



EAPA Newsletter

of the European Association of Psychological Assessment

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Editorial

Dear EAPA members, colleagues, and friends,

It was a great honour to welcome many of you last September in Ghent for the 10th European Conference on Psychological Assessment. We had a good time together. In the aftermath of the conference the executive committee has assigned me the task of editor of the newsletter of our association. With his new commitments as editor of our journal and as president of our association it was not possible for Karl Schweizer to continue the work as editor of the newsletter. The past years he did a great job in making the newsletter an informal canal of communication between us members. I want to thank him for that past work, and even more for the new commitments with which he renders a great service to our association.

Please find here the first, and short, newsletter of 2010. On the one hand, it highlights the near and distant past. After the 10th European Conference on Psychological Assessment in Ghent, a jubilee year for our association started. It has been 20 years ago that our association was founded in Madrid. During the past 20 years our association has played an important role in the academic development of the domain of psychological assessment in Europe. On the other hand, it focuses on the future. Under the enthusiastic guidance of Fons van de Vijver, our website is being updated and the updated version will soon be launched. Moreover, there is news about our next conference. It will be organized at the University of Latvia in the beautiful Riga.

As it is the 20th birthday, I would like to invite all that have been involved in the development of our association to send me stories about what happened these past 20 years for the winter issue of our newsletter. I also invite all members to send me news and information about the development of psychological assessment in Europe, about new books, and about future meetings.

I wish you all a good summer time,

Johnny Fontaine

From the President



Dear EAPA members, colleagues and friends,

We had the first regular change of EAPA presidency according to the new rules of presidency so that I am now in the happy position to greet you as the new president of European Association of Psychological Assessment and to express my hope that the next years will be a good time for the Association and for all of us. Anastasia Eflikdes' term as president came to an end during the Ghent conference after two years of successfully leading our Association. She became past president, a new ex-officio position. Prof. Dr. Anastasia Eflikdes from Aristotele University of Thessaloniki did a very good job and was much concerned about the future development of EAPA. I would like once more to thank her for all the time, skills and knowledge, which she invested in running EAPA. Furthermore, the change of EAPA presidency included the replacement of myself by Fons van de Vijver as the result of voting for a new president-elect. I am very happy that Prof. Dr. Fons van de Vijver from Tilburg University decided to stand for election and to join the EC team. As a well-known researcher in the field of assessment he will contribute considerably to the visibility of our Association in the scientific community. Moreover, the EC elections led to the renewal of the terms of Dr. Valentin Bucik, Dr. Nuria de la Osa Chaparro, Dr. Johnny Fontaine, and Dr. Janos Nagy. They will serve as EC members for another four year. They all did a good job during their past term, and I am very glad that I can go on with them.

The 10th European Conference on Psychological Assessment at Ghent past September was a great success. It attracted a great number of scholars and scientists and once more made obvious that psychological assessment plays a key role in psychology and many applied fields. The scientific program included six keynote lectures, a considerable number of symposia, paper and poster sessions and also a panel discussion. The presentations covered a wide range of topics, and there were quite a number of opportunities to learn about stimulating new ideas. Assessment could be perceived as a multi-faceted and well-developing field of research and application. The scientific program was complemented by a social program that offered the opportunity to visit the historic parts of Ghent and to enjoy an excellent dinner in the time-honoured surroundings of a monastery. Members who decided not to attend this conference clearly missed something. The conference was hosted by the Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences of Ghent University and especially by the Testpracticum. I greatly appreciated the hosting and support by the Faculty, the Testpracticum and especially by the organizer, Prof. Dr. Johnny Fontaine.

The conference was preceded by the glamour of an award ceremony. During the opening session of the conference two prizes were given to two outstanding members. The first prize was given to the first president of European Association of Psychological Assessment, Prof. Dr. Rocio Fernandez Ballesteros for all her work for EAPA. In her laudation Anastasia Efklides highlighted Rocio Fernandez Ballesteros' enormous contribution to the growth of EAPA. The winner of the second prize was Prof. Dr. Klaus Kubinger. He was honoured for distinguished scientific and professional contributions to psychological assessment where the focus was on the contributions during the past five years. The EAPA prize committee found that Klaus Kubinger is a very suitable candidate for this prize.

I am very happy that Johnny Fontaine decided to take over the editorship of EAPA Newsletter and to go on with this new means of communication with and among the members of the Association. Two years ago we made a new attempt to establish EAPA newsletter as a means for a more informal way of communication and scientific dialogue among members after many year without a newsletter. We thought that this newsletter would be especially well suited for disseminating all types of EAPA news to all the interested persons and were very happy about all the positive responses, which we received. At the beginning of this year a change of editorship of EAPA newsletter has become necessary because I was no longer available for this editorship because of other obligations.

