

# escop Newsletter

european society for cognitive psychology

<http://www.escop.org>

Newsletter 05. Number 1

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Membership proposal form	available on the web for completion!

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## From the President

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Dear ESCOP members,

This is the first time that I contact all of you as President. Cesare Cornoldi completed his term at the end of 2004, and when I succeeded him I found the Society in very good health. I would like to express the Society's gratitude to Cesare for his efforts toward strengthening the Society. Fortunately, Cesare will still give his valuable contribution for a further two years as Vice-president of the Society.

The European Society for Cognitive Psychology has become larger and better over the years, involved in an increasing number of high-quality activities. Now the Society is highly active not only in organizing the plenary conferences, but also in sponsoring workshops, symposia and summer schools. As the President for the next two years, I want to express my commitment to maintain these activities and, where possible, to improve the number and quality of them.

Over the years, the Society has also undergone a number of changes, aimed at having a stronger and more efficient organization, and at getting closer to its members. Regarding this last goal, it is my belief that establishing and maintaining a network of local officers is an important vehicle to further open the Society to its members, an opportunity to hear the voices of the different countries represented in the Society. A good example of the usefulness of this network is the information that local officers have provided about the situation of Cognitive

Psychology in their respective countries. The responses to a questionnaire sent out to them by Cesare and Patrick Bonin (as reported in this newsletter) reflect that there is much to do to increase the visibility of ESCoP in many European countries. We need to make a special effort to attract and support researchers from countries that are underrepresented in the society and that, in many cases, find it hard to get support from their local research institutions. My own experience in Spain tells me that an important vehicle to strengthen research is to provide young researchers with the opportunity to initiate contacts and research projects that may lead to the formation of strong research groups and to long-term cooperation on research.

As the responses of the local officers indicate, summer schools are important in establishing these initial contacts. Although ESCoP has a tradition at organising summer schools, we have not been successful at establishing a regular program for them. The main problem is that these events are expensive and the Society cannot fully support their financial costs. In the last committee meeting we set as one of our aims to find external (and possibly stable) ways of securing financial support. With this purpose, we are presently contacting European institutions and foundations that might be willing to support this type of activity.

In the mean time, we have two Summer Schools in progress. The first will be held in Erice (Sicily) next July, on the topic of “Neuroscience of Number Processing”. Carlo Umiltà has organized this school in cooperation with an EU network. Twenty-eight young participants have already been selected and the scientific program is already planned. I am positive that it will be a great success. The second Summer School is scheduled to take place in Bubión-Granada (Spain) from June 11 to June 24, 2006. Angel Fernández, Cesare Cornoldi and myself have agreed to collaborate in organizing it. The purpose of this Summer School is to bring together young European researchers and leading scientists in the field of human memory. We hope that this School would also attract many young European researchers.

In addition, at the last committee meeting, we decided to start two new programs for young researchers (you can find details later). The first is addressed at PhD students, especially from disadvantaged groups and countries, with the aim of encouraging and helping them to develop new research projects. The second program is directed toward providing recognition and visibility to the research done by young members of the society (doctoral students or researchers in their first postdoctoral year). We expect that these new two programs interest many young European researchers and encourage them to become members of the Society. We also expect that these initiatives have an impact in the quantity and quality of the cognitive research conducted by our younger members.

We are also making progress on another suggestion by the local officers. Many of their responses point to the need for better communication within the cognitive community through newsletters and web resources. At the moment we have included a section in our web page for jobs and other important announcements, and we are studying the possibility of opening a scientifically oriented forum where research questions can be discussed. Your suggestions regarding the web page and/or newsletters are welcome.

We should all be very pleased that ESCoP would be involved in many scientific activities in this and the upcoming years. Obviously, the most important event will be the bi-annual Conference that will be held in August in Leiden. Our committee met in Leiden last January and had the opportunity to visit the city and the conference venue. We were all greatly impressed by both the beauty of the city and by the work that the local organisers have done to make the meeting a success. At the moment there is every indication that the meeting will be greatly enjoyable for scientific, cultural and social reasons. The Conference program looks very attractive, with the main talks given by leading scientists, a series of interesting symposia, and many individual talks and posters. As you probably have noticed from looking at the conference web page, we will not have the usual Bertelson’s Lecture. Fortunately there is a happy reason for this: Kim Graham, the holder of the Paul Bertelson award, is expected to deliver her baby just around the time of the conference. On behalf of the Society, I want to

congratulate her for both her pregnancy and the award, and I also want to wish her all the best. Kim has an impressive scientific career, and we will still have the opportunity to learn about her work because the committee and Andre Vandierendonck (our new EJCP Editor) decided to invite her to write an article for our journal. This kind of invitation will be made extensive to future winners of the Bertelson award

