

escop Newsletter

european society for cognitive psychology

Dear *ESC_oP* member,

here is a new issue of the newsletter with news about the society and other information that might be of interest to you. We have to get used to it that from now on there is no conference in even-numbered years. That does not mean that *ESC_oP* goes to sleep. Quite to the contrary, the year 2000 has been one of much activity. A summer school was organised with learning as the central theme. As in the previous summer schools organised by the society, a group of young scientists learned a lot in a small amount of time and more importantly, these young people were given the opportunity to learn to know each other and the teachers. This makes them part of the scientific network and should be considered an important advantage. With this event, *ESC_oP* is founding a tradition of marvelously organised summer schools on important themes of cognitive psychology. Congratulations to Joachim Hoffmann and his team, to the lecturers and to the participants of this summer school. You can read more about this event in this issue.

The organisers of the XII *ESC_oP* conference have been working hard to prepare the conference, but for them an important part of the work is still coming up. Most of you—this means if we have your correct e-mail address—have already received the call for papers for the conference. The complete call is repeated in this newsletter. In preparation of this conference, the first Bertelson Award had to be decided. This was quite a difficult and challenging task. Read about the result of this “competition” in this issue.

Other activities were less central to science but are important for the daily functioning of the society. A new membership directory was produced. You should have received it some weeks ago and we hope you find it a useful instrument, even though not all information is up-to-date. You can help us keeping our data up-to-date by sending address changes, e-mail

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The *ESC_oP* Web site

<http://www.ulb.ac.be/assoc/escop/>

changes and so on to the secretary.

Furthermore, as in every even-numbered year, some of the committee members had to be replaced and there was an election ballot just before the summer to replace them. The results of the election are reported in this issue.

The present newsletter is the last one that I produced, because my term as secretary comes to an end now. Editing the newsletter was an enjoyable task to perform. In contrast to the more administrative kinds of task a secretary has to take care of, I experienced it as a particular event. Each time, I imagined you were there listening to the messages I collected. Once in a while a few of you would give some feedback on the newsletter and this was most gratifying.

Next time John Towse of Royal Holloway, London will be addressing you on behalf of the committee. In fact, John already contributed to the contents of the present newsletter and I thank him for this and for his commitment to the society.

André Vandierendonck, Secretary

Note the new address of the secretariat:

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RESULT ELECTIONS

An election ballot was held to replace the three vacancies in the executive committee. The four-year term of Maria Teresa Bajo, Jonathan Grainger and Joachim Hoffmann ends this year. In agreement with the constitution, Joachim Hoffmann will continue as co-opted treasurer. The candidates were: Olivier Koenig (University of Lyon, France), Asher Koriat (Technion Haifa, Israel), Robert H. Logie (Aberdeen University, United Kingdom), and Rosa Sánchez-Casas (University of Tarragona, Spain).

The results were as follows:

Name	Number of votes
Olivier Koenig	69
Asher Koriat	121
Robert H. Logie	98
Rosa Sánchez-Casas	85

The votes were counted by a small committee. In all, 155 members expressed a vote which could consist of electing one, two or three of the candidates; 92 members expressed 3 votes, 34 gave 2 votes and 29 gave only one vote. The total number of expressed votes was 373.

We are indebted to the four candidates for standing and by doing so enabling a democratic choice. Congratulations to the three elected members: Asher Koriat, Robert Logie and Rosa Sánchez-Casas.

The present secretary was proposed for the presidency, and he was the only candidate. As a consequence a new secretary had to be found rather quickly. John Towse of Royal Holloway, London was asked to take over, and he accepted. That is very good news for the society.

Finally, the mandate of Philip T. Smith as editor of the journal also comes to an end. In a meeting in March this year, the committee decided to call on Claus Bundesen as the successor and he also accepted.

