

NEWSLETTER

The European Society for Cognitive Psychology



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Introduction from the President

Axel Cleeremans

As I write these lines, my term as president of ESCoP is coming to a close (it will end on December 31st, 2010). It feels like I will be leaving the committee only moments after I stepped in, but I am delighted to let you know that I will leave it in very capable hands as we complete the transition to the new committee structure set in motion a few years ago. Our next president, as you know, will be Nuria Sebastian. Nuria will be joined by Cristina Cacciari as president-elect, and by Stephen Monsell and Valérie Camos as newly elected committee members. Michal Wierzchon is our new secretary, replacing Diane Pecher, who nevertheless stays on as committee member. Finally, Claus Bundesen, our last vice-president, will leave the committee with me. Let us thus extend a warm welcome to the incoming officers of the Society, and thank Claus Bundesen, Iring Koch, Diane Pecher, and Cristina Cacciari for their excellent service (a service that will continue in other forms for Diane and Cristina).

The biggest item on our agenda is the preparation of our next meeting in San Sebastian, organized under the stewardship of Manuel Carreiras (see page 3). The meeting promises to be an outstanding edition of our conference. On this occasion, we will have the pleasure of hosting Pr. Randi Martin as our Broadbent lecturer. The committee has also worked, under the supervision of Nachson Meiran, on selecting the recipient of the Bertelson Award. We will, however, keep the outcome under wraps until the meeting itself! Finally, a word of apology to our members of the Jewish faith. The San Sebastian meeting will take place between September 29th and October 2nd, a period that overlaps with *Rosh Hashanah*, the Jewish New Year. When considering possibilities, the committee engaged in extensive discussion about whether a different moment was possible. Eventually, this turned out not to be the case. However, we have decided to extend the meeting until Sunday evening so as to make it

possible for all to take part to most of the meeting. Particular attention will also be dedicated to scheduling accepted presentations and posters in such a way as to minimize the overlap with Rosh Hashana. Nevertheless, the committee is aware of this recurring scheduling conflict and will consider the possibility of moving the regular meeting time, which is now around September, to a different period of the year so as to avoid future possible overlaps altogether.

The other substantial piece of news that I here wish to convey to the membership is a change in the name of our Journal. Starting with the first issue of 2011, the journal will drop the adjective "European" from its name and will thus simply be called the "Journal of Cognitive Psychology". This change is meant to reflect the fact that the journal has (and always has had) worldwide scope in its readership, contributors, and editorial board membership. Editorial policy, spearheaded by our new editor Janet Van Hell, will remain unchanged.

This year, the committee has also been exceptionally active in supporting many different training schools and workshops. It also has awarded its annual *Early Career Stimulus* and its *Early Career Publication Award*. Congratulations to the winners (see page 8)! Read about these and the many other ESCoP Activities in the rest of our redesigned newsletter (thanks Michal!).

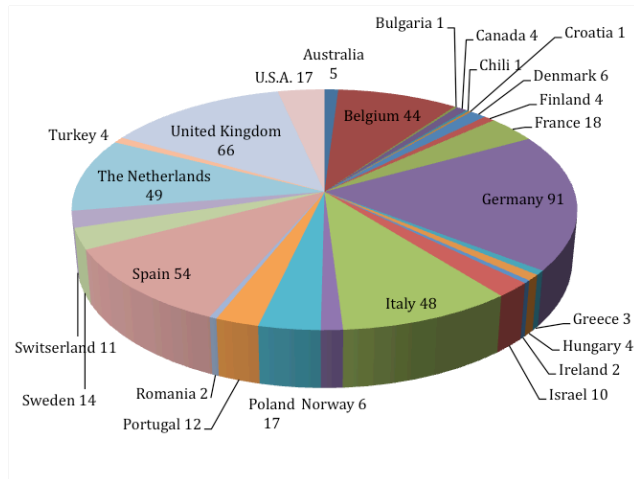
Psychology is a science that looks forward. ESCoP, thriving as it is today and with your help, is well positioned to continue to shape our discipline.

In closing, let me say that it has been a tremendous joy and a real honor for me to serve the Society as its president. I look forward to meeting you all again in San Sebastian, and wish you the very best for your future endeavors. Remember that ESCoP only exists because of its members!

News from the Treasurer

Andrea Kiesel

The society now has 491 members from a wide range of countries (see Figure). It is encouraging that the number of members reached such a high level and that researcher from so many different countries are attracted by ESCOP.



The society is in excellent financial shape. In 2009, the receipts (64.917) exceeded the expenses (48.471), and the total balance amounted to 144.386.