I am also pleased to announce that, associated with the ESCoP Conference in Leiden, there will be the II Meeting of European Women in Cognitive Science. More details about this meeting can be found in the announcement section of the newsletter. It is my belief that the Society should echo some of the relevant political and social changes that are taking place in Europe. In this sense, I think that we should make especial efforts to incorporate members from the newly associated EU countries, and also that we should support every attempt to help women to pursue their scientific careers within the field. I hope that this meeting will help to understand the mechanisms related to the advancement of women in academia and to specify possible ways to overcome specific problems.

Two more events will be partially supported by ESCoP: the 12th International Summer School in Cognitive Science, to be held in Sofia (Bulgaria; July 25-August 13, 2005), and the 3rd European Workshop in Working Memory, to be held in Genova (Italy; June 7th till 9th, 2006). The committee has also received initial details from Jonathan Grainger regarding the organisation of 2007 ESCoP Conference, to be held in Marseille (France). The proposal looks excellent, and we are positive that the local organising committee would do a great job.

In the newsletter you will also find information regarding our Journal. Claus Bundensen completed his term and Andre recently took over this position. We have to thank Claus for the high quality of his work for the Journal. He is responsible for the greater influence that ECJP has achieved in the last years. Also, I want to welcome Andre as the new Editor of ECJP. His editorial experience and his proven commitment to the Society make him perfect for the position. I am positive that thanks to his work our Journal is going to achieve even higher standards.

You can find other information regarding membership and activities in other sections of the newsletter. I sincerely hope that you find it informative and useful. I am looking forward to see most of you in Leiden.

With my best wishes

Teresa Bajo  
President

# 15<sup>th</sup> ESCoP Conference in Leiden 2005

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## **A short note from the organizing committee of the Leiden meeting**

We are very happy to report that we have received about 570 submissions, and everyone will be able to present! There will be 19 symposia and 332 oral presentations in total, the rest will be posters. All ESCOP members who wanted to present an oral presentation will be able to do so, there are only a few non-members who preferred an oral presentation but will be moved to poster sessions. We will send out confirmations in a few days, so that you can complete your travel plans. Please make sure to book hotel rooms (or camping spaces, why not?) as soon as possible!!! We are looking forward seeing you in Leiden; that will be fun!

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## On the European Journal of Cognitive Psychology

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Since January 1, 2005, a new editorial team is handling submissions to the European Journal of Cognitive Psychology. The board of associate editors consists of:

- Soledad Ballesteros (UNED Madrid, Spain)
- Karl-Heinz Bäuml (Regensburg, Germany)
- Marc Brysbaert (Royal Holloway, London, UK)
- Nelson Cowan (Columbia, Missouri, USA)
- JoAnne LeFevre (Carleton, Ottawa, Canada)
- Patrick Lemaire (Marseille, France)
- Henry Markovits (Plymouth, UK)
- Jochen Müsseler (Aachen, Germany)
- Philippe Peigneux (Liège, Belgium)
- André Vandierendonck (Ghent, Belgium)

In addition, there is an editorial board, populated with colleagues who have agreed to review on a regular basis several papers per year. These are: Teresa Bajo (Spain), Guido Band (The Netherlands), Tim Brennen (Norway), Valérie Camos (France), Axel Cleeremans (Belgium), Cesare Cornoldi (Italy), Anik de Ribaupierre (Switzerland), Ludovic Ferrand (France), Markus Knauff (Germany), Iring Koch (Germany), Juhani Lehto (Finland), Sander Los (The Netherlands), Juan Lupiáñez (Spain), Timo Mäntylä (Sweden), Nachshon Meiran (Israel), Edward Necka (Poland), Manolo Perea (Spain), Louise Phillips (UK), Kathy Rastle (UK), Maxwell Roberts (UK), Elisabeth Service (Canada), Paul Verhaegen (USA), Hubert Zimmer (Germany).

