



The History of the European
Association of Social Psychology
1967 - 2017

PREFACE

Before you is an account of the history of our association, commissioned by the Executive Committee to celebrate our 50 years of existence. Fifty years is quite an achievement for a small non-profit association, run completely by volunteers (with the exception of our Executive Officer), and should be marked. We'll do so in style at the 2017 General Meeting, in Granada, with a party, free for all members (we're used to our parties ending as free-for-alls, but this one starts as one!), which replaces the usual farewell dinner. This anniversary also seemed an excellent opportunity to take stock of where we are as an association, which we can only do properly by simultaneously reflecting on where we came from. Thus, this booklet.



The question was: Who should tell our story, beyond the account of the very earliest times that is already documented and available on our website? Whom could we trust to know enough about the association and to care so much about it that they would agree to the immense task of researching and writing this account? Well, those who know Eddy van Avermaet will agree that there is no better choice.

I am afraid that Eddy will not allow me to say too much about this—he will insist on editing it out, I know, if I praise him too much. But I reserved the right to a paragraph without his editing control to try to express my admiration and gratitude for his immediate agreement to take this on, the enthusiasm and dedication with which he pursued it, and the amazing result that you now see. Eddy's history of service to EASP amply testifies to his deep commitment to the association. Eddy is also extremely amiable, which has allowed him to get to personally know a large number of members of several generations, and become privy to very interesting stories per-

taining to its development. Eddy has the best collection of photographs of EASP events and personalities and is the first port of call when we need any historical information, an anecdote for a speech, or a photograph for an announcement. And, of course, Eddy is a great writer—he writes as he speaks: Enthusiastically, fluently, comfortably, and as I read his words I can imagine him sitting in front of me, rubbing his hands in excitement. So Eddy it had to be, and Eddy it was when he promptly agreed. Thank you, Eddy.

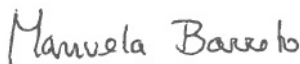
I must also thank Tina Keil, one of our post-graduate members, but also someone with an outstanding artistic talent, for the amazing design of this booklet. Thank you, Tina.

This booklet doesn't include this committee members' account of our history because we are not yet history at the time of writing (although three of us will, in a sense, be by the time you see this booklet!). But I would like to add some personal thoughts. As time goes by, new challenges appear that require consideration and adjustment: Fraudulent re-

search practices, open access publishing, political interference with scientific endeavors. We try to respond to these in the best way we can. But other challenges have been there from the start and remain core to our association. The challenge of diversity is one of these. I have been asked what makes EASP unique. I no longer believe that there is only one European way of doing social psychology, so this is not it. What makes us stand out is the core value of supporting research and careers, and this implies diversity. This means that, contrary to many other associations, our focus should not be, and it most often isn't, on prioritizing support for those who are most productive, with the most read papers, or the highest h-index. Instead, in my view, our role is to support all to do the best social psychology we can do, as a community, without a single prototype of what this might be. Our aim is to do as much as we can to promote the excellence of social psychology in Europe—and that means all types of social psychology and all of Europe.

Have we managed? My personal view is that we are doing a lot to fulfill this vision: We are

committed to it and take it seriously. We started from a small group of people who aimed to represent social psychology in Europe. Clearly, at the time, this was more aspiration than reality. We have come a long way in this regard: We now have a large membership from a wide variety of countries, representing a range of excellent and important work. But we are not quite there yet. We're still catching up on gender diversity, and we might have gone backwards, over the years, in terms of how other sources of diversity are represented among our membership and activities. Of course there are many reasons for this, not all of which are under our control, but I'm confident that we can do a lot better on this front. To be truly European, we must continue to honor our founders by working towards increased diversity and inclusiveness in our membership and activities, in terms of gender, geographic location, topic, or approach. We must all contribute to ensuring that we remain true to who we are: A truly European Association of Social Psychology.



Manuela Barreto

Executive Committee member 2011-2017

President 2014-2017

INTRODUCTION

The European Association of Social Psychology is 50 years young! The Executive Committee decided to celebrate the occasion through the publication of an account of the history of EASP. As a now somewhat older and former member of the Executive Committee (2002-2008) I was asked to write this account.

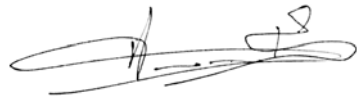
The content of this booklet is based on a multitude of sources. The archives of the Association kept at the KU Leuven library formed the primary source, but in addition I made use of Newsletters and Bulletins, published state of the union addresses by former presidents at the end of their term of office, various other publications, and personal testimonies received from former Executive Committee members. In writing this booklet I 'stole' quite a bit from these sources, adding my own interpretation where I saw fit. Because I don't want to burden the reader with references I will only occasionally include specific references to one or more of the sources I used.

In approaching my task I had to make choices. Because this historical account is primarily intended as 'looking at our roots' the early history of the Association will be described in detail, as it constitutes the basis for what followed. Beyond that, I refrained from giving period by period descriptions of later years. Instead I chose to let former presidents and members of Executive Committees speak themselves, drawing from their ad-

resses to the membership or from memories sent to me via mail. In addition

I will myself dwell over some questions and issues that arose over the years and how they were handled. I will end with a description of the present, adding a 'then versus now' comparison. The Association was set up with a number of goals in mind. A 'then versus now' comparison creates the opportunity to reflect over the extent to which the original goals were fulfilled and to reflect over differences between the early years and the present.

History is not an exact science, it is a reconstruction of the past, especially when written by a non-historian such as myself. I therefore apologize for any errors of omission or commission.



Eddy Van Avermaet

Executive Committee member 2002-2008



THE FOUNDATION OF THE ASSOCIATION

Prehistory

It would not be fair to state that cooperation between social psychologists in Europe was totally inexistent prior to the foundation of our Association.

In the late 1940's UNESCO had held a plea for a progressive internationalization of the social sciences. Cross-national comparative research and the foundation of international social science organizations were viewed as major instruments in this regard. In the spirit of this plea in the 1950's an initial attempt was made at bringing social scientists from the US and Europe together around a common research project. With the encouragement of the American Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI) and with the support of the Ford Foundation, a cross-

national and interdisciplinary 'Seven Nations study' on threat and rejection was prepared and carried out. Participants in the project were more than 30 European social scientists, along with a limited number of North Americans. Among the participants were several of the later founders and early members of our Association. Although the actual results of the study were less consistent than hoped for, the very fact that for the first time a joint enterprise of European social scientists had taken place set the stage for possible future cooperation.

It was, however, not until a few years later, but inspired by the same spirit, that an initiative was taken that would eventually lead to the foundation of our Association.

The Sorrento Conference: The First Step

Preparations

In 1962 John Lanzetta, while on sabbatical in London as a liaison scientist of the Group Psychology Branch of the Office of Naval Research (ONR), and having traveled to various universities across Europe, was struck by the observation of the limited presence of theory-based work that made use of solid research methods. Most of what went on was descriptive and applied in nature, focusing on local situations, with cross-sectional surveys as the dominant methodology. Yet there was also a small but productive group with broader theoretical interests, keenly aware also of the importance of scientific research methods. Paradoxically, many of them had traveled to and studied in the United States or had welcomed American social psychologists at their own universities, but they were mostly unaware of work being done by colleagues in Europe itself.

In line with the philosophy of the Office of Naval Research and, importantly, of the American Social Sciences Research Council (SSRC), which both strongly promoted the idea of international collaboration, Lanzetta and his Washington ONR colleague Luigi Petrucco felt that bringing a group of European social psychologists together for a 'get acquainted' conference might be a stepping stone towards creating a community of social psychologists in Europe. The actual conference was prepared by a four man Planning Committee, consisting of Lanzetta himself, Mauk Mulder, Robert Pagès, and Henri Tajfel (Ragnar Rommetveit and John Thibaut joined the group later).

Interestingly, the European members of the Committee had previously never met. Attendance would be limited to 30 participants, to be chosen by the Committee and the conference should take place at "a sufficiently isolated location lacking in distraction to encourage informal social interaction." The program should encompass the broad range of work of European social psychology and large blocks of time should be reserved for informal interactions. It was felt that an application of these criteria would guarantee the achievement of the goals set for the conference.

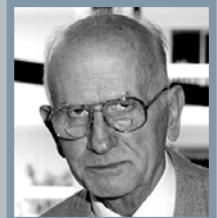
1963



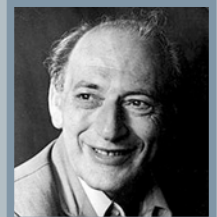
John T. Lanzetta
(1921-1989)



Mauk Mulder
(1922-2016)



Robert Pagès
(1919-2007)



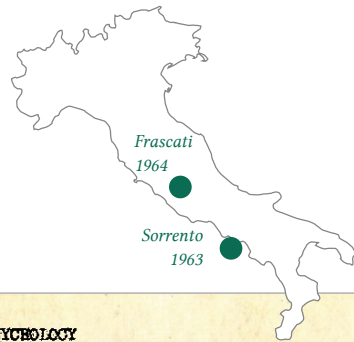
Henri Tajfel
(1919-1982)

The Conference

The conference itself, officially called 'European Conference on Experimental Social Psychology' and financially supported by the SSRC and the ONR, took place at a hotel in Sorrento, Italy (which, aside from meeting the more serious criteria set by the Committee, is a beautiful place to be at) from 12th to 16th December, 1963. The 30 participants (21 from Europe, two from Israel and seven North Americans) came from 17 different institutions, spread over 10 countries. For five full days the participants reported, listened to, and discussed papers (presented in French or English) in formal sessions. The sessions were always a meeting of the entire group, organized into two periods a day, each devoted to a separate topic. Discussions often went on in more informal meetings lasting way beyond the official time schedule, often until the late hours of the evening. Today's tight time speaking and discussing schedules were unheard of in those days.

Evaluation

From today's perspective the Sorrento gathering might appear as just another little conference, but judged from the evaluation of the participants it was much more than that. It provided an opportunity to learn about research by colleagues from elsewhere that they did not know of before and, importantly, it gave them the needed moral support to continue their work at their home universities where such support was lacking. In addition the conference encouraged Lanzetta and the Planning Committee to develop plans for a second conference and, more generally, to initiate the development of a more comprehensive program for advancing social psychology in Europe.



EXPERIMENTAL SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

1. As Henri Tajfel's recent letter indicated, the conference will be held from the 12th to the 16th December, inclusive. I apologize for any inconvenience caused by the inconsistency in the earlier announcement of a five-day meeting from the 12th-17th, inclusive. We would be grateful if you could plan to arrive in Sorrento on the 11th December and remain through the 16th.

2. In our earlier announcement we indicated that bus transportation from Naples to Sorrento would be arranged. We have since been informed that there are trains from Naples to Sorrento leaving from the Stazione Circumvesuviana (a few minutes walk from the Stazione Centrale of Napoli) any hour from 6:30 a.m. to 8:40 p.m., and reaching Sorrento in one hour, 20 minutes. Sorrento is the last stop on the line. Taxis (or cars from the hotel) will be available at the Sorrento railway station.

The train should provide more flexibility and convenience for participants and requires much less coordination. However, if you will experience any difficulty in utilizing the train service please let me know prior to the conference or after the 10th December by telephoning the Imperial Hotel, Trasmontano (telephone number 78.19.40-78.19.41).

3. As previously noted the location of the hotel. The costs for the

John Lanzetta's original letter outlining the organisation of the Sorrento meeting

The Frascati Conference: The second step

Preparations

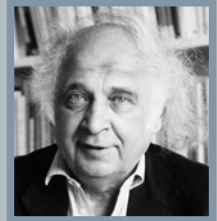
To carry out the intentions formulated at the end of the Sorrento Conference early in 1964 the Planning Committee and Lanzetta wrote a formal 'Proposal for Contributions to the Development of Experimental Social Psychology in Europe,' which they submitted to the Transnational Social Psychology Committee for financial support. This Committee, newly formed within the SSRC and chaired by Leon Festinger, had explicitly been set up to initiate and stimulate international activities in the field of social psychology. The original members of this Committee were all North Americans, but in view of the developing contacts with Europe the Committee soon co-opted three Europeans as additional members (Moscovici, Koekebakker, and Rommetveit).