In this year, the receipts will be less than the expenses due to the bi-annual payment of membership fees. Currently, the society has spent 9.224 for the Journal and 6.300 for working costs-meetings. To support activities of our members, we spent 20.000 for the ESCOP summer school. Further, we supported the symposium Attention and Performance, the symposium in honor of Andre Vandierendonck, and the workshop on language production with 2.000 each. Because of the high number of excellent applications for the ESCOP Early Career Stimulus Award, we granted more awards than usual and spent 5.750 to young researchers to support their research activities.

News from the Editor

Janet van Hell

At the end of 2009, André Vandierendonck's editorial term came to an end, and Janet van Hell assumed the role of editor-in-chief for *EJCP* as of January 2010. I would like to thank André Vandierendonck and his team of associate editors for their dedicated and outstanding tenure on the journal. I am very pleased that an enthusiastic group of outstanding researchers have agreed to serve as associate editors and to invest their time and expertise to the continuing success of *EJCP*. This new team has handled all incoming manuscripts from January 2009 onwards, and includes: Teresa Bajo (University of Granada, Spain), Linden Ball (Lancaster University, UK), Valérie Camos (Université de Bourgogne, France), Andrew Conway (Princeton University, USA), Addie Johnson (University of Groningen, Netherlands), Mei-Ching Lien (Oregon State University, USA), Timo Mäntylä (Umeå University, Sweden), Manuel Perea (Universitat de València, Spain), Maxwell Roberts (University of Essex, UK), and Klaus Rothermund (Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena, Germany). This team's expertise covers the major fields in Cognitive Psychology. In selecting the best manuscripts for publication, we are assisted by a top-notch Editorial Board.

The number of papers submitted to *EJCP* has increased substantially in the past few years, from 100 first submissions in 2007 to 166 in 2008 and 165 in 2009. As of September 15 2010, the number of new manuscripts submitted

to *EJCP* was 111. This high number of submissions implies that *EJCP* can be highly selective and publish only papers of the highest quality. This selectivity is reflected in the rejection rate. Of the new manuscripts submitted in 2010 that received an editorial decision in that same year, 61% were rejected, 24% received a decision of 'major revision', and 15% were 'accepted pending revision'. These data indicate that the publication process is highly selective and that *EJCP* has the potential to become an outlet with high visibility in the field. *EJCP*'s impact factor is currently 1.237 (2009), which is slightly higher than the 2008 impact factor.

EJCP continues to publish brief articles and full articles. Brief articles were introduced to enable fast dissemination of novel and theoretically important research findings. In 2009, *EJCP* has increased the number of issues from 6 to 8 (going from 1088 to 1280 journal pages). A new development to further decrease the backlog is to reformat *EJCP*'s page size to a bigger page size, in double-column format, in 2011.

The present team of editors is committed to a short turnaround time while maintaining a high quality review process. Reviewers are requested to submit their review within three weeks, and the editors seek to reach a decision within one week after the reviews are returned. In their first year in action (2009), the average turnaround time of first submissions was 49 weekdays. The turnaround time in 2010 is even faster: new manuscripts submitted in 2010 that received a decision before September 15, received this decision, on average, 40 days after first submission.

In August 2010 (issue 5), *EJCP* published a special issue entitled *Modeling word recognition and reading aloud*, edited by Johannes Ziegler, Jonathan Grainger, and Marc Brysbaert. For 2011, we planned a special issue guest-edited by Philip Allen, Mei-Ching Lien, and Eric Ruthruff entitled *Cognition and emotion: Views from neuroscience and behavioral perspectives*. This special issue opens with an overview paper on neural systems involved in emotional / cognitive integration, followed by papers that cover individual domains of cognitive psychology (attention, perception, working memory, episodic long-term memory, and decision making) and how they are influenced by emotional processes. In 2012 a special issue entitled *Information-processing, affect, and psychopathology: A festschrift for Michael W. Eysenck* will be guest-edited by Nazanin Derakshan and Ernst Koster. This special issue will celebrate and honor the many contributions to the study of cognition in psychopathology of Michael Eysenck, who was the first editor of *EJCP*.