There are no major changes to the policy of the journal. It continues to publish theoretical contributions, reports of empirical work, including brief reports, and reviews of the literature in all areas of cognitive psychology, including applied cognitive psychology. In view of the growing amount of studies related to cognitive neuroscience, the journal will also consider articles contributing to theoretical progress in cognitive psychology based on cognitive neuroscience methodologies.

In the past the journal has also published thematic issues on a regular basis. At the time of this writing, there are three special issues in the pipeline (on the initiative of the present editor, Claus Bundesen). As the flow of incoming papers has increased significantly, a decision about new special issues is postponed, in order to avoid an increased publication lag of the regular papers. The editor-elect welcomes proposals for special issues, but will not take a decision on new thematic issues before the end of the year 2005.

André Vandierendonck, Editor-Elect

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## Membership

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MEMBERS PER COUNTRY
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Australia	2
Belgium	33
Canada	4
Chile	1
Denmark	5
Estonia	1
Finland	5
France	21
G de Luxembourg	1
Germany	70
Greece	2
Hungary	4
Iceland	1
Israel	11
Italy	28
Japan	1
Norway	3
Poland	5
Portugal	11
Romania	2
Spain	37
Sweden	9
Switzerland	6
The Netherlands	46
Turkey	3
USA	8
United Kingdom	60

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Marilou Vandierendonck, ESCoP Administrator

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# ESCoP Questionnaire

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Local officers have provided answers about the situation of Cognitive Psychology in their respective countries. The responses to a questionnaire sent out to them by Cesare Cornoldi and Patrick Bonin are provided below.

## 1) How would you define the situation of cognitive psychology in the Universities and research Institutes of your country

B: Belgium, F: France, Port.: Portugal, Pol.: Poland, GB: Great Britain, G: Germany, N: Norway, S: Switzerland, H: Hungaria, I: Italy

B: very good, F: good, Port.: sufficient, Pol.: sufficient, GB: very good (in terms of research; less so in terms of student's interest), G: good, N: sufficient, S: sufficient (in terms of positions 10-20%, to much load in basic courses for many students in applied disciplines.), H: good, I: good

## 2) How would you define the situation of cognitive psychology in the applied contexts of your country?

B: This falls somewhere between sufficient and poor. There are very few outlets outside of academia for people who specialize in cognitive psychology. Such people do find jobs, but often in domains that are unrelated to the specific skills they learned. I am only personally aware of only one position in the private sector that specifically requested the applicant to hold a Ph.D. In cognitive psychology.

F: unknown

Port.: poor

Pol.: poor . There is no realization of the practical importance of cognitive research

GB: sufficient

G: sufficient (I do not have enough information to judge this)

N: sufficient

S: poor

H: poor

I: sufficient

## 3) How many researchers (with some form of salary) do you estimate work in the area of cognitive psychology in your country?

B: A very rough estimate is about 150-180 persons

F: Estimates from colleagues vary between 300 and 1000 approx. This would not include grad students & postdocs. The Société Française de Psychologie (not only cognitive) has 900 members and the French journal *Année Psychologique* has 700 subscriptions

Port.: My number estimate goes from 50 to 80 (3 on average for the  $\pm 20$  psychology courses in the country).

Pol.: Hard to tell. There are about 10 active researchers among the senior faculty staff, about 20 at the junior faculty level, and about 100 doctoral students. Psychology is taught at the MA level in 14 institutions in the country and cognitive psychology is obligatory in every case. But this is not always synonymous with active research. Moreover, there are psychologists who define themselves as developmental, social or clinical rather than cognitive, although in fact they do cognitive research.

GB: This estimate (after some consultation) goes from 1,000 to 2,000 depending on how narrow / wide you define researchers in cognitive psychology

G: difficult to estimate. I would guess perhaps 100, but this depends on how narrow one defines "cognitive psychology".

N: 40?