The proposal, submitted to the Transnational Committee, was ambitious. It demanded funding for: (a) a second European Conference, (b) a 4-6 weeks Summer research training workshop for students, (c) brief exchange visits between social psychologists within Europe, (d) specialized seminars, and (e) an international center for research and training in social psychology. As a first step the Transnational Committee reacted favorably to the first two items on the list, considering them as highest in priority: It would support a second conference and a summer school. In addition, it recommended that for the conference a number of younger social psychologists should also be invited, but without increasing the overall number of participants beyond about 30.

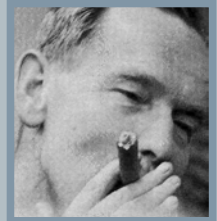
The Conference

Armed with this support, the Planning Committee went ahead and prepared the next conference. It would take place at Frascati (Italy) in December of 1964. Its format would be comparable to that of the Sorrento conference. The major obstacle confronting the Planning Committee was the selection of the participants. On the one hand, the committee wanted to avoid not inviting all the Sorrento participants, but on the other hand—at the request of the fund-

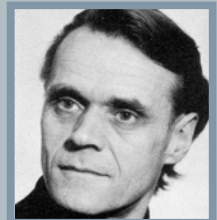
1964



*Serge Moscovici
(1925-2014)*



Jaap Koekebakker



Ragnar Rommetveit

ing SSRC—it also had to invite younger social psychologists, while keeping the total number of participants down to about 30. In the end, 28 non-Americans participated, of whom nine had not participated at Sorrento. An additional five North Americans brought the total number of participants up to 33. The conference itself was set up pretty much like the previous one and, as its predecessor, it engendered similar feelings of enthusiasm and eagerness to exchange ideas.

The Planning Committee

Election. A general evaluation at the end of the conference made it clear that there was now a genuine community of social psychologists in Europe and that a new set of steps should be taken towards ‘some form of continuing activities.’ A long discussion of elements that could contribute to this goal ended in the election by the European participants of a provisional committee, henceforth called the European Planning Committee.



EASP Planning Committee, Leuven 1965; From left: J. Nuttin, G. Jahoda, S. Moscovici, H. Tajfel, M. Mulder

It would consist of Gustave Jahoda, Serge Moscovici, Mauk Mulder, Jozef Nuttin, and Henri Tajfel. Moscovici was to become its chairman and Mauk Mulder its secretary. The committee would have the task to plan ‘some form of organizational structure’ for the continuing activities, to plan the activities them-

selves (further conferences, exchange visits, summer schools and the like), and to find sources of funding for these activities.

Initial actions. The newly formed European Planning Committee did not wait long to undertake action. In effect, in early February 1965, only a little more than a month after the Frascati conference, it held its first meeting in Leuven (Belgium). Other meetings would follow soon. The minutes of these meetings reveal the intensity and the speed with which the Committee approached the task given to them by the Frascati participants. For communication purposes, the Committee soon had its own stationary made (in English and in French). It showed the first name of the Association: ‘European Association for the Advancement of Experimental Social Psychology.’ Of course, stationary is only stationary, but its symbolic value should not be underestimated.

On a more serious note, and to list but a few examples of the Committee’s activities, it organized the first Summer School for the training of European researchers in 1965, at The Hague (the Netherlands), planned another at Leuven, and began to organize small exchange visits and small specialized seminars. To facilitate communication, a Newsletter, the early predecessor of the present European Bulletin, was created. Finally, the Committee also prepared a third conference, to be held at Royaumont (France).

It should be noted that for these various early activities the Committee spent a great deal of energy in finding European sources of funding. North American funding would in effect not be perennial, but, more importantly, being able to acquire European funding was considered a symbol of the Association’s growing self-reliance and independence.

The Royaumont Conference: The Third and Definitive Step

The Conference

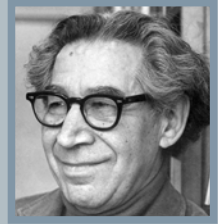
This third conference was unique, not so much because of the beautiful setting in which it took place (the Abbaye de Royaumont), but more so because—quoting the report of the conference—“it marked the first exclusively European effort to organize, finance, and conduct a major international meeting in experimental social psychology.” In effect, with the exception of two American guests (Festinger and Lanzetta) all 28 other participants were European social psychologists. The conference was paid for by the Royaumont Foundation and by l’Ecole Pratiques des Hautes Etudes. Most importantly of all, at Royaumont our Association was officially founded.

The spirit of the conference was as before, but with a growing awareness that step by step social psychology in Europe was beginning to reach maturity. There was still quite a bit of discussion of North American research at the conference, but at the same time the conference participants expressed their need to become less dependent from the US for ideas and support. There was no apparent animosity against the American influence on the field. Quoting from the report: “The message conveyed was one of desiring to develop some sort of mature professional identity and sufficient resources to establish a significant European position in the world of experimental and social psychology.”

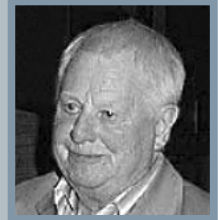
Establishing the Structure of the Association

About halfway during the conference a first official ‘business meeting’ was held where a number of formal decisions were made. The Association was now officially named ‘The European Association of Experimental Social Psychology’, in short ‘EAESP.’ Later in this booklet, more will be said about the name choice. The ‘European Planning Committee’ was renamed as ‘the Executive Committee’ and it would consist of seven rather than five members, as is still the case today. The members of the Planning Committee were all re-elected, with added members Martin Irlé and Ragnar Rommetveit. Serge Moscovici, formerly chairman of the Planning Committee, became the very first president of

1966



Leon Festinger
(1919-1989)



Martin Irlé
(1927-2013)



Jozef Nuttin
(1933-2014)



Gustav Jahoda
(1920-2016)

the newly formed Association. It will come as no surprise that during the course of the Business Meeting participants expressed a need for formal Articles and Standing Orders that would consolidate the decisions made. A set of formal bylaws would further protect the consistency of any future proposals with the present decisions. The new Executive Committee was asked to prepare the document during the next year.

Defining Membership and its Growth

A major issue discussed at the Business Meeting concerned membership of the Association. Part of the debate concerned, of course, who could or could not be a member, but at least as much attention went to the issue of the (un)desirable growth of the membership. Regarding membership itself, it was agreed that it would be limited to Europeans and that the Executive Committee would accept somebody as a member if proposed by a member of the Association, with the support of two other members, and if demonstrated that the candidate actively participated in ‘qualified experimental or quasi-experimental fundamental research of a social psychological nature.’

Today it may come as a surprise that the extent of the growth of the membership was such a critical issue for our founding fathers and early members. Of course everybody wanted EASP to grow, but at the same time the early members were concerned with maintaining the essence of the spirit of their three conferences: Direct and intensive interaction amongst a group of familiar colleagues! The feelings of the early members can perhaps best be described in the colorful words of Henri Tajfel, one of our founding fathers: “We did not wish to have an amorphous, mainly formal, large international body whose activities would mainly be re-

stricted to organizing once every few years one of those ‘large jamborees’, known as International Congresses. We wished to have a small group of people, which would grow slowly, would have an active membership, and would also be capable of creating strong mutual links.” The compromise reached between opposing viewpoints was to accept about 10 new members between two successive General Meetings, as the Conferences would be called in the future. It should be noted that, as a result of the growing interest in the Association, this strict rule did not survive long. Only three years later (1969) the bylaws of the Association, voted on in 1969, raised the maximum of 10 new members to 15 (during the interval between General Meetings). In practice the original rule had already been relaxed, as the membership doubled between 1966 and 1969.

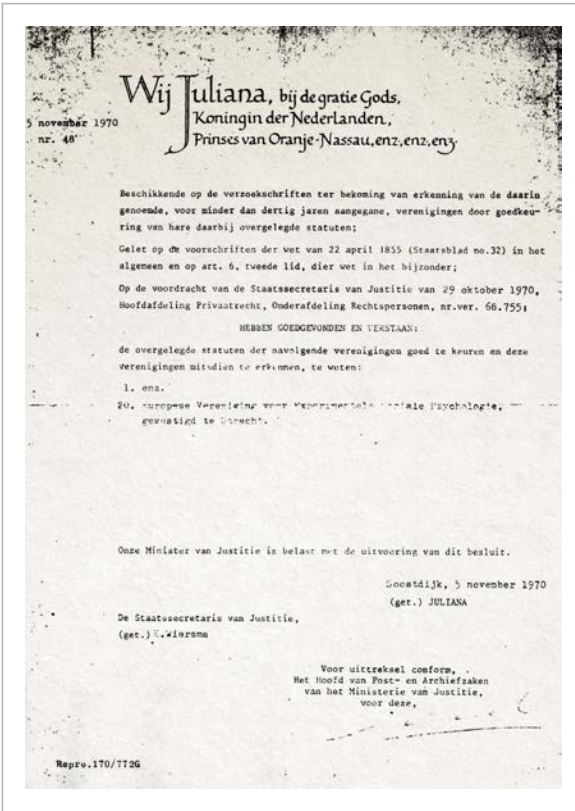
Formalising the Association

Articles and Standing Orders. As said earlier, during the business meeting of the Roy-aumont Conference the first Executive Committee was asked to prepare the bylaws of the newly formed Association in the form of Articles and Standing Orders. The task was assigned to an ad hoc committee consisting of two members of the Executive Committee and five ‘ordinary’ members of the Association. Inspired by an example from the International Association of Applied Psychology, this committee began to write the first drafts of the Articles and Standing Orders in 1967.

As an anecdote, one of the first drafts implied that there would be three kinds of members: ‘ordinary’ members, honorary members, and a special category of patrons. Honorary membership would be conferred upon persons who in the opinion of the regular members had distinguished themselves through international contributions to the develop-

1967

1970



Royal decree marking the official registration, November 5th, 1970

ment of social psychology. Patrons were persons or bodies who contributed financially to the Association on a yearly basis.

Following discussions and revisions, the final version of these bylaws was voted on by the members of the Association, article by article, during the General Meeting of 1969 (Leuven). To establish the legal existence of the Association the approved text, translated in Dutch, was submitted to the Official Registration Office of the Netherlands. A 'Koninklijk Besluit' (a Royal decree), signed by the then Dutch Queen Juliana, and dated November 5th, 1970, completed the official approval of the Association's bylaws. Utrecht, the home of Jaap Rabbie, then a member of the Executive Committee, became the official seat of the Association.



First general meeting, Leuven, 1969

Front, from left: J. Nuttin, H. Mawlewska, P. Naus, H. Tajfel, J. Israel, C. Herzlich, M. von Cranach, E. Apfelbaum, A. Jurovsky, M. Zavalloni; Middle: C. Flament, J. Janousek, G. Iacono, J.P. Poitou, H. Himmelweit, G. Cohen, S. Mika, P. Schönbach, D. Van Kreveld, G. Jahoda; Back: J. Rabbie, S. Moscovici, M. Mulder, J. Koekebakker, J. Lanzetta, N. Lemon, M. Argyle

In view of the above, one could argue about the actual ‘birthday’ of the Association. Depending on the criterion used, it can be almost any year between 1966 and 1970. In 1966, EAESP was created ‘internally’, the bylaws were written in 1967, the final version was approved by the members in 1969, and via a Dutch Royal Decree the Association became a recognized legal entity in 1970.

The original Articles and Standing Orders of EAESP have a structure comparable to that of similar organizations. The Articles describe the purpose of the Association, the way membership is regulated, the structure and functioning of the Executive and other committees, the rules governing the General Meetings, the handling of finances, and the like. The Standing Orders, at the time consisting of a very limited number of clauses, related mainly to daily management issues, such as the procedures for the admission of

new members and for the election of members of the Executive Committee.