Last but not least: As of January 2011, the *European Journal of Cognitive Psychology* will change its name to *Journal of Cognitive Psychology*. This name change reflects the long-standing fact that the journal's readership, contributions, and editorial board are not restricted to Europe, but engage scholars from all continents. The new name *Journal of Cognitive Psychology* better reflects the journal's true global and international scope beyond European borders. The aims, scientific scope and editorial policy of the journal remain unchanged. Its 'scientific home' remains the European Society for Cognitive Psychology, so the journal will maintain its European roots. The *Journal of Cognitive Psychology* will continue to publish cutting-edge research and review papers and our international editorial team welcomes contributions from researchers around the world. We believe that the new name *Journal of Cognitive Psychology* signifies and strengthens the journal's aim to provide a truly international forum for high quality empirical and theoretical papers on all areas of Cognitive Psychology.

In closing, we would like to encourage our colleagues to submit their best work to the (*European*) *Journal of Cognitive Psychology*. Our goal is like yours: publish high quality papers and advance the field of cognitive psychology.

XVII ESCoP Conference

Donostia - San Sebastián, Spain, September, 29th - October, 2nd, 2011

News from the Organizing Committee

We are pleased to announce that the organization of the XVIIth ESCoP conference, to be held in Donostia-San Sebastián, Spain, from the 29th of September to the 2nd of October 2011, is making good progress.

The web page for the conference is under construction <http://www.bcbi.eu/events/escop2011/>

Donostia-San Sebastián is one of the capital cities of the Basque Country, and is located in the North coast of Spain. The city is very accessible from all the major European cities by plane.

The conference will be in Kursaal Congress Centre, an amazing architectural work by Rafael Moneo facing the Bay of Biscay, located in the city center, close to the beach and the Old Town.

We confirm the presence of three high profile invited speakers (Uta Frith, Cathy Price and Robert Zatorre). In addition there will be two more keynote speakers (the Broadbent lecture and the Bertelson award) to be named by the ESCOP committee

In December 1st we will launch the invitation to submit symposia covering key areas in cognitive psychology (deadline February 15th). We hope you are one of the brave researchers proposing one symposium. In March 1st we will launch the call for submitting regular papers and posters (Deadline April 30th). We hope to offer a final program covering a panorama of the European cognitive psychology at its very best.

Detailed information about the conference, including invited speakers, the calls for submitting symposia, papers and posters, registration, the venue, transportation and hotels will be updated regularly in the webpage

As usual, registration fees for this conference will include coffee breaks and lunches on the Friday, Saturday, and Sunday plus an opening reception on the Thursday. There will be a separate charge for conference dinner on the Saturday evening.

Looking forward to seeing you in Donostia-San Sebastián.

The local organizing committee



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

Symposia deadline: February 15th, 2011

Notification of symposia acceptance: March 1st, 2011

Abstract deadline: April 30th, 2011

Notification of abstract acceptance: May 30th, 2011

Early registration deadline: April 30th, 2011

Online registration deadline: July 30th, 2011

Conference dates: September 29th - October 2nd, 2011

Conference Reports

ESCoP Summer School on Computational and Mathematical Modeling of Cognition

Report from the organizers

Mallnitz, Austria, is a small village of some 1000 souls nestled at the end of a Carinthian valley, with nothing but a railway tunnel connecting the village to the northern parts of Austria. For nearly two weeks in July, some 45 cognitive scientists—9 instructors and 35 participants—converged onto the town for a summer school on “computational and mathematical modeling of cognition”, thus temporarily creating a community with the world’s highest per capita share of cognitive scientists (5%). The School was held at a charming hotel whose owners went out of their way to make us feel welcome, with an opening BBQ on the first night—to accompany a high-quality poster session during which all participants reported their current research interests—and a banquet dinner on the last night (complete with a chocolate fountain).

In between feasts, the syllabus was tightly packed, and participants were kept busy working on their individualized projects till late at night. The first three days focused on basic issues in modeling, such as the nature of explanations, what decisions must be made to turn a verbal theory into a computational model, and how to estimate parameters and compare models. The lectures on those three days were given by Simon Farrell, Klaus Oberauer, and Stephan Lewandowsky. Gordon Brown added a hands-on component to those days by alternating between lectures and practical exercises in Matlab—this seemed a particularly neat way of covering the material. Based on the quality of exercises submitted after the first day, participants made enormous progress during the very limited time available to acquire basic Matlab skills.

The three days of basics were followed by more specialized lectures on learning models of decision making (Joerg Rieskamp), connectionist models (Bob French), cognitive architectures (Lael Schooler), Bayesian modeling (E.-J. Wagenmakers), and models of response time (Joachim Vandekerckhove). The final weekend was dedicated to participants finalizing their projects and presenting them (in 7 minutes!) to other participants and instructors. The quality of projects was generally terrific, and left little doubt that participants acquired a lot of new skills during the 12 days of the summer school.

