nieuwland, M.S., & Van Berkum, J.J.A. (2006). When peanuts fall in love: N400 evidence for the power of discourse. *Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience*, 18, 1098-1111. This paper reports findings that reveal that discourse context can immediately overrule local lexical-semantic violations, and therefore suggest that language comprehension does not involve an initially context-free semantic analysis.

[Mante](#) did this work while he was a PhD student at the University of Amsterdam. He is now a postdoc researcher at Tufts University and the Martinos Center for Biomedical Imaging (Harvard/MIT) in the United States.

CALLS FOR ESCoP AWARDS & FUNDING

ESCoP Early Career Stimulus

The ESCoP Early Career Stimulus consists of grants that will fund European graduate students to initiate research that is currently in early development. The program will fund up to three research projects for a maximum amount of €1000 each. The award will preferentially be given to students belonging to disadvantaged groups and countries. PhD students from all areas of cognitive psychology are invited to apply. Interested applicants should send a two-page presentation of the project including financial request, a support

letter by an ESCoP full member and the candidate's CV to the ESCoP secretary, Dr. Diane Pecher, pecher@fsw.eur.nl. Applications should be sent before May 1st 2008. A jury of three members nominated by the ESCoP Committee will decide before July 31st.

ESCoP Early Career Publication Award

The ESCoP Early Career Publication Award (€1000) is offered to an associate member of ESCoP who was the first author of an outstanding publication in 2007. Applicants must be doctoral students or researchers in their first postdoctoral year. The author should send a copy of the publication and his/her CV to the ESCoP Secretary, Dr. Diane Pecher, pecher@fsw.eur.nl. Applications should be sent before May 1st, 2008. A jury of three members nominated by the ESCoP Committee will decide before July 31st.

ESCoP Summer School

ESCoP is offering partial funding for summer schools with a maximum of €20.000. The Committee aims at organizing a bi-annual summer school, in the even-numbered years. Potential organizers are invited to send a proposal to the ESCoP Secretary, Dr. Diane Pecher, pecher@fsw.eur.nl. Proposals for the 2008 summer school should be sent before December 31st, 2007. The ESCoP Committee will select the most appropriate candidate.

ESCoP Activity Funding

ESCoP is offering partial funding for activities such as meetings, colloquia, etc. that are organized by ESCoP members, for an amount of up to €2.000. Proposals should be sent to the ESCoP Secretary, Dr. Diane Pecher, pecher@fsw.eur.nl. The deadline for proposals is May 1st 2008.