Leaving the more technical aspects of the Articles aside, in terms of substance, Articles 3 and 4 are the most important as they describe the goals of the Association and the means to reach them.

Article 3 of the original set of articles reads as follows: “The purpose and objects of the Association are the promotion and development of experimental and theoretical social psychology within Europe, and the interchange of information relating to this subject between the European members and other Associations throughout the world towards an international achievement of these objects and purposes.”

Article 4 then lists the means to achieve these goals: The organization of meetings, the promotion of mutual scientific communication

Statuten van de vereniging: Europese Vereniging voor Experimentele Sociale Psychologie.

I. Naam en zetel van de vereniging.

Artikel 1.
De vereniging draagt de naam: "Europese Vereniging voor Experimentele Sociale Psychologie" en is gevestigd te Utrecht.

Artikel 2.
Het verenigingsjaar valt samen met het kalenderjaar en het boekjaar van de vereniging loopt dienovereenkomstig van 1 januari tot en met 31 december.

II. Doel en middelen van de vereniging.

Artikel 3.
De vereniging heeft ten doel het bevorderen en ontwikkelen van experimentele en theoretische Sociale Psychologie binnen Europa en het uitwisselen van informatie met betrekking tot dit onderzoek tussen de Europese leden onderling en tussen de vereniging en andere verenigingen buiten Europa, zulks ter effectivering van het doel, ook in internationaal verband.

Artikel 4.
De vereniging tracht naar in artikel 3 omschreven doel te bereiken door:

- a. het beleggen van vergaderingen;
- b. het bevorderen van samenwerking op het gebied van communicatie en research, zowel tussen de leden onderling als met andere beoefenaren van de wetenschap;
- c. het opleiden van social psychologen;
- d. het publiceren van manuscripten;
- e. het bevorderen van alle wettelijk toegestane activiteiten van niet-leden, indien deze relevant zijn voor het doel en de werkzaamheden van de vereniging;
- f. het samenwerken met andere verenigingen en instellingen binnen en buiten Europa.

Artikel 5.
III. De leden van de vereniging.

Artikel 5.
Iedereen, die van de vereniging kan worden verwacht een belangrijke bijdrage zal leveren voor de ontwikkeling van experimentele en/of theoretische Sociale Psychologie of die reeds een dergelijke bijdrage hebben geleverd door middel van research of het schrijven van boeken, artikelen of andere wetenschappelijke publicaties.

Artikel 6.
De wijze, waarop iemand het lidmaatschap van de vereniging verkrijgt wordt geregeld in het huishoudelijk reglement.

Artikel 7.
Het lidmaatschap van de vereniging eindigt:

- a. door overlijden;
- b. door royalement conform de artikelen 8, 9 en 10;
- c. door opzegging conform artikel 11.

Artikel 8.
Een lid kan als zodanig worden geroyeerd indien hij gedurende tenminste twee jaar in gebreke blijft zijn contributie te betalen.

Artikel 9.
Een lid zal als zodanig worden geroyeerd:

- a. indien hij de goede naam van de vereniging aantant of benadeelt;
- b. indien hij zich gedraagt op een wijze, die een lid van de vereniging omzwaardig is en die nadelig is voor de naam en/of het belang van de vereniging.

Artikel 10.
Als een lid zich niet houdt aan de bepalingen van de artikelen 8 en 9 heeft het bestuur het recht om:

- a. een lid als zodanig te schorsen tot de volgende ledenvergadering die over royalement besluit; de schorsing wordt aan het lid medegedeeld;
- b. een lid te verzoeken om zelf het lidmaatschap van de vereniging op te zeggen;
- c. een lid, dat niet voldoet aan een verzoek, als sub b bedoeld, als lid te royaeren; aan het lid wordt mededeling gedaan van het royalement en van zijn recht in beroep te gaan bij de eerstvolgende ledenvergadering.

First page of the society's original articles, 1970

and research cooperation between members and between members and other scientists, the training of social psychologists, the publication of manuscripts, and finally cooperation with other associations and institutions within and outside Europe.

Of course, over the years, a number of the Articles and Standing Orders have undergone changes, as a result of changing views and/or practices. Some of these will be described later in this booklet. Suffice it now to observe that, comparing the original 1969 bylaws with those of 2017, the core of the Articles still stands. As such they testify to the wisdom of the founders of the Association and its early membership.

THE EARLY YEARS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Activities in the Early Years

The addresses held by the first two presidents of the Association, Serge Moscovici and Henri Tajfel, at the end of their term of office (in 1969 and 1972 respectively) testify to the multitude of activities that were being initiated. It is by the way interesting to observe that the structure of most of the addresses held by later presidents has always been very comparable to those of Moscovici and Tajfel. As such they show that through-out the years the original basic choices of categories of activities withstood the test of time. Of course, as the years went by changes in kind and procedures took place, but the essence remained intact.

Visits of Short Duration and Small Group Meetings

To promote inter-communication between European social psychologists, from early on the Association offered support for exchange visits of short duration, but both Moscovici and Tajfel report that in spite of repeated invitations by the Executive Committee relatively few applications were received. Small group meetings, which permitted researchers in the same area to exchange points of view and to develop plans for further collaboration, were more popular. And of course, there were the first East-West meetings and the summer schools.

The First East-West Meetings

From early on the Executive Committee invested major efforts at establishing contacts with social psychologists from countries behind the 'Iron Curtain.' It will come as no

surprise that given the political conditions of that period this was not an easy undertaking. But through efforts on both sides a first East-West meeting could be organized in Vienna in 1967 in which, aside from some North Americans and researchers from Western Europe, eight Eastern European colleagues participated. A year later (1968) a second such meeting took place in Prague. In spite of the difficult political situation in Czechoslovakia in that year, because of the Spring repression by the Russian army earlier that year, this second meeting too turned out to be successful. It should be admitted that the organization of this second meeting was not self-evident from the perspective of the Association. Some of its members felt that having the conference itself would constitute an implicit approval of the political conditions that resulted from the Russian invasion and they therefore refused to attend.

Summer Schools

Reading what Moscovici and Tajfel wrote about the early summer schools (The Hague in 1965 and Leuven in 1967) leaves one with the distinct impression that the summer schools were considered the flagship of the Association. The intensive research training achieved through a summer school was thought to contribute to and even hasten the development of active research centers of research in social psychology throughout all of Europe.

Although the first school at The Hague was an interesting first experiment, the Leuven summer school of 1967 should be credited for becoming the model for its many later suc-

1966

1972



Top: 1st East-West meeting in Vienna, Austria, 1967

Bottom: 9th East-West meeting in Münster, Germany, 1992

cessors (see p. 13). Jef Nuttin and Jos Jaspars served as dean and co-dean of the School. Faculty were Bob Zajonc, Hal Kelley, Phil Zimbardo, Hal Gerard, Ragnar Rommetveit and Jaap Rabbie. As described in Nuttin's report, the Leuven summer school was set up as "a residential seminar in which participants would have the opportunity to develop - in collaboration with a 'master'—an original hypothesis, to design an experimental test of it within a laboratory context, to conduct the experiment, and to analyze and present the results in a written report." In other words, the intent was to go 'full circle' in a limited amount of time. To achieve these ambitious goals, under the guidance of a North American or a European faculty member, 30 participants, divided over six research teams, were brought together at Leuven for five full weeks. And in fact during these five intense weeks they went full circle. It is hard to imagine that today's summer schools would still last that long, but in those days such was possible. And in spite of



Staff at 1st Summer School in Leuven, 1967 and their reunion at the Leuven/Louvain-la-Neuve Summer School in 1998
1967 front, from left: H. Gerard, J.M. Nuttin, J. Jaspars, H. Kelley; **Back**: P. Zimbardo, J. Rabbie, R. Zajonc, R. Rommetveit
1998, from left: J.M.Nuttin, H. Kelley, R. Zajonc, R. Rommetveit, J. Rabbie, P. Zimbardo; Missing from the reunion are J. Jaspars (deceased), and H. Gerard (illness at the time)

1966

1972

the fact that the school took place in the summer the organizers managed to have a sufficient number of participants for the experiments that were planned. In effect, more than 1000 military recruits from a nearby army base were carried in by the truckloads to serve as participants.

The benefits of this and all the later summer schools cannot be underestimated. There is of course the direct training effect, but the development of networks of students across Europe after the summer school is over is of at least equal if not more importance, which is why the summer schools are still considered, today, one of the association's flagship activities.

Publications

In his 1969 presidential report, Moscovici wrote: "The Executive Committee estimates that the diffusion of European social psychology 'intra and extra muros' requires a publications program." In effect, when communication of one's own work is limited to a small and nearby circle of colleagues and students one cannot hope to reach a larger group nor can one hope to have effect on research elsewhere. Following internal discussions and external negotiations with publishers, the decision was made to go for two types of publications: A European Journal of Social Psychology and a series of European monographs in social psychology, both of which still exist today.

A reading of the editorial of the first issue of the European Journal, written by Mauk Mulder, is instructive, partly because it gives an indication of the kinds of contents the Association had in mind, but partly also because it shows the positive and supportive attitude of the founders of the journal towards potential contributors. In terms of content, the Journal would welcome a wide variety of contributions: Theoretical and research articles as major items, but also briefer notes on ongoing research in Europe, brief reports of conferences, reviews of European books and the like. The journal would therefore serve two purposes. As a 'standard' journal it would contribute to getting European research in social psychology known to social psychologists in Europe and beyond. On the other hand, and mainly through its briefer items, it would serve as a communication instrument among European researchers.



Two important and unique characteristics of the Journal deserve additional mention. Lack of proficiency in the English language by non-native English speakers was considered a potential obstacle to submitting manuscripts in English and it might perhaps even limit readership of the Journal. To mitigate these problems, manuscripts for major articles could also be submitted in French or German. Once accepted, they were translated into English. In addition, each major published article would have summaries in French, German, and Russian. The other distinctive feature of the Journal would be its flexibility. Authors were not expected to stick to a rigid style or mode of presentation. The editors wanted to respect each author's preferred manner of presenting their work. It was hoped that this flexibility would take away some of the uncertainty or lack of self-confidence of potential authors.

A series of European Monographs in Social Psychology, to be published by Academic Press in cooperation with the Association, would constitute an additional way to bring European theoretical and research projects to

the fore. The monographs were intended to be a principal outlet for new theoretical and empirical contributions in European social psychology. More generally they were intended as a means 'to promote a distinctively European intellectual perspective to the rest of the world'. Specifically, as the early published volumes clearly show, with their emphasis on the social and cultural contexts as an essential ingredient to understand behavior, the monographs would offer a fresh addition to other (mostly North American) books and series. Yet, as Tajfel wrote: "The monographs do not set out to be 'European' in explicit opposition, competition or contradiction to anything else, but a discipline concerned with the analysis of human social life must be tested and measured against the intellectual and social requirements of many cultures." The first two volumes of the series, entitled "The Social dimension: European Developments in Social Psychology", edited by Tajfel and with contributions from many authors, constituted a perfect illustration of the above assertion. The same holds for all the later volumes in the series.