The new committee is composed as follows:

President	André Vandierendonck (Ghent, Belgium) (Andre.Vandierendonck@rug.ac.be)
Vice-President	Johannes Engelkamp (Saarbrücken, Germany) (engelkamp@rz.uni-sb.de)
Treasurer	Joachim Hoffmann (Würzburg, Germany) [co-opted] (hoffmann@psychologie.uni-wuerzburg.de)
Secretary	John Towse (London, UK) [co-opted] (j.towse@rhnc.ac.uk)
Editor Journal	Claus Bundesen (Copenhagen, Denmark) [ex officio] (bundesen@psy.ku.dk)
Members	Cesare Cornoldi (Padova, Italy) (cornoldi@ux1.unipd.it)
	Asher Koriat (Haifa, Israel) (akoriat@psy.haifa.ac.il)
	Robert H. Logie (Aberdeen, UK) (r.logie@aberdeen.ac.uk)
	Pertti Saariluoma (Helsinki, Finland) (psa@utu.fi)
	Rosa Sánchez-Casas (Tarragona, Spain) (rscp@astor.urv.es)

THE PAUL BERTELSON AWARD

Eleven proposals were submitted for the Bertelson Award. A subcommittee consisting of Johannes Engelkamp, Vicki Bruce, André Vandierendonck, Maria Teresa Bajo and Philip T. Smith analyzed all the proposals with respect to the following criteria: (a) whether and to what extent the contribution of the candidate can be qualified as outstanding, (b) the level of the general scientific qualification, (c) the range of themes or domains of the candidate's scientific contribution, and (d) the level and extent of the candidate's international interactions.

All candidates were independently rank ordered by the five judges. The jury was unanimous: Jan Theeuwes (Free University Amsterdam, The Netherlands) was the best candidate. He is the first to receive the award, which replaces the earlier Young Psychologist Lecture.

The jury faced a difficult and challenging job: selecting the best candidate among a set of extremely good candidates. In order not to create a public negative feeling about not being selected, the jury and the executive committee have decided not to publish the names of the candidates.

DEADLINES

Here is an overview of the deadlines for activities announced in this issue

- ECEM-11: 29th March 2001
- ICOM-3: 2nd April 2001
- XII *ESC_oP* 31st January 2001.

NEWS FROM THE *ESC_oP* SUMMER SCHOOL ON LEARNING

The organisers reporting

“The acquisition of behavioral competence” was the topic of a summer school on Learning held in Würzburg from September 22nd to 27th, under the auspices of *ESC_oP* and generously sponsored by the Volkswagen Foundation. Forty-two scholars of Psychology from, literally, all over the world, took part in the event to discuss the most recent developments in various areas of learning research. Most participants came from countries within central Europe, but there were also participants from the United States and even a graduate student from Australia.

Eight invited lecturers had four hours each to bring students up to scratch in their respective area of expertise. A first emphasis of the scientific program dealt with elementary associative learning processes. John Pearce of Cardiff University gave a lecture on associative learning in animals, with special consideration of discrimination learning. Mark Gluck from Rutgers University, New Jersey presented an overview of current data and models regarding the function of the hippocampus in associative learning. Finally, David Shanks from University College, London talked about associative learning in humans, comparing various theoretical approaches in the light of the available data and making special reference to the implicit/explicit debate.

The modeling of learning in animats was the topic of the lecture by Jean-Arcady Meyer from the University of Paris 6. He gave an overview of different approaches to autonomous learning mechanisms in artificial intelligence, including classifier systems and genetic algorithms. Axel Cleeremans from the Free University of Brussels focussed on discussing the function of consciousness in human learning with special reference to a comparison of human data with network simulations of various sequence learning tasks.

The onto-genetic development of behavioral competence was the central topic of Claes

van Hofsten's (Uppsala University) lecture. He discussed, amongst other topics, the theoretical significance of experimental data and demonstrations regarding the control of eye movements and grasping in infants. Joachim Hoffmann and his colleagues from the University of Würzburg reported about current research on the control of voluntary behavior. Special attention was given to the ideo-motor hypothesis and the role of action-outcomes in behavioral control. Finally, Philippe Schyns from the University of Glasgow talked about perceptual learning and the role of subjects' preconceptions in discrimination tasks. He presented new methods and data that shed light on the flexibility with which the human visual system adapts to currently required discriminations.