All in all, the team of instructors had a great time and felt the experience was rewarding and enjoyable. I certainly learned a lot from the other instructors and look forward to more of the same in the future. On behalf of all the instructors and participants, I also gratefully acknowledge the support received from ESCoP, our major sponsor, without which this summer school would not have been possible. And a big “thank-you” from me to all the other instructors, without whom the summer school also would not have been possible. A special mention must go to Klaus Oberauer who handled all the local organizational arrangements; a tremendous workload and a great job, Klaus!

Stephan Lewandowsky, on behalf of all instructors (Klaus Oberauer, Simon Farrell, Gordon Brown, Bob French, E. J. Wagenmakers, Lael Schooler, Joerg Rieskamp, Joachim Vandekerckhove)

Report from participants

In July 2010 I was fortunate to be given the opportunity to participate in the Summer School in Mathematical and Computational Cognitive Modelling in Mallnitz, Austria. The course lived up to expectations, providing students with the unique opportunity to interact and learn from world-class experts in the field. Students were provided a thorough series of theoretical lectures, and, crucially, hands-on practical practice at implementing models of cognition across a wide range of psychological paradigms. The School had a genuine atmosphere of learning and collaboration amongst both students and instructors. It is my view that the students that attended the School have been provided an excellent set of resources for their future research endeavours.

-Shayne Loft

The quaint village of Mallnitz, located at 1200 m in the middle of the Austrian Alps, may seem an unlikely place to talk about cognitive and mathematical modeling. Too great is the temptation to let yourself be taken by the stunning surroundings of waterfalls and snow-covered mountain tops. But the organizers of the ESCoP Summer School in Cognitive Modeling, Stephen Lewandowsky, Steve Farrell, and Klaus Oberauer put up an event that could easily rival all that. They had invited a set of top notch modelers in cognitive science (in addition to themselves, there were Gordon Brown, Eric Waagenmakers, Joachim Vandekerckhove, Lael Schooler, Jörg Rieskamp, and Bob French) to talk about a wide range of issues in modeling, such as model selection, cognitive architectures, connectionist modeling, reinforcement models, memory models, and Bayesian modeling. The daily schedule was organized as an effective mix of excellent conceptual and theoretical lectures, hands-on computing exercises, and work on individual research projects that kept participants working away for 11 hours (almost) every of the 10 days of the workshop. Although the background knowledge of the 35 participants varied considerably (ranging from Masters students, to predoctoral and postdoctoral levels), the format of the workshop was flexible enough to allow everyone to tune in to one’s own interests and level of expertise. Especially noteworthy was that most of the lecturers were around most days most of the time, and were happy to be hassled with technical and theoretical discussions, whether over coffee during the day or over a beer after dinner. Last but not least the impromptu salsa lessons and the private hotel zoo added to the stimulating program and made the summer school a very memorable event.

-Thorsten Pachur

Conference Reports

12th European Workshop on Imagery and Cognition

Report from the organizers

The 12th European Workshop on Imagery and Cognition (EWIC 2010) was held in Finland, from June 16 to 19, 2010. The workshop and the accommodation were arranged at the Majvik Conference and Congress Hotel, 25 kilometres from the centre of Helsinki. We had more than 100 participants, whereof about 60 from outside Finland. There were over 20 participants from Italy, and nearly 10 participants each from France, the Netherlands, Germany and the United Kingdom. The rest of the participants came from Cyprus, Japan, USA, Norway and Switzerland.

The core topics covered by the 35 oral presentations and 45 posters of EWIC 2010 were *Visual imagery and cognition*; *Visual working memory*; *Attention and binding in working memory*; *Motor and action imagery*; and *Spatial representations and frames of reference*.

Applied issues in imagery and cognition research were well-represented with three sessions: *Mental practice and motor learning*; *Imagery and complex cognitive tasks*; and *Navigation and way finding*. In addition to eight oral sessions, we had two sessions for posters.

The 12th EWIC began with a satellite symposium on *Safety in Professional Traffic*. The main emphasis of the symposium was on driver cognition, traffic control, and associated factors that influence traffic safety, such as increasingly complex technologies and prior sleep and alertness. The keynote lecture of the symposium was *Driving by the seat of your pants! A multisensory approach to capturing driver attention* by Charles Spence (Oxford University).