General Meeting, Leuven, 1972

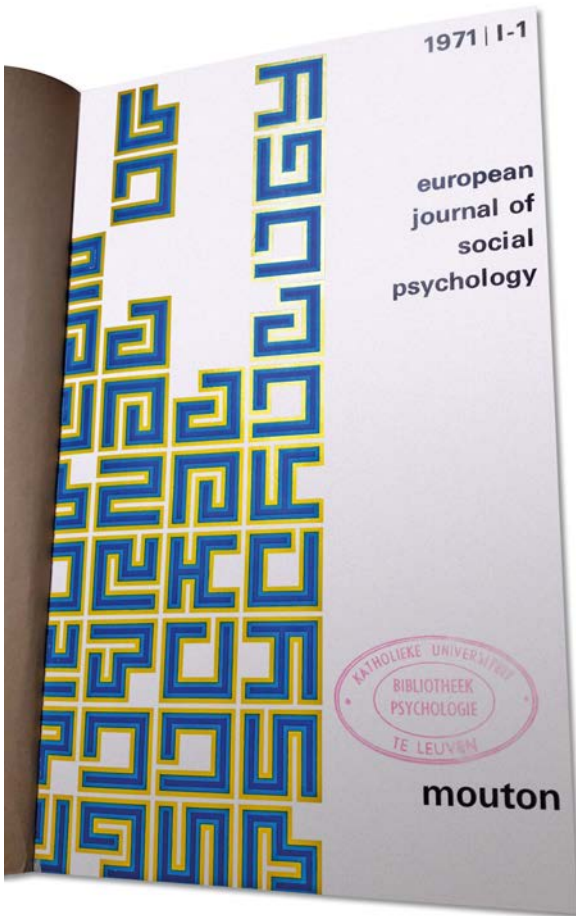
Front, from left: W. Doise, H. Himmelweit, J.M. Nuttin, C. Flament, H. Tajfel, J. Rabbie, M. Irle, A. Beckers, J.P. Leyens
Group: E. Timaeus, G. Semin, H. Lück, S. Mika, R. Ghiglione, L. Garai, G. Trommsdorff, J.P. Codol, H. Wilke, E. Apfelbaum, C. Fraser, M. Zavalloni, M. Argyle, W. Stroebe, T. Slama-Czacu, J. Jaspars, H. Hiebsch, P. Robinson, H. Lamm, H. Anger, D. Van Kreveld, H. Malewska, J. Innes, J.C. Abric, P. Schönbach

1966

1972

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Issue 1, EJSP*



*Cover of the first issue of the
European Journal of Social Psychology*

THE EARLY YEARS: SMOOTH, BUT ...

... with a few bumps

So far, the description of the foundation and the early years of the Association might create the impression of a flawless start, but it cannot be denied that on its way to maturity the association had to cope with various types of problems. Without pretending to be exhaustive below is a description of some of these problems, as they could be traced from the Archives of the Association. Calling them ‘problems’ may be a bit of an overstatement. In retrospect ‘minor hurdles’ might be a better characterization.

Bump 1

Communication among the members of the Planning/Executive Committee was not always easy. For us, now living in the rapid world of social media and other IT-guided means of communication, it may be difficult to realize, but the means of communication in the 1960’s were more than limited. Letters sent by (air)mail, typed or handwritten, in English, French, or German, were the most common means of communication among the Committee and the members. Quite often letters would cross in the mail, sometimes leading to misunderstandings and even conflicts. Urgent matters were often handled by telephone, sometimes even by telegram exchanges.

Bump 2

At times members expressed concerns about the lack of respect for ‘democracy’ shown by the Committee. Amongst others there was the issue of attendance at the early conferences only by invitation which was experi-

enced as unjust by some members. As another example some members expressed discontent that the early decisions regarding the growth of the membership were made by those present on the occasion only. It was felt that the membership as a whole should have been consulted first.

Bump 3

The startup years of the European Journal were difficult, especially in terms of the relationship between the editor and Mouton, the first publisher of the Journal. As one example, editor Mauk Mulder complained in a letter to the publisher that, although the necessary copy for an issue had been turned over to the publisher in time, the publication of the issue was delayed. As another example, in that same letter Mulder remarked that he had received letters from subscribers who, in spite of having paid, did not receive the journal, while others were receiving multiple copies of the same issue.

Bump 4

The description of the development of the Association above portrays the early members as a group of enthusiastic and highly involved people, keen on learning from their colleagues and on contributing themselves to the young organization. Some did, but others did not, or at least less so. In 1972, Tajfel—in somewhat cynical language—remarked that the Association had two kinds of members: A smaller group who were at the focus of practically everything that was done, and a larger more passive group. Such is not unusual of course, as long as the more passive group

1960s

1970s

shows some amount of involvement, if only by reading the Newsletter. As a somewhat naughty test, Tajfel and Nuttin, president and secretary of the Executive Committee, announced in a Newsletter (1970) that the Executive Committee had decided to buy a yacht, which would be used as a mobile meeting place for small meetings by the Committee, or the members. The decision to buy the yacht would be carried out, unless at least three members objected. It turned out that only one member objected. Needless to say, the yacht was not bought, but Nuttin and Tajfel had proven their point!

Bump 5

Finally, there was of course the issue of finances. In the early years the activities of the Association had fully or mostly been paid for by American sources. Thereafter and in line with the Association's philosophy of self-reliance, not only intellectually but also materially, other means of support had to be found. Such was not always easy, but the Executive Committee itself and members of the Association should be credited with always having found sufficient funds to support its activities. Money came from international and national organizations, private foundations, universities, research institutes, and from the modest membership fees.

These growing pains, natural for any starting organization, do not take anything away from the fact that by the early 1970's the Association found itself on solid ground, ready to consolidate its primary goals: Creating a community of social psychologists in Europe, promoting and realizing high quality research inspired also by a specific European perspective, and having an impact on the field of social psychology at large.



TESTIMONIALS: 1972 - 2017

Following the presidencies of Serge Moscovici (1966-1969) and Henri Tajfel (1969-1972), two of the founding fathers of our Association, 45 years have passed. Over the course of these 45 years, 15 consecutive presidents and Executive Committees have made for continuity and innovation, loyal to the ideas of our founders, while at the same time sensitive to new developments in the field of social psychology, and to wishes and concerns of the membership. They all deserve our admiration and gratitude.

Rather than presenting a detailed overview of these 45 years, I prefer to let a number of our former presidents and members of executive

committees testify in their own words to how they experienced the Association, what they perceived as important challenges for the future, or whatever interesting events that they felt like sharing.

Some of the testimonials that follow are drawn from earlier presidential addresses, others come from former executive committee members and presidents in reply to my friendly request for memories. It is a selection only (my selection), with apologies to all the others whose undoubtedly equally valuable contributions to the development of our Association are not included.



Executive Committee 2014

Front, from left: T. Lindholm, E. Gordijn; **Back**: D. Wigboldus, M. Cadinu, M. Barreto, J. Croizet, K. Sassenberg

1977

1981

Jos Jaspars (1977-78)

Quoting from the presidential address at the end of his term in 1978: “I think it is quite clear that social psychology in Europe is moving in a direction which was advocated a few years ago by prominent members of this Association. We are moving on, it seems to me, in the direction of studying more and more social behavior in relation to its wider social context and appear to relate the results of our studies in a theoretically meaningful way to real social issues. The present committee feels that such a development should be encouraged and would hope that the activities of the Association in the future will continue along these lines. In doing so the present committee realizes that it puts more emphasis on the social relevance of social psychology than on its methodological problems, which have been so strongly emphasized by ethnomethodologists and symbolic interactionists.”



Jos Jaspars
(former President)

Willem Doise (1978-1981)

Quoting from the presidential address at the end of his term in 1981: “Many challenges face the members of our Association. One of these challenges relates to studying the effect of theories on social systems. When in research and teaching social psychologists develop ideas, it is certainly not to hide them under the bushel. I suspect that many disagreements would arise among the members of our Association if they had to define which cultural changes could result from their work. But lack of consensus ought not to be a reason to overlook the problem. On the contrary, often conflicting points of view, when they are made explicit, may further scientific thinking.”



Willem Doise
(former President)

To conclude my report I want to remind you of the intentions of our founders, as transmitted to us by Moscovici and Jahoda. They opened their declaration of intention with the sentence: “The Association wishes to be neither ‘a learned society nor a purely formal linkage of specialists,’ but an agency promoting advancement. As far as promoting advancement this intention has been fulfilled. It is my opinion however that we cannot prevent the Association from being at the same time a ‘learned society’; but only when new challenges are met, will our Association be prevented from becoming a ‘purely formal linkage of specialists.’”

Wolfgang Stroebe (1981-84)

“During my time on the Executive Committee (1978-1984), the association was financially in dire straits. The US grants that had financed us handsomely in the early years had run out and membership fees had become our sole source of income. With the membership relatively small and Eastern Europeans not in a position to pay, we were barely able to finance EC meetings. Therefore, when the contract with Wiley for the *European Journal of Social Psychology* came up for renewal in 1983, Geoffrey Stephenson (then secretary) and I asked Wiley for an annual contribution. They refused, arguing that the journal was unprofitable: The number of subscriptions—particularly from libraries—was exceedingly small. To improve the situation, Wiley suggested that we write a letter to our members asking them to urge their university libraries to subscribe to the journal. After we agreed to write this letter, Wiley declined to pay the postage, mentioning again the dire situation of the journal. Reluctantly, we agreed and asked for a list of the addresses of subscribers. Because we were only planning to write to members at universities with libraries that did not subscribe, we also asked for a list of all library subscriptions.

It so happened that Geoffrey mentioned this story to a senior editor of Blackwell Publishers. This editor expressed surprise and asked to see the list of subscribers. When Geoffrey showed it to him, he argued that the journal should be profitable, and that if we signed up with Blackwell, we could expect a sizeable annual stipend. We were absolutely furious with Wiley, not only about not receiving funding all these years, but also about the fact that they had even persuaded us to pay the postage for that letter! We decided to sign a contract with Blackwell, even though we had just renewed our contract with Wiley.

After all, if the journal was really unprofitable, Wiley would hardly find it worth their while to sue us. As it turned out, we were wrong: Wiley sued us for breach of contract.

According to British law, a writ has to be personally served to a representative of the organization to be sued, in our case to Geoffrey—as I was sitting safely in Germany. When Geoffrey saw a strange car outside his house, he suspected that it was the writ server and decided to climb over the back wall of his garden. This became his usual escape route for several days. One day, when there had been no car outside his house, his secretary told him that there was a messenger from the Dean with a letter for him. Since the Dean had never before communicated with him through messengers, Geoffrey became suspicious and left his office through his office window. For several weeks, he led an adventurous life, each day finding different ways to outwit the writ server. He phoned me most evenings with stories about narrow escapes, funny in retrospect, but far from being fun for him. After several weeks, he was caught and the writ was served. We could not afford to defend the case and lost. We later heard that Wiley claimed in court that the journal had been profitable for years and that our breach of contract had deprived them of a valued source of income. We were so furious with Wiley that we threatened to close down the journal once the contract expired and to start a competing journal. Within days we received a letter in which Wiley offered us the same conditions that had been promised by Blackwell. I was very relieved, because my term as president ended two weeks after receipt of this letter. Although I had to tell the members that we had lost a lawsuit, I could follow this up with the good news that we had secured the financial situation of the association for decades to come.”

1981

1990

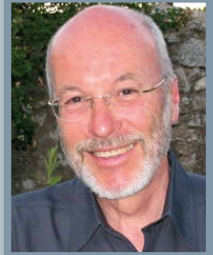
Geoffrey Stephenson (1984-87)

Addressing the General Meeting at Varna at the end of his term in 1987: “Most of you are familiar with the ‘Who am I’ task. Let the Association ask itself: ‘Who am I’, or ‘What is it?’ If the test ran true for form, then the attributes that spontaneously come to mind are those that mark the Association’s impact on the world: The largest group of social psychologists in Europe; sponsors of the European Journal; membership spanning Eastern and Western Europe and so on. Then might come a list of its regular activities, followed finally by a description of its character and ‘personality’. We like ourselves greatly; we are very powerful, but we are rather constrained or conservative.

