

## News From the President

Dear Colleagues,

There is important news. First some news concerning the elections for committee membership and presidency of ESCoP. Axel Cleeremans has been elected as the next president of the European Society for Cognitive Psychology without rivals. Axel Cleeremans becomes president when I step down to become vice-president on January 1, 2009. Furthermore, Nuria Sebastian has been elected as president-elect without rivals, and Diane Pecher, Nachshon Meiran, and Andrea Kiesel have been elected as ordinary members of the committee without rivals. Diane Pecher has been our secretary for a number of years but has not previously stood for election. Nuria Sebastian, Nachshon Meiran, and Andrea Kiesel enter the committee on January 1, 2009. In agreement with our new constitution, Nuria Sebastian will be president-elect for a 2-year period followed by a 2-year period as president.

In addition, we have had other elections and made other appointments. First, Janet van Hell has been appointed editor-elect of the European Journal of Cognitive Psychology. Janet van Hell becomes editor-in-chief when André Vandierendonck steps down on January 1, 2010. Second, Annette Karmiloff-Smith has been appointed Broadbent lecturer at the conference of the European Society for Cognitive Psychology to be held in Krakow, September 2-5, 2009. Simon Farrell has received the Bertelson award and shall give the Bertelson lecture at the same conference. Finally, Richard Tunney has been elected local officer for the Society in the UK.

We have received two applications for activity funding: one from Boicho Kokinov for the Annual Summer School in Cognitive Science held in Sofia, June 30-July 19, 2008, and one from Rolf Zwaan, Katinka Dijkstra, Diane Pecher, and Anique de Bruin for a workshop, "Embodied and Situated Language Processing", to be held in Rotterdam, June 28-29, 2009. Both arrangements have been supported by granting each one a total of 2000 euros (our standard size of grants).

More recently we have received 12 submissions for the Early Career Award and two applications for the Early Career Stimulus. The submissions for the Early Career Award have been evaluated by a committee formed by Geoffrey Underwood (Chair) and Teresa Bajo. The award was won by Zara Bergström. The applications for the Early Career Stimulus are being evaluated by a committee formed by Axel Cleeremans (Chair) and Markus Knauff.

Finally, the ESCOP summer school on the neuroscience of attention organized by Ana B. Vivas and Bernhard Hommel in Greece has been a great success. You can read more about this later in the Newsletter.

Claus Bundesen  
President of ESCOP

**News from the Journal**

**Special issues.** A call is open for a special issue on *Modeling Word Recognition And Reading Aloud* edited by Jo Ziegler, Jonathan Grainger and Marc Brysbaert. The deadline for submissions is September 30. If you cannot meet this deadline but are considering a submission you can contact the editors. Papers can be submitted in the usual way by e-mail to [reviews@psypress.co.uk](mailto:reviews@psypress.co.uk).

The special issue on *Ageing, Cognition and Neuroscience* edited by Soledad Ballesteros, Patrick Lemaire and Lars-Göran Nilsson is now in production and will be published as one of the first issues of 2009.

**Brief articles.** As announced earlier, from January 2009 on, we also consider brief articles which are empirical or methodological papers (not theoretical ones) of up to 4000 words with maximally 20 references and 4 tables or figures. A word count should be included on the title page. Reviewing is restricted to one single pass; after the first pass, three outcomes are possible: accept, minor revision or reject.

**Submissions.** The number of submissions is increasing; we expect an increase of 30-40% in comparison to 2007. Almost a quarter of the submissions are brief articles.

**Page increase.** Because the publication lag (duration between acceptance and publication in the journal) is on average almost a year, it has been decided to have another page increase in 2009. The increase of 17.5% will result in 8 issues per year of 160 pages each (total of 1280 instead of 1088). This should help to decrease the publication lag, but due to the increasing number of submissions, this may turn out to be a null operation.

**Impact.** The ISI impact factor has dropped slightly from 1.691 to 1.384. The journal is now ranked 39/72 coming from 34/71. The best way to counter this trend is for authors sending their good papers to the journal.

André Vandierendonck  
Editor

### **Bertelson Award 2008 goes to Simon Farrell**

Every two years an outstanding young scientist receives the Paul Bertelson Award for making a significant contribution to European Cognitive Psychology. In response to our call in the previous Newsletter we received excellent nominations. A committee consisting of Cecare Cornoldi, John Henderson, and Mark Landsdale rated each candidate on four criteria: The extent of the candidate's outstanding contribution, the candidate's general scientific qualification, the range of the candidate's contribution, and the extent of the candidate's international interactions.