S: 60-70 (professors and advanced researchers) in 6 Universities

H: 25

I: Approx. 100 people. Most of them are working in universities; few people in hospitals and, in some cases, in private clinical and rehabilitation centres. This number does not include teachers, MD and other professionals that may be occasionally using psychological cognitive tools or theoretical paradigms

## 4) Do they know about the existence of the Society?

B: Most graduate students and academic personnel are indeed aware of the existence of the Society

F: Many of them know (they attend the conference, although there are definitely not 100 French researchers attending ESCOP conference). The Société Française de Psychologie has 900 members, so there might be room for improvement for ESCOP in France

Port. Most of them do. I used to send news E-mail once or twice a year to the most representatives of them in each Department, with the suggestion to forward the message to anyone potentially interested.

Pol.: In majority they do about the existence but not always about the activity.

GB: The established researchers do. There may be some scope for improvement in beginning researchers. There is the competition of EPS, though, which tends to be the first choice among young British academics.

**G: Yes, I would hope so, most of them**

N: most of them do; some in industry probably don't

S: There is more to do. I am contacting directly the influential persons in the institutes.

H: most of them . . .

I: I feel that people really doing research know about the society. In hospital and private clinical centres there are people not interested in research (although using cognitive paradigms and tests), with spare contacts with the Italian scientific community and they be unaware

### **5) Which motivations could affect their decision of becoming or not becoming member of the ESCOP?**

B: The meetings attract quite a bit of interest amongst Ph.D. Students and senior personnel alike. Membership is a different matter however: The fees are often too expensive (even if it's a good deal) for individuals, and some labs might be reluctant to pay the fee for all of their researchers (which, when combined with membership in other societies, can amount to quite a bit even for small labs). The benefit of getting the journal does not amount too much anymore: A single subscription can be passed around, and the papers are often available electronically.

F: The direct factual benefits that people perceive from being a member is paying a cheaper registration fee at the conference (if you attend...) and getting a paper subscription to the EJCP (which is often available online through library subscriptions...). This is not a lot if you are not committed to improving the fate of cog psy in Europe.

Port. I believe that the most representative researchers in cognitive psychology are ESCOP members; The few who are not yet, are either members of other psychological societies to which they have established previous links, or PhD students. Lower annual fees and a 20% discount on cognitive psychology books, tests and materials would be welcome.

Pol.: A fee of 60 euro is a bit too high, particularly for junior faculty, not to mention students. Moreover, most of them do not attend ESCoP conferences, so they don't benefit from the lowered conference fee for members. I suppose people often do not realize that the journal is included into the membership fee - this is a kind of incentive that might be advertised.

GB: ESCOP is particularly known for its bi-annual conference. The European Journal of Cognitive Psychology also attracts some attention, but here again has to compete against QJEP.

G: Hard to say. Most members that I know have been convinced by other members to become member themselves. A good motivation is the ESCOP conference

N: That there were symposia in their area at the conferences, perhaps

S: The ESCOP-conference is an ideal opportunity to meet, also and with special advantages colleagues from our own country. This will strengthen the exchange among us in our country.

H: interesting conferences and summer schools.

I: The need for international contacts. Practical usefulness of the society in terms of everyday work. Information circulating through the Society

### **6) Do you have suggestions for increasing visibility and role of the Society?**

B: Increasing the frequency of gatherings (summer schools, special seminars, etc.) would certainly increase the visibility of the Society. Another manner in which this could be achieved is to develop an indispensable web resource that is well maintained and useful to all. This could amount to a news media for cognitive psychology, with interesting editorials about current issues in cognitive psychology, or a page that lists all the available jobs and relevant resources. Obviously this would require a lot of investment to be useful, but a solid & dynamic web presence is guaranteed to increase visibility.

F: Summer schools are a great initiative in the long run. I attended the Psycholinguistics summer school in Bressanone (1997) during my PhD and many of the students there are now my colleagues and collaborators. This is a fact, and I can give you names... : That certainly builds interactions and Cognitive Psychology in Europe.

Port. My best suggestion is to establish the tradition to organise a summer school every year on an important topic on cognitive psychology for post-graduate students and selecting or giving the opportunity to attend to at least 2 students from each European country. Establishing and promoting a calendar for at least the next 3 years would be crucial. The same tradition for the biannual conference. It's ridiculous that ESCOP members don't know yet the exact dates for the 2005 Leiden Conference to be held less than a year from now. (<http://www.escop.org/events.asp>).

Pol.: I am thinking about making the newsletter more scientifically oriented. I mean short notes about research, not only events and administrative issues. For instance, "Trends in cognitive science" offers short notes or shortened versions of articles, although the prestigious journal "Cognitive Science" publishes regular papers. Maybe this kind of initiative could be taken into account.