In addition to the invited lectures, each participant of the summer school presented some of her/his current work on a poster in one of three poster sessions. Thus, lecturers as well as participants likewise contributed through presentations of their research to very lively and inspiring discussions of current issues in learning research for the whole duration of the summer school. We all agreed in a final discussion session that was organised by some of the participants that there is still a lot of food for future research and that it is worth to deepen the exchange and the cooperation among the groups in Europe dealing with learning in psychology, neuropsychology and artificial intelligence. As a first step in this enterprise we agreed upon establishing a European Network of Cognitive Learning Research (ENCOL) that will be available under www.psychology.uni-wuerzburg.de/encol soon.

Joachim Hoffmann
on behalf of the organisers

A few impressions

The summer school on "The Acquisition of Behavioural Competence" funded by the Volkswagen Foundation and hosted by the Psychology Department of the University of Würzburg was an international gathering of established and upcoming researchers in the field of skill learning. The programme consisted of two lectures per day from researchers considered eminent in their chosen field and the in-depth knowledge that they had acquired during their careers was made evident in the ease with which each could deliver a four hour lecture yet still hold the interest of the audience. The diversity of specialist knowledge from the lecturers was equally a factor in maintaining interest across the week; from animal to animat learning, explicit, implicit and neonate. There were always several lectures from the set which presented completely new information to a given participant. Three differently themed poster sessions at the end of each day gave the audience a chance to show each other what they did and receive valuable feedback from the lecturers as well as their peers. Although the schedule did mean a somewhat grueling 9 hour day, the topic of research (among others) was nevertheless carried over into the organised and more spontaneous social events. The lecturers joined in the social side of the gathering as well which gave a more informal chance to get to know them and their views. Only by the end of the school had the intense atmosphere taken its toll, and as the discussion on the weeks lectures ended slightly sooner than planned, we were left with just a few hours to enjoy our last day in the beautiful town of Würzburg and to say goodbye to a very friendly and interesting group of fellow researchers.

Dr Steve Kelly, Lecturer
Dept of Psychology, University of Keele

The end of September, in the charming city of Würzburg. Over 40 we were, doctoral students and post-docs, all eager to learn about learning. It was clear from the outset that this was going to be a multi-perspective endeavour: not only were we about to be lectured by leading researchers from widely varying fields, the list of participants also spanned an amazing range of disciplines. Amongst us were biologists, psychophysicists, ethologists, computer scientists, robot engineers, neuroscientists, and of course a good deal of psychologists.

One of the ambitions of the summer school was indeed to bridge gaps between disciplines, and to foster an integrative approach to the study of learning. But not without first providing a solid basis. And so the first lecture, by John Pearce, provided us with a clear and scholarly overview of the fundamentals and a theoretical state of the art of associative learning in animals. On day two, Mark Gluck, building on the concepts that John Pearce had introduced, gave us some insight on the neurobiological bases underlying this associative learning. His lecture smoothly integrated animal and human research, and thereby formed a natural bridge to the subject of human animal learning, spelled out to us by David Shanks. Apart from supplying a clever view on human associative learning theory, David Shanks also brought along some questions—questions that were hard to answer, not only to the participants of the summer school, questions that surely raised curiosity too. The next day, curiosity made place for amazement, when Jean-Arcady Meyer showed us how robots, based on very simple principles, can acquire behaviour of a stunning complexity. Axel Cleeremans lead us back to human learning, dealing with the implicit/explicit distinction in learning and memory, and left the audience dazzled with the presentation of his truly mind-provoking theory of consciousness. On day four, Claes von Hofsten introduced the developmental perspective, enriching his enthusiastic lecture with video-footage convincingly illustrating the development of action in infants and the intimate coupling between perception and action. The close link between perception and action was also a central theme in the afternoon, when the Würzburg group demonstrated that they were not only impeccable Summer School organisers but also a bunch of high quality researchers, sketching a diverse but consistent picture of the role of action-effects in learning. On the last day, just when we thought we'd had it all, came Philippe Schyns. His lecture arguably was a bit more loosely related to the topic of the summer school, but no less exciting. He first showed how one can track internal perceptual representations through a procedure that I can only describe as 'projective psychophysics'. Truly amazing, as was the subsequent exposé on how one can unravel which perceptual information is diagnostic for a given categorization and which is not by means of an intriguing blob technique.

