

# NEWSLETTER

Spring 2014

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Budapest, May 2014

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### Report - Putting memory in context: Retrieval and learning

A one-day workshop on human memory, Budapest, Hungary

This one-day workshop, organized by the Department of Cognitive Psychology, Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE) and the Department of Cognitive Science, Budapest University of Technology and Economics (BME), made the beginning of the week inspiring. Throughout the day, people curious about memory research gathered on the third floor of the ELTE Faculty of Psychology.

The morning started with a talk by Prof. Mark L. Howe (City University, London, UK) where we had learned about the utility of false memories. A series of experiments had demonstrated how memory illusions can be adaptive when people are solving different kinds of problems. The next block of presentations gave a taste of developmental and oculomotor research on event perception and memory processes.

After the lunch break, we discovered new sides of the reminiscence bump (RB) with Prof. Martin A. Conway (City University, London, UK). His studies have demonstrated the existence of the RB in flashbulb, self-defining and cross-cultural memories, and even in memories for the Beatles.

Two sessions in the afternoon had taken us to very different areas of learning. First, we heard about the fundamental processes underlying memory retrieval, and we could also see how stress and clinical phenomena are related to these mechanisms. In the final session, speakers discussed the differences between controlled and automatic memory systems in terms of their learning patterns, consolidation and clinical relevance.

The day ended with a social program at Szimpla Kert. The evening could not only have modulated consolidation of event memories and freshly acquired information, but it also provided a great chance to get to know the speakers and other participants.

Many thanks to the organizers for putting together this fantastic workshop!

**Bertalan Polner**  
*Ph.D student*

Department of Cognitive Science,  
Budapest University of Technology and Economics, Hungary

## Upcoming conferences and summer schools



### Summer School on Stress & Cognition

11-15 August 2014

Nijmegen, the Netherlands

<http://www.ru.nl/donders/agenda-news/summer-school-stress/>

*Application deadline: 15 June 2014*



### 6th European Conference on Sensory and Consumer Research

7-10 September 2014

Copenhagen, Denmark

<http://www.eurosense.elsevier.com/>

*Registration is open*



### Cognitive Science of Science: Kazimierz Naturalist Workshop

18-22 August 2014

Kazimierz Dolny, Poland

<http://www.obf.edu.pl/content/view/155/34/lang,en/>

*Abstract submission deadline: 15 June 2014*



### European Summer School on Eye Movements

8-13 September 2014

Freiburg, Germany

[web](#)

*Application deadline: 31 May 2014*



### Concept Types and Frames in Language, Cognition, and Science

25-27 August 2014

Düsseldorf, Germany

<http://www.sfb991.uni-duesseldorf.de/ctf-2014/>

*Registration deadline: 8 August 2014*



### Memory: Forgetting and Creating

11-12 September 2014

Gdansk, Poland

<http://memoryforgetting.ug.edu.pl/>

*Deadline for paper proposals: 15 June 2014*



### Seventh European Working Memory Symposium

2-4 September 2014

Edinburgh, Scotland

<http://forums.psy.ed.ac.uk/ewoms2014/>

*Registration is open (reduced fee for ESCOP members)*



### IEEE Conference on Visual Analytics Science and Technology

9-14 November 2014

Paris, France

<http://ieevis.org/year/2014/info/vis-welcome/welcome>

*Poster submission deadline: 27 June 2014*

## Upcoming conferences and summer schools



### **Budapest CEU Conference on Cognitive Development**

8-10 January 2015

Budapest, Hungary

<http://www.bcccd.org/>

*Submission opens: 2 June 2014*



### **International Convention of Psychological Science**

12-14 March 2015

Amsterdam, the Netherlands

<http://icps.psychologicalscience.org/>

*Call for submissions opens: June 2014*

## **Ph.D. opportunity**

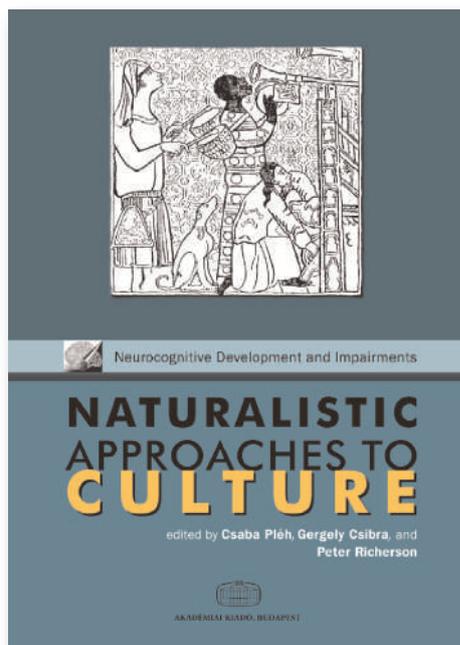
in Psychology and Social Neuroscience at the "Sapienza" University of Rome

The Foreign Nationals Educated Abroad Ph.D. scholarship awarded by "Sapienza" University of Rome is a very prestigious and competitive scholarship for non-Italian students who graduated abroad. Application of highly talented students with a Master degree is encouraged.