GB: Given that the society is a learned society and gets most of its credit from recurring events, I think one possibility would be the creation of an annual (or biannual) summer school, always to be held at the same time (and the same place?). The society has sponsored workshops and summer schools in the past, but I think the visibility would increase if it had its regular program. After all, reputations are often established on the basis of initiatives that have become a long-standing tradition. The current initiatives are too dispersed to be visible to a non-member.

G: No answer to this question was provided.

N: Inspection copies of the journal and newsletter could be sent to cognitive psychologists outside the Universities. I mean those working in business and industry, in the overlap with organizational/work psychology. The newsletter could have a bit more "content", over and above conference and election details. Interviews with famous European cognitive people? Jokes? Pictures? Colour?

S: Send a promotion letter a year ahead the conference to the institutes. Announce the conference and give an incentive to become immediately a member (place to present a contribution, reduced rate for participating and maybe only the half fee for the first year). Look for a way to promote the applied perspective without weakening basic research.

H: Try to have promotions at larger conferences . . . . .

I: I would appreciate more information about the different meetings throughout the year, at least in Europe, concerning cognitive psychology as well as neuroscience and neuropsychology. A brief summary of dates, deadlines and so on would be very useful and may be seen with curiosity and interest by non-members. Specific material may be prepared for PhD students, and young post-hoc to favour applications. The visibility of the journal and the increasing IF and overall value is probably the best way to increase visibility of the Society

**7) If invited, would you prepare a short presentation of cognitive Psychology in your country to be published in an ESCOP Newsletter (see the Greek example published in the preceding Newsletter). How much time in advance should you be informed?**

B: Yes -- but I am chronically over committed these days.

F: I do not feel I would be able to do so. I do not know Cognitive Psychology in my country well enough (I had my job two years ago).

Port. I believe it is too soon to give a short note on Portuguese Cognitive Psychology. I hope to see some more visibility in the coming years before giving such presentation.

Pol.: I feel ashamed that I didn't submit any notice although I was invited... Sorry for not being able to do the deadline. If you give me another chance, I will.

GB: Yes, depends a bit on the length and the time of the year. I write an awful lot, though.

G. Currently I could not do it (too much teaching in the winter term), but this does not preclude doing it some time in the future...

N: Certainly. 2 months notice should be enough

S: Yes, one year.

H: Yes. I would need about 2 months to prepare it.

I: Yes, one month in advance in a good period of the year

**8) Do you think that flyers would be useful to promote the Society?**

B: No, flyers are basically useless, in part because it's difficult to distribute effectively. Far better would be targeted emails, or a web page that people cannot afford not to read.

F: I don't think so

Port. A flyer may be useful if it will be distributed in major psychological events in each country calling the attention to the biannual conference, summer school, ESCOP calendar, and the web site. The web site should be the ESCOP pivot, filled with news on grants, jobs, research projects and much more in order to become a useful spot to visit for all interested European researchers.

Pol.: I have no idea... Hard to estimate the efficiency of such actions. My personal experience would be that there are too many materials of that sort and people tend to ignore them. But, I don't know for sure.

GB: I am rather sceptical. I've never heard of someone becoming a member of ESCOP on the basis of a flyer.

G: To tell the truth, so far I did not distribute very many flyers, mainly because of lack of occasion. Therefore, I am not sure how useful the flyers are

N: Yes

S: Yes,

H: Yes.

I: Not sure, they could be useful only at selected conferences and meetings. It would probably be useful a joint schema with psychology Press in which they may distribute ESCOP fliers while promoting the journal in major international conferences (psychonomics, etc)

**9) Do you think that posters would be useful to promote the Society?**

B: Same point as for flyers. Nice posters for the meetings are very important, but posters to let people know about the society will not do much I think. Many posters announcing ESCOP-sponsored events would build 'brand-awareness', though.

F: Sure, if and only if the benefits that the researcher can get from being a member of the society are clearly stated, or if the announce events (i.e., announce vents with a highlight of the institution that is behind the event)

Port. Yes, if the poster is affixed in a noticeable departmental place, contains useful information and remains visible for an extended time period.

Pol.: I suppose so but only if they are kept in a visible place for longer period of time.