Of course, an exhaustive overview of 'all things learning' is beyond the scope of a single summer school (if not beyond the scope of a single life). Nevertheless, in the course of five days, a broad and diverse picture of human and non-human learning was provided, so the last afternoon we assembled for a broad integrative discussion, that admittedly started out hesitatingly, but nevertheless revealed some important issues and points of debate. By the end, enough questions were raised to keep us all busy for the next few decades.

So far for science. There were plenty of other aspects to the summer school as well. A perfect organisation, for instance, thanks to Joachim Hoffmann and his crew: Wilfried, Christian, Armin, Claudia, Albrecht, Wolfgang, and last but not least Maria. Or an excellent atmosphere, enhanced by a tasty social program. But I won't dwell on that, you can find the pictures on the summer school internet site (linked on the *ESC_oP* site), they speak for themselves.

The true merits of this summer school can only be judged in the long run of course. In his closing speech Joachim Hoffmann expressed the hope that the whole endeavour would result in lasting contacts and collaborations, crossing borders between disciplines as well as nations, and that the participants of the summer school would (all or in part) meet again. In this respect, the involvement and support of $\mathcal{E}SC_o\mathcal{P}$ in the organisation of the summer school will undoubtedly prove an asset, as $\mathcal{E}SC_o\mathcal{P}$ seems to be the pre-eminent forum to serve as a background for future encounters between the various persons involved in the summer school. A first opportunity for an informal rendez-vous can thus readily be found in the Edinburgh conference in September next year. See you all there!

Tom Beckers
University of Leuven, Belgium

CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

11th EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON EYE MOVEMENTS: CALL for ABSTRACTS

The Eleventh European Conference on Eye Movements is taking place August 22-25, 2001 in Turku, Finland (<http://www.tkk.utu.fi/cescon/ecem11/>)

All aspects of eye movement research will be represented in the conference with a particular emphasis on cognitive research, such as reading and language processing, scene, object and face recognition, visual search, visual attention, and problem solving. Moreover, topics related to other aspects of oculomotor behavior, such as neurophysiology, oculomotor coordination, clinical and medical research, applied research, and measurement techniques will also be represented.

Abstracts may be submitted for oral, poster or special thematic sessions on Attention and voluntary eye movements, Coordination of eye and hand, and Change blindness and transaccadic integration.

For more information about how to submit an abstract, see the conference web site (see the address above). Information about keynote speakers, registration, accommodation, social program and the city of Turku may also be found in our web site.

Deadline for receipt of all abstracts: **March 29, 2001**

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THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MEMORY: CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Universities of Valencia & Bristol
Palacio de Congresos, Valencia
16–20 July 2001

Keynote speakers

Robert A. Bjork, Galen Bodenhausen, Patricia S. Goldman-Rakic, Mark Howe, Stanley B. Klein, Dan McAdams, Jay McClelland, Morris Moscovitch, Edward E. Smith

Call for symposia, individual papers, and posters

Submissions are now being taken for ICOM-3. For details of how to submit, please visit the ICOM-3 web site at: <http://www.uv.es/icom-3/index.html> or email the conference administrator: Lesley.Barry@bristol.ac.uk

We are expecting 400–600 delegates for this meeting, and it is anticipated that the programme will fill rapidly so early submission is recommended.

Deadline for all submissions is: **2 April 2001**

Conference Postal Address:

ICOM-3, Department of Experimental Psychology
University of Bristol, 8 Woodland Road, Bristol, BS8 1TN, UK.

ICOM-3 Organising committee

Salvador Algarabel, Alfonso Pitarque, both University of Valencia
Teresa Bajo, University of Granada
Martin A. Conway, Susan E. Gathercole both University of Bristol

ICOM-3 is sponsored by

Department of Psychology, University of Valencia
Department of Experimental Psychology, University of Bristol
The Spanish Society of Experimental Psychology (SEPEX)
Psychology Press

XII *ESC_oP* CONFERENCE, EDINBURGH, SEPTEMBER 5–8 2001

First call for submissions

Papers, symposia and poster submissions are now invited for the XII conference of the European Society for Cognitive Psychology jointly with the XVIII Annual Conference of British Psychological Society Cognitive Psychology Section. The submission deadline is **31st January 2001**.