Charles Spence also gave one of the EWIC keynote lectures: *“Attention and temporal perception”* concerning several sense modalities. He told us, for instance, that touch is “sticky” and compared to other senses it is hard to shift attention to or from

touch. Edward K. Vogel (University of Oregon) gave a keynote lecture on *“Individual differences in attentional control over primary and secondary memory”*. One of the findings was that individuals with low working memory capacity are slow to recover from attentional capture; on the other hand they can learn and recall well when they are not over-loaded by irrelevant stimuli or other interference. The third keynote was from Finland. Kimmo Alho’s (University of Helsinki) talk *“Brain networks of voluntary and involuntary auditory attention”* introduced us the role of several brain areas in initiating and shifting attention by voluntary attention and in shifting attention involuntary to distracting auditory events.

The participants seemed to enjoy the facilities that Majvik and Finland offered. As there were no parallel sessions and the participants were staying at the conference site, we had a lot of time for discussions. Reception at the Helsinki University Main Building, the EWIC cruise, and the sauna and barbecue night also provided good opportunities to share knowledge and ideas between participants. The Finnish summer with 19 hours of daylight in Helsinki helped lengthen the discussions beyond the official programme. The organisers – the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health and the University of Helsinki – want to thank the keynotes, the members of the scientific and organising committees and all the participants for your great contribution to EWIC 2010. The next EWIC will be organised in 2012 in Bochum, Germany, by Boris Suchan.

More information at www.helsinki.fi/ewic2010.

Virpi Kalakoski



Research Report

The structure of working memory and the predictive valences of its components in reading comprehension at primary school children

by Rosana Stan,

2009 Early Career Stimulus recipient

Studies involving a great number of subjects and individually administered instruments need time and financial support. In 2009, The ESCoP Early Career Stimulus Award gave me the opportunity to extend two of my doctoral studies to a number of 200 children aged between 9 and 12, the money being used to pay the testing sessions. Winning this award encouraged me to attend The 2nd Conference on Cognitive Sciences in Dubrovnik in May 2010. Also, the financing offered by ESCoP Early Career Stimulus Award gave me the opportunity to organize a workshop for the students in Psychology, in April 2010, on the involvement of WM in the academic performance and intervention possibilities.

The relevance of the first study is an empirical one in a controversial field of the cognitive psychology – the structure of the working memory. I tested the fractionated WM model (Baddeley, 1999) with the processing function of the central executive supported by the independent storage function of the phonological loop and visual-spatial sketchpad (Gathercole, S., Pickering, S., Ambridge, B. & Merikle, P.M., 1996) and the unitary model of WM identified as central executive in Baddeley's model with a capacity differently explained as inhibition efficacy, as controlled attention or as task shifting efficacy (Andrade, J., 2001).

The comparison between the main indicators of the parsimony – adjusted measures indicates a fractionated organizational structure of the WM in which the central executive is separated by the short term retaining processes. Although the parsimony indicators are good also for the unitary model, the study shows that at the ages of 9-12, WM has a fractionated structure.

The second study has an impact on the educational practice. Knowing the best predictors for learning activities, we can select the tasks with a high construct and predictive validity to assess the school population. During the comprehension of a text, the reader is continuously challenged to change the content of memory (shifting), to maintain the relevant information (STM) and eliminate the irrelevant information (inhibition). Because memory content is continuously changed to meet the online requests, another process, updating, is involved. I highlighted the executive function (inhibition, shifting or updating) (Miyake, A., Friedman, N.P., Emerson, M.J., Witzki, A.H. and Howerter, A., 2000), that can explain the best performance in the reading comprehension task, considering also the short term storage mechanisms and the processing speed.

The coefficients of the semi partial correlation show that the updating capacity has the greatest contribution in explaining the reading comprehension variance.

The results of the study suggest the necessity of developing the updating capacity of the children with difficulties in reading comprehension. The theoretical contribution consists of analyzing the processes wholly and not isolated, since the executive functioning is a multidimensional process.

Research Report

Theory of mind and moral judgments in patients with brain injuries

by Agnieszka Pluta,

2009 Early Career Stimulus recipient

Introduction

Human's unique ability for reasoning about mental states, known as Theory of Mind (ToM), can help to explain the unique character of human social interaction. ToM has become the subject of examination of many scientists of different specializations. Twenty years of research suggests that ToM is acquired during development (from infancy through middle childhood) and might be impaired in clinical disorders such as autism and schizophrenia (Apperly et al., 2005). Brain imagining studies have started to explore the neuronal correlates of ToM, suggesting that ToM involves a network of regions within medial prefrontal cortex, superior temporal sulcus, temporo-parietal junction, precuneus (Ruby, Decety, 2003; Saxe, Kanwisher, 2003). A number of studies have also highlighted the contribution of right hemisphere in reasoning about mental states of others.