GB: I am rather sceptical. I've never heard of someone becoming a member of ESCOP on the basis of a flyer.

G: What kind of posters?

N: Yes

S: Yes,

H: Yes.

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## News of forthcoming meetings

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The first annual Rovereto Workshop on Bilingualism will be held October 13-16, 2005 at the Laboratorio di Scienze Cognitive - University of Trento in Rovereto (Italy)

<http://polorovereto.unitn.it/>

The goal for the annual Rovereto Workshop on Bilingualism is for it to develop into the premier international forum for researchers who are doing important and scientifically rigorous research in the area of bilingual language processing. The topic for the inaugural workshop will be Representation and Control in L1 and L2: Functional and Neural Perspectives.

Details of the workshop can be found at

<http://www.unitn.it/events/bilingualism>

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### **EUROPEAN WOMEN IN COGNITIVE SCIENCE**

Prior to the opening session of the ESCoP conference on August 31, we organize a Women in Cognitive Science meeting (from 10.00-12.00). Professor Naomi Ellemers will give a lecture, entitled '*making a career in science: The illusion of meritocracy*'.

This meeting is a follow-up of the earlier Women in Cognitive Science meeting held at the ESCoP 2003 conference, in which we discussed the position of women cognitive psychologists in academia. Data showed that, across all European countries and the USA, women are well represented in psychology and cognitive science programs, but are underrepresented in higher academic positions. The aim of the 2005 meeting is to provide more insight into the basic mechanisms involved in this situation, and ways to change it.

The program for the 2005 meeting is as follows:

- 1) Naomi Ellemers (Leiden University), a leading scientist on intergroup relations, social inequality and career development will give a lecture, entitled '*making a career in science: The illusion of meritocracy*'. In the first part of her talk, professor Ellemers will discuss, on the basis of social psychological theory and recent research, psychological mechanisms that contribute to the illusion that career development at the university only depends on scientific merit. In doing this, she will demonstrate that this illusion can lead women to experience self-defeating emotions, lose self-confidence, and perform sub optimally. In the second part, in interaction with the audience, professor Ellemers will address some of the strategies women can use to enhance their performance and optimise their well being while pursuing a career in (cognitive) science.
- 2) In the final 15 minutes of the meeting, Judith Kroll (Pennsylvania State University), Suparna Rajaram (Stony Brook University), and Randi Martin (Rice University) will discuss their recent Women in Cognitive Science activities in the USA.

The meeting will be held prior to the ESCoP opening session on August 31, from 10.00 - 12.00. The exact location will be posted at the ESCOP registration area.

All women and men who are concerned about issues of equity and advancement in science are welcome to participate.

Janet van Hell (Radboud University Nijmegen, the Netherlands)  
Teresa Bajo (University of Granada, Spain; President of ESCoP)

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The European Society financially supports this meeting for Cognitive Psychology

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## Grants / Awards

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### **ESCoP Young Researchers Grant Program**

The ESCoP offers grant funding for European graduate students to conduct research currently in its initial development. The program will fund up to three research projects for an amount of up to 1000 € each. PhD students from all areas of cognitive psychology can apply, but we explicitly encourage doctoral students belonging to disadvantaged groups and countries. Interested applicants should send a two pages presentation of the project including financial request, a support letter by an ESCoP member and the candidate's CV to the ESCoP secretary, Prof. Patrick Bonin [Patrick.Bonin@srvpsy.univ-bpclermont.fr](mailto:Patrick.Bonin@srvpsy.univ-bpclermont.fr). Applications should be sent before June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2005. A jury of three members nominated by the ESCoP Committee would decide before August, 31<sup>st</sup>.

### **ESCoP Young Researcher Award**

The ESCoP is offering a young researcher award (1000 €) to the associated member who was the first author of the best publication in the years 2004 and 2005. Applicants must be doctoral students or researchers in their first postdoctoral year and associated members of ESCoP. The author should simple send a copy of the publication and CV to the ESCoP Secretary, Prof. Patrick Bonin [Patrick.Bonin@srvpsy.univ-bpclermont.fr](mailto:Patrick.Bonin@srvpsy.univ-bpclermont.fr), before June 30<sup>th</sup>. A jury of three members nominated by the ESCoP Committee would decide before August 31<sup>st</sup>.

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