Guest Speakers and Planned Symposia

Alfonso Caramazza, Harvard University
 Irving Biederman, University of Southern California, Broadbent Lecture
 Jan Theeuwes, Free University Amsterdam, Bertelson Award

Symposia already planned include

Age of Acquisition, Change Blindness, Cognitive Aging Cognitive Neuroimaging, Executive Processes in Working Memory, Face Processing, Language Comprehension, Morphology, Retrieval Processes in Episodic Memory, Visual Attention

Submissions

Paper and Poster Submissions should be made on line using the Conference Web site <http://escop.psy.ed.ac.uk/>

Submissions should be in the form of 150 word (max) abstracts, clearly stating whether it is for a poster or an oral presentation. Oral presentations will be allocated 25 minutes to include discussion time and abstracts should reflect material that can easily be presented within that time. Two separate poster sessions will be allocated extended periods on separate days of the conference. Abstracts should be submitted via the conference web site before 31st January 2001. Submissions and conference presentations (posters or oral) should be in English. Feedback on submissions will be available along with the conference programme in mid March 2001. If the conference programme is very full, some submissions of oral presentations may be offered a slot for a poster presentation.

For **symposia only**: There will be a limited capacity for symposia in addition to those mentioned above. Symposium organisers should first send a brief outline of the symposium as an e-mail to the conference contact address escop@cogsci.ed.ac.uk

The symposium outline should be no more than 200 words and should indicate the topic and justification for the symposium, along with a suggested list of speakers. If the symposium is accepted in principle, symposium organisers will then be given a 'keyword' that they should use for submitting symposium abstracts via the conference web pages (see above). There should be separate entries of abstracts for each of the proposed talks in the symposium, including titles, and speakers for each talk. Symposia will be allocated a maximum of 125 minutes (five, 25 minute conference slots), although more slots might be allocated if there is a strong

justification given for doing so and space is available in the programme.

The Venue

The conference will be held in the main campus of the University of Edinburgh, which is located within a 15-20 minute walk of the city centre. Most of the oral presentations and poster sessions will be in the Appleton Tower lecture theatres, some of the guest lectures will be held in the George Square Theatre, and the Psychology Department has kindly agreed to host an opening reception (sponsored by Psychology Press). All venues are within a few minutes walk of each other.

Accommodation

Low cost student accommodation and hotels of different standards are available, and many are within easy walking distance of the conference venue. Delegates should book their accommodation through the Edinburgh Convention Bureau. Details of accommodation available and costs along with a booking form are available via the ESCOP2001 Web site. Please select your preferred accommodation, complete the booking form and then e-mail or fax the completed form to the Edinburgh Convention Bureau. Further details about booking and payment are available from the Web page. This is a free accommodation booking service.

Please note that Edinburgh can be very busy in early September and it is strongly advised that you book as early as possible to obtain your preferred accommodation. If you wish to book accommodation for periods prior to or after the conference, you can also do this via the Edinburgh Convention Bureau. The famous Edinburgh International Arts Festival will be running through to late August. However, during Festival time, accommodation in Edinburgh gets very full, so if you wish to attend any of the Festival events before the conference, you should book your accommodation several months in advance.

Please note that all accommodation should be booked through the Edinburgh Convention Bureau or, if you prefer, directly with the hotels, and not through the conference organisers.

Outline Programme

Final details of the programme will be made available in March 2001. However, at this stage, the conference is planned to commence with a lecture by one of the guest speakers late afternoon on Wednesday 5th September, and will end with a lecture by one of the other guest speakers late afternoon on Saturday, 8th September.