Recent studies started to consider ability to infer mental states as one of the factors underlying moral judgments. The reason for that is the fact that in many cases, moral judgments depend not only on the outcome of an action, but also on the agent's beliefs and intentions (Young, Saxe, 2009). The brain imagining study conducted by Young and Saxe (2009) has showed that when participants have to use belief information (intentions, knowledge) to make moral judgments, greater neural activation is found in temporal-parietal junction. This part of the brain is believed to play domain-specific role in ToM. However, moral reasoning is a complex cognitive process which recruits also other functions, such as abstract reasoning, cognitive control, emotional responding, emotion regulations (Koenigs et al., 2007). Also studies on clinical populations supported these suggestions, revealing association between impaired emotional processes and distorted moral judgments. None of the existing studies however has attempted to examine relation between moral judgments and theory of mind in population of patients with brain damage (Koenigs et al., 2007).

The main goal of the project is to address this gap. The project is a part of Ph. D research in which relation between theory of mind and other cognitive functions in patients with brain impairments is examined.

The proposed study aims to investigate the following questions:

1. Do people with brain impairments make different moral judgements than healthy people?
2. What is the relation between moral judgments and theory of mind in patients with brain lesions?
3. What other cognitive processes (prosody, understanding metaphors, reasoning) are necessary for the generation of normal moral judgments and understanding someone else's intentions and beliefs.

To examine research questions, the following tasks and neuropsychological test were used:

1. Theory of mind tasks which require participants to infer mental states to understand complex social interactions e.g. lies, faux pas;
2. Moral dilemmas, which were prepared under the supervision of Rebecca Saxe and Liane Young. The tasks sought to investigate patterns in commonsense moral thoughts, and therefore were divided into 3 categories:
 - a) Personal versus non-personal utilitarian moral task e.g. trolley dilemmas versus bridge dilemma;
 - b) Unintentional harm versus intentional harm;
 - c) Intentional harm with a negative outcome versus intentional harm with a positive outcome.

After reading each story participants indicated on the scale how morally wrong the given action was.

3. Embedded sentence tasks which examine patients ability to understand complex grammar sentences;
4. The Right Hemisphere Language Battery (Bryan, 1995; Lojek, Skotnicka, Bryan, 2000) which is comprised of eight tests: Inferential Meaning, Lexical Semantic, Written Metaphor, Picture Metaphor, Humour, Emotional Prosody, Linguistic Prosody and Discourse Analysis. RHLB test measure extralinguistic processing.

Subjects

24 patients (P) with brain lesion (10 females, 14 males) were recruited at the rehabilitation hospital. All P participants had suffered a single damage as documented by CT or MRI scan. The patients were between 38 and 69 years old, with a mean of 57 years (SD=10) and had on average 11 years of education. The control group comprised of 13 healthy control participants (8 females and 4 males). The subjects were between 47 and 61 years old and had on average 12 years of education. All participants were right-handed and native speakers of Polish. There were no significant differences in age ($t = 1.2, p = 0.23$) and educational level ($t = 0.24, p = 0.2$) between 2 groups.

Results

Student t-test were performed on two groups' (PG and HC) performance in neuropsychological evaluation of right hemisphere functions (Right Hemisphere Language Battery) and clinical trials. The results showed that PG participants performed significantly worse than HC participants in all theory of mind tasks ($t = -4.4, p < 0.001$) and RHLB examinations ($p < 0.001$).

Evaluation of the grammar skills revealed that although patients conducted this task significantly worse than healthy participants ($p < 0.001$), everyone was able to perform it above chance.

Interestingly, analysis of moral judgment revealed that patients' responses differed significantly in the following scenarios: accidental harm ($t = 3.6, p < 0.001$), intentional harm ($t = 0.37, p < 0.05$); non-emotional utilitarian dilemma ($t = 2.1, p < 0.05$), attempted harm with positive outcome ($t = -3, p < 0.05$). Patients' moral judgement appeared to be more outcome-based rather than belief-based. This might be accounted for the fact that they revealed ToM deficit. Surprisingly, in case of the intentional

harm, patients judged protagonist action as less morally wrong than healthy controls. Several subjects explained their decision as follows: "the victim of the poisoning should not have eaten the dinner without asking what is inside". This result is also in line with ToM hypothesis, as the patients tended to weight intentions of the culprit less. The analysis of patients' explanation in non-emotional utilitarian dilemmas revealed that they focused more on the outcome (one person died) rather than on the fact that the protagonist intended to save 5 people.