The deadline for submission is 10 June 2014. For details see [call for submission](#)

## **New book in cognitive science**

Csaba Pléh, Gergely Csibra, Peter Richerson (eds.): *Naturalistic approaches to culture*



During the last three decades, several attempts were made to clarify the possibilities and limitations of naturalistic approaches to mind and culture. The most important new vistas arise from modern evolutionary theory but the issues also have, in the background, the traditional debates on reductionism and biological determinism. Some of the challenging issues involved in reconsidering biology and culture in their relations are discussed in this volume: the 'natural' origin and 'biology' of sociality, the naturalistic origins of human cognitive capacities, the interface between biological evolution and cultural evolution, adaptation as exaptation in explaining culture, universal and specific aspects of cultural systems such as languages, the neural circuitry of primary (language like) and secondary (writing like) cultural systems.

## Introducing research institutes in Central Europe

Developmental Psychology Lab, Department of Psychology, Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania



The Developmental Psychology Lab is a research group interested in developmental science. This laboratory was established in 2005 by Oana Benga, formally acknowledging the existence of a pioneering Romanian research group on developmental psychology, active from 2000, with internationally recognized scientific outputs. Since then, undergraduate and graduate students, as well as postdoctoral and senior researchers have been involved in our research projects. The lab is focused on different aspects of cognitive, social and emotional development and covers a wide age range. Participants in our studies include infants, toddlers, children, adolescents and young adults.

*Here is an overview of our current research projects:*

- Development of categorization and cognitive flexibility. After studying the development of flexible categorization in preschool children, we are now working at a new conceptualization of cognitive flexibility, one that considers this to be an emergent property of the cognitive system rather than a static property.
- We are also investigating symbolic development in young children, with a particular

focus on the cognitive and social mechanisms involved in the emergence of iconic gestural communication.

- Reactive and self-regulative temperament as a foundation for individual differences, as well as a predictor for future developmental psychopathology is also major theme of research.
- Anxiety studied at the subclinical level, in the light of individual differences in trait anxiety. Anxiety and its effects on the performance in cognitive tasks with emotional information either present or absent, is a convergent theme of several members of our lab. The emotion-cognition interplay in the case of high-anxious children (from preschool years to adolescence) has been investigated in terms of typical and atypical variations in attentional biases, inhibition, working memory and shifting.
- Maternal self-regulation, parenting practices and child self-regulation in early childhood: implications for developmental psychopathology. This project aims to analyze the complex relationships between parental and child characteristics (in particular, temperament and executive attention) during early development, in a cross-sequential study.
- A recent area of research targets executive functions involved in early deceptive skills manifested by young children. As such, one of our projects aims to establish a comprehensive developmental trajectory of deception and its socio-cognitive and emotional implications, using a longitudinal accelerated design ([www.decade.ro](http://www.decade.ro)).

For more information about our Lab and a complete list of our publications, please visit: <http://www.devpsychology.ro/en/>

**Dermina Vasc**  
*on behalf of the  
Developmental Psychology Lab Team*

## Selected publications from this research lab:

Cheie, L., Veraksa, A., Zinchenko, Y., Gorovaya, A., & Visu-Petra, L. (in press). A cross-cultural investigation of inhibitory control, generative fluency, and anxiety symptoms in Romanian and Russian preschoolers. *Child Neuropsychology*.

Vasc, D., & Ionescu, T. (2013). Embodying cognition: Gestures and their role in the development of thinking. *Cognition, Brain, Behavior. An Interdisciplinary Journal*, 17, 149-169.

Ionescu, T. (2012). Exploring the nature of cognitive flexibility. *New Ideas in Psychology*, 30, 190-200.

Susa, G., Pitica I., Benga O., & Miclea, M. (2012). The self regulatory effect of attentional control in modulating the relationship between attentional biases toward threat and anxiety symptoms in children. *Cognition & Emotion*, 26, 1069-1083.

Visu-Petra, L., Cheie, L., Benga, O., & Alloway, T. P. (2011). Effects of trait anxiety on memory storage and updating in young children. *International Journal of Behavioral Development*, 35, 38-47.

Benga, O. (2005). Intentional communication and the anterior cingulate cortex. *Interaction Studies: Social Behavior and Communication in Biological and Artificial Systems*, 6, 201-221.

### ABOUT CECOG:

The Central European Cognitive Science Association (CECOG) is a civil association promoting cooperation in the field of cognitive science in Central Europe. The association was initiated at a meeting in August 2008 by the Budapest University of Technology and the University of Zagreb. The CECOG organizing committee: Melita Kovacevic, Ilona Kovács and Csaba Pléh; President: Csaba Pléh; Managing organizers and local hosts of the DuCog series: Nevena Padovan and Dóra Kampis; Managing secretary of the association: Dóra Kampis.

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