Yet at the same time, are we not also just a little big smug, complacent and over-confident? We retain a subjective and arguably capricious requirement in the criteria for membership, i.e., substantial contribution to the discipline, thereby discouraging some potentially excellent applicants whose modesty forbids them making an application or who fear that interpretations of this membership requirement may lead to painful rejection and exclusion. I am not advocating that we immediately open up discussion of these particular issues. I would urge that we be more specific about our membership requirements. Committees have always been generous in their interpretation of the rules, but I would like either that we publicly recognize that it is our intention to interpret the membership article generously or that we try to define our requirements more objectively.”

Janusz Grzelak (1984-1990)

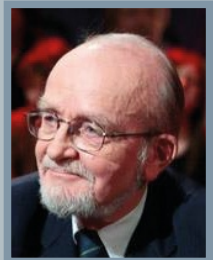
“During the communist regime Poland was quite commonly named ‘the funniest barrack in the East European block.’ The regime in Poland showed a more humane face, severe violations of human rights were less frequent, and criticism of the socio-political system was more tolerated than in other communist countries. However, as a student in early sixties, I still did not have any access to Western literature except papers and books that were smuggled from the West by my professors. It goes without saying that from its start in the late 1960’s and throughout the years that the Association and its activities have been extremely important for Eastern and Central Europe. The Association opened for us



*Wolfgang Stroebe
(former President)*



*Geoffrey Stephenson
(former President)*



*Janusz Grzelak
(prev. EC member)*





Past General Meetings and Summer Schools 1992-2014



a window to the West, to the world of science, to international contacts. Participation in the Association's summer schools, meetings, conferences, and East-West meetings and an access to the Journal meant for us, East Europeans, much more than for those who could travel across Europe freely.

Speaking specifically for Poland it later went through another period of hard time: Martial law and the years thereafter. And again the Association helped the Poles in maintaining scientific contacts with the West. Moreover, many, very many Association members volunteered and lent a helping hand to those who were in need, providing them with essentials. We remember it and we greatly appreciate it."



Executive Committee, Warsaw, 1985

From left: P. Ricci-Bitti, G. Mikula, H. Hiebsch, A. Mummendey, J. Grzelak, J. Rabbie, G. Stephenson

Amélie Mummendey (1984-1990)

"In 1987, I took over from Jaap Rabbie the function of treasurer of EAESP. So, after a while, all the documents were sent to my office in Münster. These documents turned out to be a 'collection' of a grand diversity of cheques, bank statements from all over the world and more than a decade or so, receipts, and even cash in wonderful currencies, but also letters etc etc. First, Sibylle Classen, my

university secretary at that time, and I tried to create an intelligent system to structure the chaos, to find out who did and who didn't pay the fees and how to get some idea about the financial situation of our Association. We tried our best, but 'mission impossible'. This was the point at which we began to create the future. Sibylle started immediately by inventing and implementing rigorously a transparent and simple procedure to get membership fees regularly. Soon thereafter, we convinced American Express to offer the possibility to pay by credit card which caused enormous savings of international bank charges. Later, this could be extended to conference fees etc. (completely new for a Credit Card Company at that time).

All the different EAESP Meetings, in particular East-West-Meetings and meetings of the EC, provided extraordinary possibilities for individual exchange of research but especially knowledge, ideas, political situation and developments. This was really extraordinary and fantastic. During Executive Committee meetings, continuously, support by West Europeans for East Europeans was planned and later organized, sending publications, journals, monographs but also other things. Given the precarious relationship between West and East Germany it was highly interesting for West- and East Germans to meet and talk in a relaxed and open minded environment."

Gerold Mikula (1987-1990)

"As a personal memory the period of time of my membership of the Executive Committee (1984-1990) was considerably shaped by processes and developments in Eastern Europe. Coming from a neutral country, it was a real concern to me to maintain close contacts with our members in Eastern countries and to support them in every respect I was able

to. This held in particular for Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria and East Germany. Contacts with Polish colleagues became particularly difficult after the banning of Solidarnosz in 1982. During the whole period of my work as secretary (1984-1987) and even later till 1988, we had serious problems communicating with and getting permission for Janusz Grzelak, then a member of EC, to attend the meetings of the executive committee. As the Association's secretary I sent several petitions to the Polish Ministry of Science urging them to permit Janusz to attend our meetings, but the success rate was rather low. Sometimes it was also impossible to contact Janusz by phone or even by mail.

The political changes in Eastern Europe before and after the fall of the Iron Curtain in Europe in 1989 made for the most impressive, pleasant but also challenging period of time in my presidency. The organization of the General Meeting 1990 provides a good example. The plan to hold the Meeting in Budapest was born in 1987 when Hungary still had a communistic regime. The practical organization and preparation of the GM turned out to become a big challenge to the organizers in Budapest and the EC due to many changes taking place in the transitional period of 1989. We had to face and deal with enormous price increases, changes in responsibilities, authorities and even the ownership and administration of the conference site.”

Gün Semin (1990-93)

“I had the honor of presiding over the Association while it was still the EAESP between 1990 and 1993 and was lucky enough to have the good fortune of serving the Association during this period with some excellent committee members. They were Tony Manstead, Luciano Arcuri, Janos Laszlo, Bernard Rimé, John Rijsman and Jorge Vala. Without their joint efforts the Association would have not taken some important steps that have shaped its future.

Before becoming the President, I, as a member of the EC initiated the ISSN registration of the Association's Bulletin in March, 1989. This gave the Association the option of making it a formal journal. Indeed, this was in the context of my re-negotiating Wiley's earlier agreement regarding the EJSP. This renegotiation yielded extremely favorable financial conditions for the Association.

1984

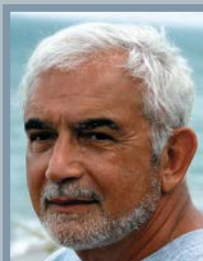
1993



*Amélie Mummendey
(prev. EC member)*



*Gerold Mikula
(former President)*



*Gün Semin
(former President)*



To me, the highlights during my Presidency were three specific events, the first of which has endured beyond my period in the form of the formidable Executive Officer of the Association: Sibylle Classen. Prior to my presidency Amélie Mummendey, then treasurer of the Association, had asked Sibylle, her secretary at the University of Münster, to bring clarity into the records of the Association's membership and its finances. When Amélie's tenure as a member of the Executive Committee came to an end in 1990, I asked Sibylle if she would be interested in continuing working for the Association, but now as an employee of the Association. What evolved after that is history: She became EAESP's Administrative Secretary with an increasing workload and responsibilities ending up as the Executive Officer of the EASP and, in fact, the only genuinely 'collective memory' of the Association.

The second and third events that I initiated were to bring social psychologists on both sides of the Atlantic together and forge a bond between SESP and our Association on two occasions. The second event resulted in the 1992 'Joint Meeting of SESP and EAESP' at Leuven and Louvain-la-Neuve with Jef Nuttin and Jacques-Philippe Leyens as the local organizers. The third event was to set up the next meeting, this time in the US, with the invaluable cooperation of Bill Crano. As then chair of SESP, Bill was a likeminded colleague who had already made major contributions towards enhancing European Social Psychology. The actual meeting took place in 1995 in Washington DC."

Tony Manstead (1993-96)

"During my presidency, the main development was that the Association continued its remarkable growth. The size of the membership increased by 17 % in those three years,

with some of the growth being in countries that had until then not been central to the Association's membership: Portugal, Switzerland, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia. So the Association was reaching beyond its traditional bases of strength in Northern and Western Europe, a trend that has continued since then. The fact that some of the key meetings of the Association were hosted in these countries (e.g., General Meeting in Lisbon in 1990, East-West Meeting in Prague in 1995) undoubtedly helped.

A new initiative was the production of something called the Association's ProFile. This was the brainchild of Bernard Rimé, my predecessor as Secretary of the Association. He had long argued that there should be a single authoritative document that members could turn to in order to find out anything they wanted to know about the Association. Bernard had done a lot of the work to assemble the material for such a document and during my term as President we actually managed to produce the first edition of the ProFile, as it came to be known.

Jacques-Philippe Leyens (1996-99)

Quoting his presidential address at the end of his term: "There is nothing such as 'the' European social psychology. If it were the case, why not a Monaco or a San Marino social psychology? There are, however, research sensitivities and traditions peculiar to Europeans and there is a European situation that has no comparison elsewhere. From places to places, between and within countries, the resources and opportunities vary greatly. I do disagree with those who claim that there should be no consideration of differences, meaning equitable rather than equal chances. This is not democracy; this is elitism. Where there are no chances, we have to create them. Because Europe is so diverse, we

should respect and take into account the differences. This respect is neither a plea for inertia nor for mediocracy. We should profit from heterogeneity; otherwise, the so-called superiority of ingroup heterogeneity will only be encountered in some authors' manuscripts."

Anne Maass (1996-2002)

"I definitely thought (and still think) that it was by far the most interesting and most enjoyable 'service-to-the-community' job I have ever had. The one aspect I remember with some amusement was the endless discussion of whether or not to give affiliate members the same rights and duties as full members. At the time colleagues appeared afraid that North American psychologists might gain too much space, posing a threat to what was then considered a uniquely European social psychology. The solution turned out to be quite simple: We asked affiliate members what THEY wanted and it turned out that, at the time, they were actually quite happy to have fewer rights for lesser pay. Another truly unique feature of the association of those times was its 'political' involvement and its sense of fairness and inclusion, its regard for the underdog if you wish. The east-west meetings and the differential fees for east and west are two examples of this attitude which I always liked a lot and which distinguished EAESP from any of the North American associations."

Carmen Huici (1999-2005)

"One of the highlights of my time as member of the Committee was the organization of the General Meeting of San Sebastian in 2002, the first in Spain and, if I am not mistaken, the last without an external company as organizer. It came about with the invaluable help and effort from Sabino Ayestarán, (UPV) University of Basque Country Professor, who as local organizer negotiated, among many other things a marvelous reception at the Kursaal at San Sebastian and, if you allow me a bit of ingroup favouritism, the best menus ever enjoyed at General Meetings.

On a more serious note, I distinctly remember the invited lecture [in the context of the Tajfel award] by Jacques-Philippe Leyens on Nationalism and Dehumanization: It was the perfect example of the right message, at the right place, and at the right moment.

1993

2005



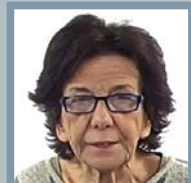
*Tony Manstead
(former President)*



*Jacques-Philippe Leyens
(former President)*



*Anne Maass
(prev. EC member)*



*Carmen Huici
(prev. EC member)*

A second event that I would highlight was a Small Group Meeting held in Budapest in 2005, organized by the Executive Committee, represented by Russell Spears and myself, with János Lazslo as a perfect host. The aim of this meeting was to involve members from Eastern and Central Europe, including Poland, Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia, and Hungary in drawing future developments in social psychology in their countries. One of the beneficial side effects of the meeting was that Dinka Corkalo offered to organize the 2008 General Meeting at Opatija.”

Naomi Ellemers (1999-2002)

Quoting from her presidential address at the end of her term as president in 2002: “During the past three years, our Association has again grown. Whereas the EAESP had 788 members during the Oxford General Meeting in 1999, the Association currently has 881 members in total. This growth is visible in all membership categories, with postgraduate members having increased from 155 to 183, and affiliate members from 108 to 126. In view of the goals of the Association it is also important to note that the number of Eastern members has increased from 89 in 1999, to 100 at present. Indeed, while this General Meeting has attracted a larger-than-ever number of non-member participants, it has also been an important impetus for new membership applications, and we hope that more will decide to join our Association afterwards—in particular our Spanish colleagues who are attending the conference.

The policy of the Executive Committee has been to support the research of the Association’s members in a broad way, trying to find ways to fund members at different stages of their career, and from different geographical areas. It seems that we managed to accomplish this. If we calculate the number of

people who during the past three years were supported by the Association in one of the ways mentioned, this amounts to 850 in total, which is approximately the number of members of our Association.