These results show that ToM deficit reduced but did not eliminate the role of beliefs in moral judgments. Participants continued to judge accidental harms as less unmoral than intentional and attempted harm what reflects the significant role of understanding beliefs in moral judgments.

Correlation between RHLB score and TOM within patients' group score ($r = 0.51, p < 0.05$) may be interpreted as supporting the hypothesis that ToM impairment results from deficit in pragmatic aspects of language such as irony, metaphor or indirect requests. This assumption needs further investigation due to heterogeneity of the patients' group.

Consequently, this study provides possible evidence for causal link between ToM deficit and moral judgement.

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ESCoP News

Committee

ESCoP Committee Election

The Executive Committee members election has been completed.

Valerie Camos (*Université de Fribourg, Switzerland*) and **Stephen Monsell** (*University of Exeter, UK*) has been elected as a new members of the Committee.

The election turnout have reached 49.73%.

Awards

ESCoP Early Career Stimulus

The ESCoP Early Career Stimulus goes to Spain and Poland. The award was received by:

Maria Dimitropoulou (*Basque Center on Cognition, Brain & Language and University of La Laguna, Spain*)

Project: How do visual similarity and abstract identity influence letter recognition at early stages of reading acquisition?

Anna Marzecová (*Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland*)

Project: The efficiency of conflict processing and temporal orienting in bilinguals

Katarzyna Patro (*Warsaw University, Poland*)

Project: Flexibility of the non-verbal SNARC effect in adults

ESCoP Early Career Publication Award

ESCOP Early Career Publication Award 2009 goes to **Sascha Topolinski** (*University of Würzburg*)!

In the article *Immediate Truth - Temporal Contiguity Between a Cognitive Problem and its Solution Determines Experienced Veracity of the Solution* (by Sascha Topolinski and Rolf Reber, *Cognition*, 114, 2010, 117-122), authors provide surprising but apparently solid evidence that a possible solution to a cognitive problem is more likely to be considered to be correct the closer in time the possible solution is presented to the problem. For example, in one experiment, the onset times of the appearance of proposed solutions to anagrams were varied (50 ms vs. 150 ms), and the results showed that for both correct and incorrect proposed solutions, faster appearing solutions were more frequently judged as being correct, although participants were not aware of the difference in onset delay.

Conferences & Workshops

Workshop on Crossmodal Action

1st - 2nd October 2010
RWTH Aachen University

While interacting with our environment, we are constantly involved in performing multiple tasks at a time, often involving different input and output modalities (i.e., crossmodal action). The talks of this workshop will cover several aspects of crossmodal action, ranging from its cognitive principles and neurophysiological underpinnings to applied perspectives.

List of confirmed speakers: Asher Cohen, Glenn Wylie, Christine Stelzel, Eric Schumacher, Denise Stephan, Eliot Hazeltine, Lynn Huestegge, Paul Atchley

Place: RWTH Aachen University (Building „Super C“, Room 531/532)

Contact: lynn.huestegge@psych.rwth-aachen.de (www.psych.rwth-aachen.de) Tel.: 0049-241-8093993

Anticipatory Behavior in Adaptive Learning Systems: Spatial Representations and Dynamic Interactions

21st - 22nd February 2011
ZiF (Center for Interdisciplinary Research), Bielefeld

Sensorimotor interactions are a crucial component for the development of useful spatial representations and their dynamic, goal-oriented interaction. This interdisciplinary workshop will focus on “Spatial Representations and Dynamic Interactions”, that is, on how internal spatial representations develop (strongly based on sensorimotor, predictive structures) and how these representations are effectively utilized to interact with the environment and to learn more elaborate, dynamic interaction routines.

List of speakers (in alphabetical order): Tamim Asfour, Keith Downing, Peter König, Cristina Massen, Ruud Meulenbroek, Chris Miall, Helge Ritter, Thomas Schack, Wolfram Schenck, Gregor Schöner, Christine Sutter, Jun Tani, Claes von Hofsten

More informations about the workshop are available on the webpage:

<http://www.coboslab.psychologic.uni-wuerzburg.de/abials/>

ESCoP News

Conferences & Workshops

International conference on Language and Recursion

14th - 16th March 2011

Mons University, Cognitive Sciences Lab

You are cordially invited to attend the international conference on "Language and Recursion" at Mons University, which is organized on March 14th, 15th and 16th 2011. Because the number of participants is limited, registration is required!