#### *Comments on Simon Farrell from the Bertelson Award Committee:*

Simon Farrell worked on his PhD between 1998-2001 (University of Western Australia), and his research concerns a range of topics including serial order effects in short-term memory, categorization in monkeys, and more recently, sequential effects in saccadic eye movements. He was a Postdoctoral Research Fellow with Roger Ratcliff (Northwestern University, USA) during 2001-2003, and he has collaborated with the

previous recipient of the 2006 Bertelson Award, Eric-Jan Wagenmakers. Since then he has been a member of the lecturing staff at Bristol, where he has won 4 research grants from national bodies. Farrell has 17 publications in top experimental psychology journals (he is senior author on 9 of them).

One of his notable achievements is the development of a new computational model of memory for serial order, the serial-order-in-a-box (SOB) model (S. Farrell & S. Lewandowsky (2002), An endogenous distributed model of ordering in serial recall. *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*, 9, 59-79). This model has generated much experimental work that yielded substantial support for it (e.g., S. Farrell (2006), Mixed-list phonological similarity effects in delayed serial recall. *Journal of Memory and Language*, 55, 587-600). The model has been well received in the memory modelling community.

A second important contribution to cognitive psychology is Simon's work on 1/f noise (e.g., S. Farrell, E.-J. Wagenmakers, & R. Ratcliff (2006), 1/f noise in human cognition: Is it ubiquitous, and what does it mean? *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*, 13, 737-741). The observation of 1/f noise in series of reaction times has been argued to demonstrate self-organized criticality, and this link has been used to question the very fundamentals of contemporary cognitive psychology. Simon Farrell's modelling work has shown that there are alternative explanations for 1/f noise, which are compatible with contemporary models in cognitive psychology, such as the diffusion model.

More information about his research and publications can be found on <http://seis.bris.ac.uk/~pssaf>

Simon Farrell will receive his award at the next ESCoP meeting in Krakow. On this occasion he will give a lecture. He will also write an article that will be published in the European Journal of Cognitive Psychology.

### **Early Career Publication Award goes to Zara Bergström**

The ESCoP Early Career Publication Award for the best publication accepted in 2007 by a PhD student goes to Zara Bergström for her paper:

Bergström, Z. M., Velmans, M., de Fockert, J., & Richardson-Klavehn, A. (2007). ERP evidence for successful voluntary avoidance of conscious recollection. *Brain Research*, 1151, 119-133.

*Comments on Zara Bergström's submission, from the Early Career Award Committee:*

The Committee reviewed papers submitted by 12 candidates, and were impressed by all of them. We eventually decided in favour of a paper reporting a study of the voluntary avoidance of conscious recollection that used an ERP technique submitted by Zara Bergström and her colleagues at Goldsmiths College London.

Their procedure involved separating "recollect" and "avoid-recollecting" trials on the basis of previous learning success, and this was associated with temporal and topographic dissociations between early ERP effects of a conscious recollection strategy (maximal between 200 and 300 ms after stimulus presentation and independent of learning status), and a later learning-specific ERP effect (maximal between 500 and 800

ms after presentation). The later effects gained a larger late left parietal positivity that indicates conscious recollection, and the results provide firm evidence that conscious recollection of information can be voluntarily avoided on an item-specific basis. The experiment establishes a direct link between voluntary recollection and the left parietal episodic effect by demonstrating that the effect is not generated automatically. This is an interesting and important demonstration of the use of an ERP measure of episodic recollection that adds to what we can understand by behavioural and subjective report measures alone.

### **ESCoP 2008 Summer School on Neuroscience of Attention**

The school took place from the 15<sup>th</sup> of June until the 28<sup>th</sup> of June in Ouranoupoli (Greece). Ouranoupoli is a beautiful sea village on the border of the holy land of Mount Athos. Thirty PhD students from a varied cultural and scientific background attended the school. They were from the following countries; Netherlands, UK, Italy, Belgium, Greece, Finland, France, Denmark, Portugal, Poland, Switzerland, Israel, and Spain. Unfortunately, many good students had to be left out since there were more than 65 applications. This unexpected high number of applications suggests that there is a need for this kind of event to be organized more frequently. The program included a multidisciplinary approach to attention (e.g., computational models, neuropsychology, neuroimaging, behavioural studies etc.), and the speakers were leading figures in the field, very approachable, and good teachers as well. This was important to create the right learning environment.

The summer school was a great educational experience for students and speakers, since there were many opportunities for scientific (e.g., group work on projects, podium discussions, etc.) and social interactions. These kinds of interactions often do not take place in other scientific events such as conferences. The mixture of students from across Europe enriched the school and enabled extremely vibrant sharing of culture and experience (academic and non-academic). It was very positive that students from less favored countries from East Europe such as Poland and Greece were able to participate. This can be more easily achieved if schools are organized in these countries. In this sense the ESCoP summer school helped to promote research and networking of young researchers across Europe, and cultural interexchange.