V. Yzerbyt, S. Ayestarán (local organiser), and N. Ellemers at the banquet of General Meeting in San Sebastian, 2002

During the past years we have made the transition from a small-scale, and relatively informal Association to a larger, professionalized and more complex organization. This is evident from all kinds of developments and initiatives within our Association. These ongoing developments pose a number of important challenges but are also an important sign of the excellent health of our Association.”

Vincent Yzerbyt (2002-05)

Quoting his presidential address at the end of his term in 2008: “With the other members of the Executive Committee, I think that we have to identify more precisely what the specific needs of the Association’s members may be and we ought to try to come up with tools and instruments that concretely address these needs. The goal is of course one of helping and promoting activities of which the members are ultimately in charge.

We remain convinced that in certain countries many social psychologists, at least at the

postgraduate level, remain ignorant of our Association. A challenge for the future will be to ensure that all social psychologists on this continent are made aware that our Association is a resource.

We have seen in the past that as the number of our activities increases so too are the costs bound to go up. One way to secure more sustained funding is partly via internal means and partly via our access to European funding. This second aspect means that we will need to move to more professional ways to gain access to funding. European funding is currently difficult to obtain, especially for basic research, but this is not a sufficient reason not to try. As an example, we should develop better awareness for the opportunities afforded by the European Science Foundation. Our constructive presence in the various debates surrounding the issue of European funding is absolutely crucial so that the future funding schemes take into account the viewpoint and the interests of our discipline. In line with this concern, our Association has been careful to follow and contribute at its own level to various initiatives leading to the creation of the European Research Council.”

Patrizia Catellani (2002-08)

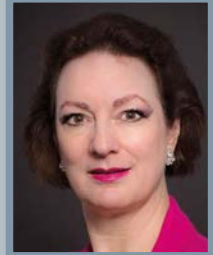
“I have many pleasant memories of my time as a member of the Executive Committee. Of course our minds, approaches, characters differed, but I always had the feeling that jointly we were all deeply dedicated to make decisions in the interest of all members of the Association. And this has paid off! The decisions taken were lasting, full of success and in some areas have kicked off a virtuous process that continues today.

As an example, in those years we started to enlarge and ameliorate the Association’s grant system, developing a more efficient and structured way to offer scholars of different degrees of seniority more opportunities to meet and get support to carry out relevant and innovative research programs. It laid the groundwork for the more recent and equally necessary elaborations of the grant system.

Based on my own experiences it comes as no surprise that such a high number of colleagues trust our Association, deeply identify with it, and consider it an invaluable stimulus for their activity. Long live the Association!”

1999

2008



*Naomi Ellemers
(former President)*



*Vincent Yzerbyt
(former President)*



*Patrizia Catellani
(prev. EC member)*

Fritz Strack (2005-08)

Quoting from his presidential address at the end of his term in 2008: “Social psychology in Europe is simply a success story. And remarkably, this is not only obvious by what has happened IN Europe but also by what European Social Psychologists have contributed to activities beyond the shores of our continent. A report about the state of social psychology in Europe would not be complete if it were not to acknowledge the increasing role that European social psychologists play abroad, and particularly in North America. Not only as authors, but also as members of the editorial teams of the leading international journals. And as much as this may blur the distinction between European and non-European social psychology, I believe it is a wonderful development in the right direction.



Executive Committee Meeting at Opatija (Croatia) in 2008, Sibylle Classen and Fritz Strack at work

My final point, and those who know me will not be surprised, is the universality of our field. As I am pleased and proud to report about the international eminence of social psychology ‘made in Europe’ and about our members’ positions as authors, award winners and editors of international journals, it seems obvious that the times have passed when European social psychology needed to be protected from non-European influences. Today, we have all reasons to be confident

that our contributions are at equal standing with those from other countries, including those from North America. At the same time, we are full members, often even fellows of their academic societies, and I am mentioning APS, SPSP, SPSSI and SESP as examples.”

Carsten de Dreu (2008-11)

Quoting from his presidential address at the end of his term in 2011: “The EASP is financially healthy, its governance structure up-to-date, we are growing steadily, and our publications are internationally seen as high quality, must-read outlets for social psychological research. Still, there are things to wish for, and emerging developments to keep an eye on.

Specifically, many topics typically seen as social psychological are now being studied (also) in cognitive neuroscience, neurobiology, and behavioral economics. This is a welcome development to the extent that social psychological scientists continue to participate and inform their colleagues in adjacent areas about the fifty years of advancements we have made in our understanding of person perception, emotion regulation, prejudice, intergroup bias, social decision making, and so on. Put differently, we need to think carefully about what we have to offer adjacent disciplines, and what our unique contributions are in terms of method and theory. It’ll make us an attractive partner to collaborate with, and provides us with a strong bargaining position within the increasingly competitive arena for research funding.”

Fabrizio Butera (2011-14)

“During my time in office, Europe was struck by the devastating economic crisis that we all witnessed. The crisis created a time of economic and social uncertainty in all countries, with extreme consequences in the countries that were already vulnerable from an economic point of view. These consequences were also visible in all the domains pertaining to research: Academic positions have been frozen and careers hindered; salary cuts have turned the attention of many scholars away from research; universities have reduced or even discontinued resources for participating in conferences or organising scientific events; and reduced access to national funding has threatened the potential for innovation of many countries.

In such dire straits, we decided to devote a great deal of our efforts and activities as an Executive Committee to mitigate, or at least provide some help to cope with the hardship that our colleagues from the most severely hit areas were facing. We therefore implemented three measures that we hoped could attract some attention to the difficulties many of us were experiencing throughout Europe. First, we changed our membership fee structure, to allow any member, upon self-declaration, to benefit from the reduced fees. This was done in recognition of the difficulty in identifying clear and objective indicators of relative suffering, and of the rapidly changing nature of the ongoing crisis. Second, we introduced a new scheme, the Research Knowledge Transfer Scheme (RKTS) to promote knowledge transfer, but most of all solidarity between better-off and worse-off scholars. Third, we worked to improve the position of social psychologists in European institutions and agencies. Our discipline was underrepresented in these organisations, with negative consequences in terms of funding of projects rooted in social psychology; a state of affairs made particularly problematic by the cuts in research funding that made resources very difficult to access in many countries.”

2005

2014



*Fritz Strack
(former President)*



*Carsten de Dreu
(former President)*



*Fabrizio Butera
(former President)*

SOME QUESTIONS AND ISSUES DURING THE RIDE

As is the case for any other organization it comes as no surprise that throughout its history our Association had, and still has, to confront questions and issues. A selection of these (again, my selection) is briefly described below. Some of these questions and issues formed the object of lively debates and discussions testifying to the active involvement of our membership. There was not always agreement on how these questions and issues should be resolved, but such is the natural state of affairs in a dynamic organization. Moreover, as the French poet and critic Nicolas Boileau (1636-1711) wrote: “Du choc des idées jaillit la lumière” (Insight often springs from a clash of ideas).

Membership issues

Affiliate Membership

In the early years of the Association membership was restricted to European social psychologists, whereby—according to the original Standing Orders—Europe was deemed to refer to a geographical area. Given the context in which the Association was created and given the goals set for the Association this decision was perfectly understandable and legitimate. The community of social psychologists in Europe had to be built from within, and not from without. Specifically, although the help of American colleagues in bringing the Association about was more than recognized, our founding fathers and early members felt that independence constituted a key condition towards developing a truly European identity in social psychology. A reading of documents in the Archives indicates that for some the choice to restrict

membership to Europeans was primarily a positive choice towards bringing European social psychologists together, but for others it was also partly a negative choice, reflecting a desire to avoid colonization by the United States. It should be noted that according to the original Standing Orders the membership of a European member who took up permanent residence outside Europe ‘would lapse automatically.’

Over the years the situation changed, with European social psychology gaining the status it had come to deserve, and with North Americans attending our conferences and participating in our activities as interested partners. As a result in 1981 the decision was made to create an additional category of membership. From then on, non-European social psychologists could become affiliate members (originally they were called ‘associate’ members). The same would hold for European social psychologists who had taken up permanent residence outside Europe. Affiliate members could enjoy many of the benefits of ‘standard’ members, but they could not vote, nor be a member of an Executive Committee.

In recent years, and partly as a result of the ever growing globalization of our science, more and more members felt that there was no reason why non-Europeans should not be able to become full members. Not all members were in favor, some even feared an American take-over. After some debate in 2011, the decision was made to invite all affiliate members to opt for full membership, but those who wished could remain affiliate members. This is still the situation at the mo-

ment. However, note that this does not hold for postgraduate members, who can only be individuals registered for PhD programs in Europe. The reason behind this is merely a financial one, i.e., postgraduate members pay lower fees and are de facto sponsored by full members, so there has been a perception that the association could not afford to open its door wider for postgraduate members from other regions.

Postgraduate Membership

Until the late eighties, having a Ph.D. was one of the requirements for becoming a (full or affiliate) member of the Association. Ph.D. students (postgraduate students) could not be members. In a way, and again looked at from today's perspective, this was a remarkable state of affairs. From the beginning our Association had stressed that the future of social psychology in Europe demanded an investment in young people. The summer schools were created with that purpose in mind. Aside from the training aspect summer schools were thought of as a basis upon which networks of social psychologists could be built across Europe.



Attendees of the EASP Summer School, Padua, 2006

Interestingly, the creation of a category of membership for postgraduate students did not originate within an Executive Committee. It came from postgraduate students who were participating in the Bologna Summer School in 1986. As one of the participants reported to me, the students felt that the Association was THE thing that would contribute to assist students in forging as soon as possible a sense of community. The students felt that a tighter collaboration and

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF
EXPERIMENTAL SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

PLANNING COMMITTEE

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Utrecht, February 25, 1965

exchange of methods, ideas and networks was only feasible under the umbrella of the Association. Upon receiving the support from a larger group of postgraduate students for the idea of some kind of postgraduate status in the Association, a proposal towards this end was put before the Executive Committee. The rest is history: The response was overwhelmingly positive and as of 1988 postgraduate students could become members of the Association. According to one of the initiators of the proposal, this recognition meant an important step forward, because it made it possible for very young people to become 'included' in the family very early on.

The Name of the Association

In 2008 the Association decided to change its name from the European Association of Experimental Social Psychology (EAESP) to the European Association of Social Psychology (EASP). What's in a name? some might feel. Why did it take so long? others might think.

It is interesting to observe that the issue of the name of the Association is in fact not at all a recent one. It has been around since the foundation of the Association. Reflecting back over the period when the Association was founded, Tajfel remarked: "No one un-

derstood the term in any very rigid or restrictive sense. It meant to represent our preoccupation with developing work of a fundamental kind. The term 'experimental' did not really express what we meant; many of us felt that 'experimental' social psychology is not necessarily the only way, or even the best way, to pursue knowledge in this field. But no better term could be found to express, however imperfectly, the aims that we set for ourselves."

In 1978, on the occasion of the General Meeting at Weimar, the Executive Committee actually proposed to delete 'experimental' from the name of the Association, because "the present title has become unnecessarily restrictive and unhelpful." A slight majority voted in favor of the proposal, but the required 2/3 majority was not reached.

In 1987 Geoffrey Stephenson in his presidential address at the Varna General Meeting raised the question again, but felt that it would not be productive to open discussion on the issue, arguing that "there are no doubt good symbolic reasons and good practical reasons for maintaining the status quo," in spite of his recognition that 'experimental' was clearly not the common denominator for the research of the association's members.

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In retrospect it is quite understandable that the founders of the Association looked for a way to differentiate the social psychology they had in mind from the predominantly descriptive work that was rather common at European universities in those days. The term 'experimental' tried to capture what they had in mind: Solid theory based empirical research! There was however no prescription that experimentation strictu sensu was the only road to valid knowledge, as long as the methods used lived up to scientific standards. Nevertheless it should be admitted that in those days, at least partly under the influence of North American colleagues, experiments were viewed as superior to other methodologies. As an illustration, a look at the research that was designed during the first summer schools indicates that training focused heavily on experimentation.