Please send your request for attendance to francis.lowenthal@umons.ac.be

More information concerning the aims of the conference, the titles of the keynote lectures, the structure of the program, registration forms and submission forms for proposed communications are available on the conference web page: www.umons.ac.be/langrec2011

Invited speakers (in alphabetical order): Axel Cleeremans, Michael Corballis, Zoltan Dienes, Daniel Dubois, Tecumseh W. Fitch, Sandiway Fong, Philippe Fortemps, Robert Freidin, Angela Friederici, Judit Gervain, Jean-Remy Hochman, Laurent Lefebvre, Alban Lemasson, Stephen C. Levinson, Francis Lowenthal, Philippe Paquier, Roger Vergauwen

Other News

web based resource for working memory research

hosted by Lancaster University

ESCoP members may be interested in a web-based resource for working memory research hosted by Lancaster University. Researchers with an interest in the topic are welcome to register with the system, which enables them to describe both their in-press and published articles, as well as contribute to discussions, information about research resources etc. A monthly digest of in-press papers is distributed by email to all those registered with the forum. More details can be found at the following URL:

www.workingmemory.lancs.ac.uk

Center for Language Science Visiting Professor/ Sabbatical Fellowship in the Neuroscience of Language

The Penn State Center for Language Science

(CLS; <http://cls.psu.edu/>) is seeking a visiting scholar with a distinguished record of research in the neuroscience of language, particularly researchers who use fMRI methods, to spend 2-3 months in residence during the academic year.

A stipend of up to \$45,000 will be provided, depending on the duration of the visit. The visiting professor will be expected to interact with CLS faculty and students and the larger Penn State neuroscience community (see <http://www.imaging.psu.edu/people> and <http://www.huck.psu.edu/people>) and to play a key role in developing fMRI expertise among students and faculty and creating potential collaborative projects. We anticipate making a visiting scholar appointment for each of the next five years. For the academic year 2010-2011, the visiting scholar may be in residence any time between January-August 2011.

Interested applicants should send their inquiries and applications to languageneuro@gmail.com. The application should include a current CV, a set of representative and recent papers, the period of availability, and a statement indicating interest in contributing to the development of language neuroscience community at Penn State.

Consideration of applications will begin on November 15, 2010 and applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Women and members of under-represented groups are especially encouraged to apply. Penn State is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity and the diversity of its workforce.

The European Society for Cognitive Psychology

Calls for Awards and Funding

ESCoP Early Career Stimulus

deadline: Dec, 1st 2010

The ESCoP Early Career Stimulus is a grant of €1000 aimed at supporting European graduate students. Multiple such grants will be awarded each year to support the following career development activities:

- 1 specific research projects (e.g., completing an experiment)
- 2 active participation to conferences or workshops
- 3 short-term visits to another lab in a different country

The grants will preferentially (but not exclusively) be awarded to students from Eastern European countries. PhD students from all areas of cognitive psychology are invited to apply.

Interested applicants should send a two-page presentation of their project in .pdf format. The document should contain the following:

- 1 a short scientific description of the project
- 2 an itemized budget indicating clearly how the money will be spent
- 3 a support letter by an ESCoP full member
- 4 the applicant's CV

Materials should be sent to the ESCoP secretary, Michal Wierzchon.

ESCoP Early Career Publication Award

deadline: May, 1st 2011

The ESCoP Early Career Publication Award (1000 Euro) is offered to a member of ESCoP who was the first author of their best article accepted for publication in 2010. The article must have been accepted for publication while the applicant was a PhD student or within a year after the date on which the applicant received his or her PhD. The author should send a copy of the publication, the date of acceptance, and the date on which they got their PhD (if applicable) to the ESCoP Secretary, Michal Wierzchon. A jury of three members nominated by the ESCoP Committee will decide before July 31st 2011. Only one submission per person will be considered.

ESCoP Summer School

deadline: Dec, 1st 2011

ESCoP is offering partial funding for summer schools with a maximum of 20,000 Euro. 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, Michal Wierzchon. 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 2000 Euro. Proposals should be sent by email to the ESCoP Secretary, [Dr Michal Wierzchon](#). The committee will take a maximum of two months from the date of submission to evaluate the proposal and communicate the final decision.

Proposals should not exceed 1500 words and should specify:

- 1 Place and Date of activity
- 2 Organisers
- 3 Topic of the activity, including relevance for ESCoP
- 4 Program, including names of speakers
- 5 Intended audience (number of people, students or senior researchers, from which field)
- 6 Detailed budget

ESCOP NEWSLETTER

Newsletter of the
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Cognitive Psychology

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