Social Events

Following the opening guest lecture on 5th September, there will be a free wine reception kindly hosted by the Department of Psychology with sponsorship by The Psychology Press. There will be a formal conference dinner on Friday 7th September in the Signet Library, a major very attractive venue on the Royal Mile. On the evening of Saturday 8th September there will be a whisky tasting, buffet dinner and Ceilidh (traditional Scottish party) in the

Whisky Heritage Centre, close to Edinburgh Castle, and again on the Royal Mile. Numbers will be limited for the events on 7th and 8th September and booking details will be issued with the conference programme in March 2001. As the capital city of Scotland, Edinburgh is an extremely lively and interesting city with a wide range of restaurants, concert halls, museums, night clubs, events, buildings and scenery, with activities that range from international level classical concerts to ghost tours through underground streets. More details about Edinburgh and surroundings can be found from the tourist Web site www.edinburgh.org

Conference registration details will be available via the web site early in 2001. If you require further information about the conference arrangements that is not available via the conference Web site, please send a message to: escop@cogsci.ed.ac.uk

Further details of the conference will be added to the conference web site when they become available. The organising committee look forward to seeing you in Edinburgh in 2001.

The Conference Organising Committee

Robert Logie (Chair, Aberdeen), Louise Phillips (Aberdeen), Annalena Venneri, (Aberdeen), Martin Corley, (Edinburgh), Martin Pickering, (Edinburgh), Richard Shillcock, (Edinburgh), Vicki Bruce, (Stirling), Philip Smith, (Reading), Jonathan Grainger, (Provence).

ACTIVE VISION II: BRIEF CONFERENCE REPORT

The second 'Active Vision' conference took place at Royal Holloway, University of London in September 2000. This followed on from the first and highly successful Active Vision meeting held last year at the University of Bristol organised by Professor John Findlay (University of Durham) and Dr Iain Gilchrist (See: <http://mail.bris.ac.uk/psidg/AV1prog.htm>)

The purpose of the one-day meeting was to bring together UK researchers with a strong interest in the link between eye movements and visual perception and cognition. The Active Vision approach has developed from the perspective that eye movements are fundamental to processes of visual perception and visual attention. Accordingly, a major function of vision is the control of action. The talks and posters reflected these views and included:

- 'Two routes from vision to action: neuropsychological evidence' (David Milner, University of Durham)
- 'Scanning graphs' (John Findlay, University of Durham)
- 'From eye movements to actions: how batsmen hit the ball' (Michael Land, University of Sussex)
- 'Selection-for-action: Evidence from bimanual reach-to-grasp movements directed toward single and multiple objects' (Georgina Jackson, University of Nottingham)
- 'Observing a human or a robotic hand grasping an object: differential motor priming effects' (Umberto Castiello, Royal Holloway, University of London).

The complete programme and abstracts for talks and poster can be downloaded—in PDF format—at: <http://www.pc.rhul.ac.uk/vision/>

We limited the size of the conference to provide a relaxed informal environment in which researchers could talk about completed studies as well as work in progress. Informal discussions provided a venue for useful peer feedback too. Together, the two meetings have served as an enjoyable opportunity to refine further the concept of 'Active Vision' and better understand the central role of eye movements in everyday behaviour. The next meeting will be held in Nottingham in the late summer of 2001, and the organisers will be Drs Georgina Jackson and Chris Rorden.

Melanie Doyle and Robin Walker, organisers.

ANNOUNCING A NEW JOURNAL IN COGNITIVE SCIENCE

COGNITIVE SCIENCE QUARTERLY (CSQ)

An International Journal of Basic and Applied Research

CSQ will publish original work in cognitive science, including basic as well as applied research and spanning the whole field of empirical analysis, formal theory, computational synthesis and applications. Articles from cognitive psychology are welcome if they have relevance to cognitive science in general. Articles may address any topic in cognitive science, e.g.,

- learning and adaptation,
- perception and action control,
- knowledge representation and acquisition,
- thinking, reasoning, and problem solving,
- language and communication,
- cognitive ergonomics, and many others.

CSQ is edited by Gerhard Strube (Freiburg, Germany) in connection with Joost Breuker (Amsterdam), Cristiano Castelfranchi (Rome), Daniel Kayser (Paris), Walter Kintsch (Boulder, CO, USA), Christoph von der Malsburg (Bochum, Germany; Los Angeles) and Keith Stenning (Edinburgh).

Vol. 1 (2000/2001) comprises four issues, of which the first two have been published. They contain articles by Balkenius, Boden, Dubois, Eliasmith, Penney et al., Thagard, Vandierendonck, Wahl & Spada. Find more information (including the full text of issue no. 1) at the CSQ web page of the editor: <http://www.iig.uni-freiburg.de/csq>

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