But all of that is the past. Nowadays no social psychologist has to be afraid of being accused of being unscientific unless they would describe themselves as an experimental social psychologist. There are many ways to conduct solid scientific research, experiments being only a subset thereof. The published research of the members of our Association in our own Journals, and in others, constitutes a perfect illustration of the above.

To close the circle, let me add a quote from Gustav Jahoda, one of the founders of the Association, in a contribution on the issue in our Association's Bulletin (2007): "As one of the survivors from the period when EAESP came into existence, I may perhaps be permitted a brief note of support for the proposal for the dropping of 'experimental'. At the time a good deal of social psychology in Europe remained rooted in a tradition that was largely descriptive. The founding members regarded it as insufficiently rigorous, and in order emphasize their new departure decided to include the term 'experimental' in the name of the Association. However, even at that early period membership was in practice not strictly confined to experimentalists. Today the situation is very different and a deliberate assertion, understandable under the then prevailing circumstances, is no longer needed. There are now a variety of approaches; and non-experimental cannot be equated with unscientific."

The Association and Languages

Language does not seem to be a hot issue nowadays—English comes natural to most of us—but it is important to recognize that such was not always the case. As mentioned earlier, during the very first conferences preceding the actual foundation of the Association most of the papers presented were in English, but some were in French. And when the *European Journal* was first launched, articles could be submitted in French and German and the published articles were always followed by a summary in Russian, German, and French. The latter practice was stopped at some point, but submissions of articles in French were possible until the late 1990's.

Besides, one should observe that nowhere in the *Articles* is there a reference to an 'official' language of the Association. To further document the point, in reply to a question from a member of the Association, in 1984 the Executive Committee replied: "There is no official language of the Association laid down in the

Articles. Everybody should be allowed to present papers in the language of his/her choice at the Association's meetings."

It also deserves mentioning that at the Summer School of Aix-en-Provence (1981) and Bologna (1986) some of the workshop activities took place in French.

Rather than viewing the above as a battle over the hegemony of English or French (to name but those two), I prefer to view these and similar instances as an expression of the fact that, different from now, having to read, speak or write in a non-native language can be a serious obstacle to becoming a true member of a scientific community. That is also why Summer School organizers often recommended that participants, prior to attending the School, would not only spend time reading the assigned articles, but might also consider taking some language classes. Some Summer Schools even offered such a class themselves prior to the start of the actual School.



First Summer School (European Research Training Seminar in Experimental Social Psychology), Leuven 1967

Front, from left: K. Wouters, P. Zimbardo, J. Rijsman, B. Hughes-Swift, H. Gerard, N. Havelka; **Group**: J.M. Nuttin, P. Henry, V. Lievens, M. Nuttin-Gerard, H. Kelley, R. Rommetveit, A. Delcon, F. Lange, M. Naffrechoux, J.C. Abric, H. Lamm, R. Hunai, M. Pecheux, J. Jaspars, G. Peeters, W. Vande Capelle, D. Skardal, A. Beckers, M. Arickx, M. Servais, J. Frentzel-Zagorska, P. Veen, W. Herkner, J.P. Leyens, R. Gentile, W. Cheyne, Z. Helus, J. Innes, A. Böhner, J. Rabbie, L. Lefebvre, W. Manz, D. Eeckhout, A. Chalmers, V. Bokorova, A. Potocka-Hoser, D. Van Kreveld, M. Zaleska, M. Cook, S. De Cat, J. Allegro

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EASP Summer Schools, from top: 1998 Leuven (Belgium), 2004 Groningen (The Netherlands), 2010 Aegina (Greece), 2016 Exeter (United Kingdom)

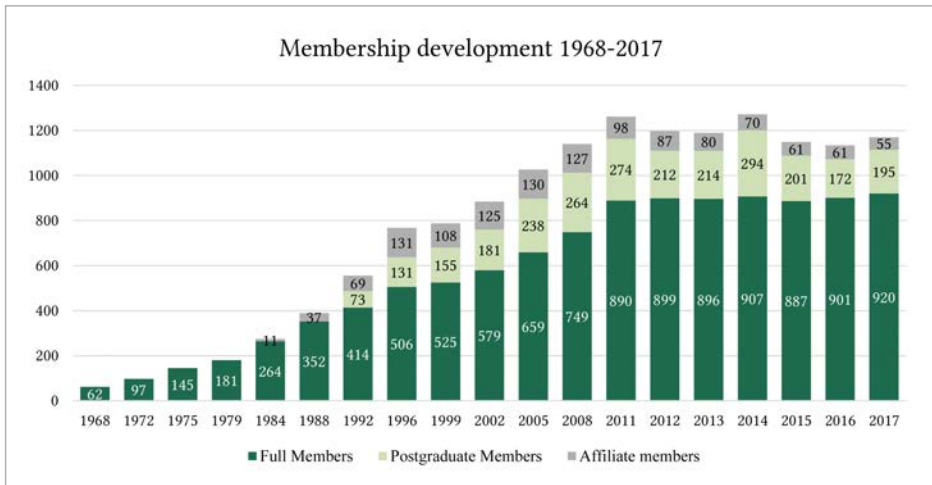
ACTIVITIES OF THE ASSOCIATION: THEN AND NOW

The first section of this historical account described the Association in its early years, listing amongst others the activities undertaken to promote its goals. Fifty years have passed since. It therefore appears appropriate to take a look at the Association and its various activities in 2017, comparing them with those of the early years.

An overview is what it is. What it does not show directly but what should be emphasized again, as already said in the paragraph introducing the testimonials of former presidents and members of Executive Committees, is that the present rich set of activities described below owes a great deal to initiatives taken by the successive Executive Committees, their responsibility to the growth of the membership of the Association and to suggestions emanating from the members, and their responsibility to the changing external environment in which the Association finds itself.

Membership

As the graph below shows the size and the composition of the membership of the Association is radically different from what it looked like in the early years. In 1968 the Association had 62 members. Currently, (early 2017) it has 1170 members. Although part of this growth is the result of the addition of two membership categories that did not exist at first (postgraduate members and affiliate members, most of whom are now full members), the growth has been spectacular. Aside from growing in size, the membership composition also underwent major changes. In 1968 only 10 countries (all European) were represented. Today members come from 48 different countries (30 European, 18 non-European countries). Of the grand total of 1170 members, about 1000 are European nationals. Hence, in terms of sheer numbers our Association remains predominantly European.



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Looking only at Europe we cannot be blind to the fact that the distribution of members over the countries is skewed, with the lion share of members coming from only a few countries. On the other hand, and looking at the evolution over the years, the number of members coming from countries that were before absent or underrepresented has been growing steadily. This growth is undoubtedly due to a great many factors, but the active policy of the Association in this regard has certainly contributed to the present more positive state of affairs, directly or indirectly. As one example, organizers of Summer Schools have always been sensitive to select a more than sufficient number of participants from underrepresented countries. As another example, quite regularly the Association's Bulletin publishes articles in which the state of social psychology in one or another of the underrepresented countries is described, hoping that the readership of the Bulletin might develop an interest in the work being done in these countries and eventually establish contact with colleagues from those countries. Over the years there have also been targeted actions, such as a widely distributed invitation to join the Association sent out to all known psychology institutions and organizations in Northern, Central and Eastern Europe. Some years later (in 2005), as already briefly mentioned in Carmen Huici's testimonial, the Executive Committee set up a meeting with representative members from Central and Eastern Europe in order to promote social psychology and our Association in those countries. Finally, the choice of locations for the General Meetings constitutes yet another way in which the Association attempts to send out its message to all of Europe.

Meetings

From Specialised Seminars to Small Group and Midsize Meetings

Already in the early years 'specialized seminars,' as they were then called, were being organized. These can be considered the pre-runners of what later became the small group and medium size meetings. The early specialized seminars were few in number, partly because of the limited finances available at the time. The situation nowadays is radically different. On average the Association now funds about seven of these meetings every year. They cover a

great variety of topics and they often lead to continued joint research and joint publications. We have now gone full circle in that the current Executive Committee has again decided not to differentiate between small and medium sized meetings, but simply to establish a minimum of participants (20) and a maximum of funding per meeting (now 8.000 Euro).

General Meetings

Aside from these smaller meetings, every three years the Association organizes its grand 'General Meeting.' Today's General Meetings can hardly be compared to the early ones, although still serving the same goals. In the very early General Meetings, all sessions were plenary and everybody knew everybody. With the growing membership it did not take long before an organizer of one of the General Meetings began to experience difficulties with the selection of papers to be presented, the overload of the conference's timetables etc., leading them to suggest (almost whispering) that the Executive Committee should consider to have parallel rather than plenary sessions.

Considering that the Amsterdam General Meeting (2014) had 1400 people attending, with 12 parallel sessions every day of the conference, with over 1500 submissions and close to 1500 individual and poster presentations, it is obvious that the organization of the scientific program of today's General Meetings is radically different from before. And whereas in the past even hotel reservations were being handled by the Association itself, the logistics of today's Meetings are now entrusted to external agencies. Still, the goals are the same as before, only the means differ. Of course, achieving the 'close-knit family feeling' characteristic of the early Meetings becomes more difficult.

Summer Schools

As described earlier, Summer Schools have been around ever since the beginnings of the Association. They were considered a crucial tool towards ensuring the future quality of European research in social psychology and the development of networks among young social psychologists. Putting the description of the early summer schools (by their organizers, staff members, and participants) side by side with those of today one is struck by the similarities. The goals are still the same, the basic format is still the same and—importantly—the spirit among the participants is still the same. In addition it should be observed that the experience at the Summer School stimulated some participants to later become very active and leading members of the Association (as editor of the *European Journal*, as organizer of a General Meeting, as member of an Executive Committee, even as its President).

Of course there are differences between then and now. The very early summer Schools lasted five weeks, they now last (only) two weeks. Today's participants speak a much better English and they have a stronger background in research methodology and in the field of social psychology in general. A number of them have the additional advantage of already being integrated in a social psychology research groups at their home institutions. Still, even when taking the above differences into account, it still remains a fact that an intensive two week training period with like-minded students proves extremely beneficial, not only in terms of one's own intellectual development and one's future academic career, but also in terms of its networking effect. Last but not least there is the experience of interacting with students from other countries which serves as an eye-opener for many.

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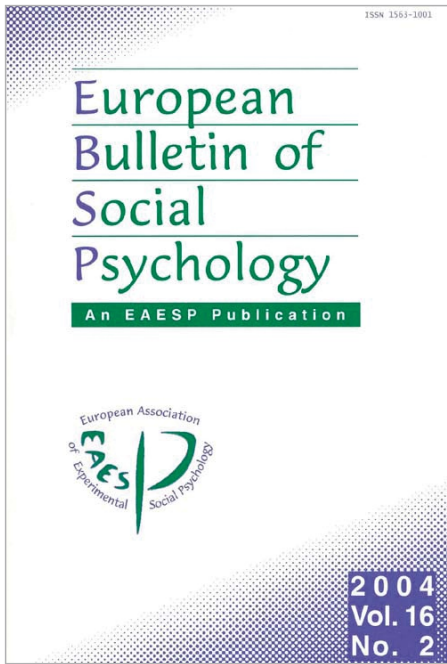
Front, from left: E. Krumhuber, N. Chaurand; Back: Malte Friese, M. Parzuchowski, N. Van De Ven, at SISP Austin, Texas, 2007

Finally, whereas in earlier days participation in our Summer Schools was restricted to Europeans, since some years some five North American students and five Australasian students can now also participate. Conversely, a comparable number of European students can now participate in the Summer Schools organized by the Society for Personality and Social Psychology and by the Society of Australasian Social Psychology.