The organizing committee,  
Ana B. Vivas & Bernhard Hommel

The ESCoP summer school gave me the opportunity to attend the lectures of recognised and well qualified scientists so I learned key new topics in the field of attention. It was a very stimulating experience, since the speakers were very approachable and we had the opportunity to discuss research ideas and our PhDs results with them. It also allowed us to establish future working connections that are so crucial for research in Europe.

It was also great that the students were from so many different cultural and scientific backgrounds. I was able to discuss my work with them and exchange ideas, and even develop friendships with students from different universities in Europe. This is crucial for me since I come from a country with limited research in this field. Furthermore, the group work on research projects facilitated critical thinking, collaboration and helped us to bind ideas of different fields of attention together. The summer school was a valuable experience for me in terms of learning and thinking more critically.

The organisation of the summer school was excellent in terms of invited speakers and accommodation. Also, the fact that the summer school took place in Greece was great. All together, an unforgettable experience!

Fenia Kalogeropoulou  
City College, International Faculty of the University of Sheffield  
Thessaloniki, Greece

I have participated in the ESCoP summer school 2008 as a PhD-student, and I think it was a tremendous experience!

The scientific program covered a large amount of the relevant topics within the field, and several highly respected researchers gave lectures at the summer school. Since the number of participants at the summer school was fairly restricted, all students had a good opportunity to discuss specific problems and topics with the lecturers – an opportunity which students otherwise only rarely encounter. Furthermore the lecturers each spent at least two days at the summer school, leaving room for more thorough discussions and reflections. All in all the lecturers' two-day-stay and the limited amount of participants provided an excellent basis for creating international scientific relations with more experienced researchers.

Furthermore the restricted selection of the participants reassured a high scientific level amongst the students, who came from various European countries. This fact facilitated the creation of scientific networks across different countries within Europe, and was of great inspiration for my own current project.

In relation to the creation of new networks and collaboration opportunities the social aspects of the summer school proved of great worth. The common dinners, evenings at the beach and strolls in the nearby area proved an invaluable chance to have more informal discussions about e.g. the career as a PhD student as well as comparing the different University structures around Europe.

I truly appreciate all the work behind the summer school, and hope it won't be the last time ESCoP hosts a summer school! I think all the participants have learned a lot, and I look forward to meeting my fellow participants at conferences as well as collaborating with them in the future.

Maria Nordfang  
University of Copenhagen

## **ESCoP Museum**

ESCoP has come to an age where memories about the beginnings of the society are starting to fade away and where the sources of information about how it all started are becoming inaccessible. To me this became dramatically clear when I learned about the untimely death of our first secretary, Janet Jackson, during the preparation for the Leiden meeting. Sadly, we are suddenly no longer able to ask her how things were, where the society went and whether this is good or bad, and more.

To create an easily accessible collective memory, the executive committee decided to implement the ESCoP Museum, a website devoted to the history of the society. I'm happy that we were able to recruit George van Hal and Pascal Haazebroek, two Ph.D. students from Leiden University who combine scientific with technical abilities, to take the lead in building up the website.

Please have a look at [museum.escop.nl](http://museum.escop.nl). The site currently features video interviews with 'Gang of Five' member John Michon, a written history and some images. In the near future, we'll include video interviews with other 'Gang of Five' members, expand on the written history and add more images, so that ESCoP's rich twenty year history will be catalogued in one place. Please support our work by sending any historical item (program books, posters) or anecdote that you can find or recall. And please feel free to send suggestions.

Bernhard Hommel

## **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 a number of 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 a detailed budget, a support letter by an ESCoP full member and the candidate's CV to the ESCoP secretary, Dr. Diane Pecher. Applications should be sent before May 1<sup>st</sup> 2009. A jury of three members nominated by the ESCoP Committee will decide before July 31<sup>st</sup> 2009.

### **ESCoP Early Career Publication Award**

The ESCoP Early Career Publication Award (€1000) is offered to a member of ESCoP who was the first author of an outstanding article accepted for publication in 2008. 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, Dr. Diane Pecher. Applications should be sent before May 1<sup>st</sup> 2009. A jury of three members nominated by

the ESCoP Committee will decide before July 31<sup>st</sup> 2009. Only one submission per person will be considered.

### **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](mailto:pecher@fsw.eur.nl). Proposals for the 2010 summer school should be sent before December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009. 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, including a detailed budget, should be sent to the ESCoP Secretary, Dr. Diane Pecher, [pecher@fsw.eur.nl](mailto:pecher@fsw.eur.nl). The deadline for proposals is November 25th 2008.