From Exchange Visits to Grants

The founders of the Association felt that the organization of 'exchange visits' was one of the ways to contribute towards setting up joint research projects and towards creating networks of social psychologists across Europe. Members were stimulated to submit proposals for such exchange visits that would be (partly) funded by the Association. What started as these 'exchange visits' gradually developed into what is now our well-structured grant scheme, although the present grant scheme covers more ground than the initial support for exchange visits.

As a whole, the evolution of the grants scheme is an excellent illustration of the way in which the Association responds to developing needs and tendencies. A reading of the reports by holders of these grants in the European Bulletin clearly shows that the money invested by the Association in the grant scheme is well spent.



Closest to the original exchange visits, are the present (and recently instated) full member travel grants, which pretty much like their early predecessor are intended for short visits by full members to departments elsewhere with the purpose of conducting new research, learning about new technologies and the like. A comparable type of travel grants is also available for postgraduate members.

Seedcorn research grants serve to allow researchers to engage in preliminary research on which basis they may later be able to apply for larger scale funding. They can now also be obtained towards executing research designed at an EAESP Summer School. It should be noted that this latter possibility was also already around at the time of the early Summer Schools.

Aside from the above, there is a special category of grants, called the Research Know-

ledge Transfer Scheme (RKTS), meant as support for initiatives that can assist members from areas with only limited access to scientific information, facilities, or funding is available.

Finally and as the most recent addition to the schema there are the 'pre-registered research grants'. They are meant to help researchers who have already received an in principal acceptance from a journal that publishes pre-registered research.

Publications

From the beginning the founders of the Association felt that creating publication outlets was an additional means to give the Association and European social psychology a face in the international community of social psychologists, but also to assist its members in getting their work recognized, allowing them thereby to gain the respect of their local colleagues in other fields. The European Journal of Social Psychology (EJSP) and the series of European Monographs in Social Psychology were the first products of this philosophy. Not only did the Journal and the Monographs survive, having to compete also with an ever growing number of journals and book series, they both grew out to acquire a prominent place in the world's publication scene. Owing greatly to the efforts of successive editors, who at times had to engage in difficult negotiations with the publishers, and the efforts of authors submitting their work, they are now among the most popular journals and books in the field, attracting many high quality submissions and with high impact scores. As an illustration of the evolution over the years, whereas in the nineties the European Journal was attracting about 150 submissions a year and the Journal's impact score was hovering around 1.00, the editors now have to process

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over 400 submissions per year and the published articles have an impact score of well over 1.50.

As the years went by, new publication outlets were set up, meeting with comparable levels of success. There is the European Review of Social Psychology (ERSP) with over 25 volumes published, and there is the more recently created Social Psychological and Personality Science journal (SPPS), published by a consortium that includes EASP, SPSP, SASP, ARP, and AASP), which receives over 500 submissions per year. The journal has an impact score of around 2.00. And, of course, there is the most recent addition: Comprehensive Results in Social Psychology (CRSP), the first EASP journal to publish pre-registered research.

All of the above have contributed greatly to give European social psychology a face, not only within Europe, but also beyond. As to the latter, it should also be noted that nowadays a sizeable proportion of the articles and chapters published are contributions of non-Europeans. In addition the group of (associate) editors and reviewers of the Association's journals and series are recruited from all over the world. Conversely, members of our Association function as editors and reviewers of non-European journals and series. The Executive Committee of the Association often plays an active role in trying to ensure that this is the case.

Communication

From the beginning, the Association's founders considered it important that communication among the members and between the Executive Committee and the members would not only take place via conferences, exchange visits and specialized seminars, but also through a regularly appearing 'letter', sent to all members. To achieve this goal the Newsletter was created. Originally hand-typed and then mimeographed it contained information about research activities of the members, announcements of plans, reports of exchange visits and of seminars, references to relevant books, initiatives of the Executive committee and the like.

The Newsletter was the predecessor of what is now the European Bulletin of Social Psychology. Its outward appearance changed over the years: from a primitive mimeographed and stapled document of about 10 pages it later became an visually attractive publication, first as a printed

booklet and now an on line publication on the Association's website. It still shows a number of the features of the original Newsletters, as it contains announcements of events, reports of meetings, and other activities. In addition, however, and making it not only a communication but also a true publication instrument, many Bulletin issues offer interesting articles on 'hot' topics in social psychology in general, but primarily within the Association, reflecting the active involvement of the members in furthering its development.

The European Bulletin, as a bonding instrument between the members of the Association, is therefore a true reflection of what lives in the Association.

The other supplementary source of information and communication is of course the Association's website that contains a wealth of information concerning all aspects of the Association. In the early years of the Association websites were of course unheard of and recourse had to be taken to more primitive means of informing the members. In contrast, the present website contains literally everything a (prospective) member may want to know. Still, the fact that, at present, a wealth of easily accessible and attractively presented information is available to the members of the Association is by itself no guarantee that the members are in fact informed. Being informed requires reading the information in the first place. Such was not always the case in the early years, as was proven by the naughty test described earlier in this booklet (a communication via the Newsletter that the Executive Committee would buy a yacht unless a sufficient number of objected; the call elicited only one reaction). We can only hope that the situation is different nowadays.

Joint Activities with Other Associations

The original Articles described one of the ways in which the objectives of the Association could be reached as: "the interchange of information relating to this subject between the members and other associations throughout the world towards an international achievement of these objects and purposes." A look at the present formal links and joint activities between our and other associations shows that over the years the leadership of our association has taken this early recommendation more than seriously.

Ever since 2003 there is a formal agreement between the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) whereby five of their doctoral students can participate in our Summer Schools and five of ours can participate in theirs. A similar more recent agreement exists with the Society of Australasian Social Psychology (SASP).

For years EASP and the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI) have worked together towards the organization of (annual) conferences attractive to members of both societies alternating between North America and Europe. The two conferences held jointly by EASP and the Society for Experimental Social Psychology (SESP), one at Leuven/Louvain-la-Neuve in 1992 and the other in Washington in 1995, constitute yet another example of the Association's orientation towards cooperation with comparable organizations outside Europe.

A reading of some of the correspondence between the members of the early Executive Committees reveals a mixed attitude towards these international contacts. On the one hand they were considered important towards the development of research in Europe, but on the other hand there was a certain amount of

fear that ‘the Americans would dominate if not take over’. The scene has changed greatly since then. Looking at the situation nowadays it can best be described as one in which our Association and its members are interacting on equal footing with organizations in other continents, with great mutual respect for each other’s traditions and orientations.

Awards

It has been a tradition of EASP to honor members who made an outstanding contribution to the discipline of social psychology or the Association. On the occasion of our General Meetings these members receive one of several Medals of merit. In an indirect way these Medals do not only honor the awardees, they also honor the person after whom they were named.

The first Medal, the Henri Tajfel Medal, created as a tribute to one of our founding fathers and linked to the Henri Tajfel lecture at the General Meeting, recognizes the lifetime achievement contribution of one of our members. A few years later, as a tribute to another key figure in our history, the Jos Jaspars Medal was created, recognizing the outstanding contributions of young members. As a third category, the Kurt Lewin Medal is awarded to members in the midst of their career. The Jean-Paul Codol Medals, named after yet another distinguished member of our Association, are awarded to members who have made outstanding contributions to the Association. The most recently created medal is the Serge Moscovici Medal. Aside from honoring Serge for his pivotal role in the creation of the Association it honors present members for their innovative theoretical contribution to social psychology.

As a final point, although people’s feelings about awards differ, one cannot but observe that in the larger scientific community obtaining research funds depends not only on the quality of the research itself, but also on the recognition received for it. Awards are considered tokens of quality! That is also why, over the years, the Association created additional award categories and why, with the exception of the Tajfel and the Moscovici Medals, there are multiple recipients.

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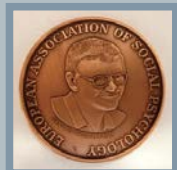
*Henri
Tajfel
Medal*



*Jaspars
Medal*



*Lewin
Medal*



*Codol
Medal*



*Serge
Moscovici
Medal*

THE PAST, THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE

EASP was founded with clear goals in mind: To bring European social psychologists together, advance the quality of research and research training with due respect for diversity in theoretical approaches and methodology, and put European social psychology on the map of the international scene of social psychology. Fifty years have passed since then. Have the goals of our founders been achieved? If they were still around, would they applaud? Would they still recognize the Association as they had it in mind? It is perhaps a bit unfair to even raise the question, because the world at large and the world of science and its support systems is by far not comparable to that of fifty years ago. Moreover, an evaluation of our history, as is true for any evaluation, depends on the choice of criteria used to make that evaluation.

Going by the tone of the presidential addresses that were presented at the end of each president's term in office one can only observe that they all experienced our Association mainly as a success story, referring thereby often to the fact that the Association had remained loyal to the agenda set by its founders. They further express pride in the wealth of activities deployed and in the ever growing impact of European social psychology on the world of social psychology in general. The above pages of this history account support their evaluation.

Of course there are still challenges to be met. To give but a few examples, there is for instance the challenge of assuring our Association's position in relation to European institutions and agencies, including gaining

access to European funds. There is also the question of how we, as an Association, can take initiatives to support our members who live in countries still suffering from the economic crisis, or in countries imposing political repression. In recent years several initiatives have already been taken to address these challenges, but there is no reason to sit back. We are not there yet!

Respect for diversity and plurality is one of the values the founders of the Association stood for. Recent discussions have made it clear that we should continue to undertake efforts to safeguard these important values. Some feel that the 'publish or perish' culture present in many institutions of higher education, the emphasis on quantifiable indicators of quality and some prevailing publication norms constitute a potential threat to intellectual creativity and to diversity in theoretical approaches and the choice of methodologies. It remains the task of the Association to develop strategies that contribute to fostering diversity and plurality, in terms of substance, but for instance also in terms of the representativeness of the types of meetings it supports, or of the grants it awards.

More generally, we should not forget that our Association was created as a source of support for social psychologists everywhere in Europe, as a means to facilitate connections between people, with special attention to support and develop the work of those members who lack this support, for financial or other reasons, in their own academic environments. This supportive and facilitative core is unique to our Association, as it differentiates us from many other organizations. We

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should not lose sight of this unique characteristic. In their home environments some of our membership has ample access to research facilities and to research grants and they often belong to large research groups, but another significant part of our members are less fortunate in these respects. Of course, in allocating its means the Association has to weigh considerations of merit versus those of need. Nevertheless continued efforts to prevent “Matthew effects” should remain high on the agenda.

Compared to the early years, with only about 60 members in the late sixties, our Association is now a large organization, with close to 1200 members. It may come as a surprise to some, but even in the early years size was already a source of concern. To repeat a quote of Tajfel, while writing about the General Meetings he said: “We did not wish to have an amorphous, mainly formal, large international body whose activities would mainly be restricted to organizing once every few years one of those ‘large jamborees’, known as International Congresses. We wished to have a small group of people, which would grow slowly, would have an active membership, and would also be capable of creating strong mutual links.” His concern was echoed by Moscovici in his 1969 presidential address: “Our Association broadens, due to an increase of its members. Since the small group, who in the beginning formed the center of the Association, has increased numerically as well as geographically, new problems will certainly arise. But we are sure that the friendly relationships formed during all these years, without overlooking the difficulties and divergences in opinion, are guarantees for the success in solving these new problems, because they have contributed to the establishment of confidence, mutual esteem and unity in the determination of our goals”.

In many ways the present size of our membership is a source of strength, because it increases the variety of work that we represent and our impact on the international scene. At the same time, however, the ever growing size of the membership continues to be a challenge. It remains our task to reconcile the undeniable advantages of being large with finding creative ways to maintain the close knit family feeling that has always been so characteristic of our Association.

Professional as it must be, the Association should continue to feel like home! Such is not the expression of a sense of nostalgia for days and years passed. On the contrary, it expresses a firm belief in the future.

Abraham Lincoln once said: “The best way to predict the future is to create it!” Therefore, let us join forces towards creating the future of our Association. **The Association is us, and what it does is what we do.**