Finally, I like to address the next European Conference on Psychological Assessment. Unfortunately, the original plan to organize our next conference in Ljubljana, Slovenia, could not take place. We are very happy that our Latvian colleagues have offered us a very attractive alternative. In one years time our next conference will be held at Riga, Latvia. Riga is another attractive place for a conference after conferences at Barcelona (1991), Groningen (1993), Trier (1995), Lisbon (1997), Partas (1999), Aachen (2001), Malaga (2004), Budapest (2005), Thessaloniki (2007) and Ghent (2009).

At the end of my report about EAPA I hope that the reader may find it informative and stimulating and may enjoy reading the following parts that were compiled by the new editor, Johnny Fontaine.

Karl Schweizer, PHD
President of EAPA

EAPA Summer School

Prof. Dr. Caroline Braet, Ghent University, Belgium

Under the auspices of the European Association of Psychological Assessment Ghent University organized a Summer School (14-16 September, 2009) in Ghent, Belgium aimed to introduce young researchers (PhD-students and young postdocs) from all over the world in assessment issues of emotions and psychopathology with relevance for clinical research and practice. The summerschool was a preconference activity of the 10th European Conference on Psychological Assessment. The summerschool accepted 25 participants from 10 different countries. The summerschool was evaluated by the participants as very good (mean of the evaluations for the 6 half day workshops was 4.1/5).

Day 1 has focused on embedding the assessment of emotions in current emotion psychology. Here, chair and presenting author was Johnny Fontaine. On day 2, chairs and presenting authors were Giancarlo Dimaggio and Stijn Vanheule. They taught about assessing metacognition and alexithymia in clinical research. Finally, day 3 was dedicated to learn more on assessing emotional and behavioural psychopathology with the ASEBA system, chaired by Thomas Achenbach and Caroline Braet, who were both also presenting authors. Every morning started with a theoretical presentation by an expert in the field. After that, the group was divided in smaller groups and they discussed or exercised specific research issues.

The 10th European Conference on Psychological Assessment, Ghent, Belgium, 16-19 September, 2009

Johnny Fontaine, Ghent University, Belgium



I was very happy to welcome our members and interested colleagues and practitioners in Ghent last year for a true academic interchange. There were in total 317 participants at the conference and 31 mainly local participants that attended the conference for one day. We had in total 29 symposia of which 13 invited symposia, 107 individual papers, and 70 posters with in total 294 contributions. The attendance to and the interest in the conference testifies of the intellectual and academic role our association plays in the domain of psychological assessment in Europe.

EAPA Award at Ghent



Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the great pleasure to present the winner of the EAPA award 2009.

The name of the winner is Klaus Kubinger.

I am very happy about the selection of Klaus Kubinger since he devoted a great part of his professional life to scientific work concerning psychological assessment. Unlike many of us who have developed multiple scientific identities he more and more concentrated on psychological assessment and became one of the most visible representatives of psychological assessment in German-speaking countries.

Now let me give you some more information about our award winner:

Klaus Kubinger was born in Vienna, Austria, and – as I learned from his CV – has spent most of his life in that magnificent city.

He studied psychology at the University of Vienna and finally earned a PhD in psychology. After completing his psychology studies he went on for another degree in social and economical statistics.

Besides the academic qualifications Klaus Kubinger acquired some additional professional qualifications, as it is expected for university teachers in some subject areas. These qualifications enable him to work as a clinical psychologist, a psychotherapist according to systemic theory and as a proficiency assessor according to DIN 33430.

In 1985 he became associate professor, and since 1998 he is full professor, both at the University of Vienna. From the beginning he was the head instructor of psychological assessment at the psychology department. Since 1998 he is also the head of the newly installed division of psychological assessment and applied psychometrics. This division includes a centre of testing and consulting.

This deep involvement into psychological assessment led him to become a member of the German Committee on Tests and Testing. This is a committee installed by the German Psychological Society and the members are appointed by the Society. This committee deals with issues and affairs concerning psychological assessment on behalf of the Society. Klaus Kubinger was a member of this committee between 2000 and 2006.

When you ask Klaus Kubingers for a list of his main areas of research, you will learn about specific areas of psychological assessment: so he lists fundamentals of psychological assessment, adaptive testing, computerized experiment-based behaviour assessment, psycho-diagnostics by means of IRT and experimental designs and so on.

He was a guest professor at the universities of Klagenfurt and of Graz - both are Austrian universities – and also of Potsdam and of Berlin – these are German universities.

Klaus Kubinger is a prolific writer. He published over 90 papers in scientific journals. As you may guess, most of them refer to psychological assessment.

Noteworthy, there are also books which he published. The titles are

- Modern psychometrics – a brief survey of recent contributions (1989)
- Keynotes of psychological assessment (2003)
- Statistics for psychologists (2006)
- Psychological assessment – theory and practice (2009)

Furthermore, he published tests: an intelligence test-battery for children and objective personality tests.

Before closing I like to add two other important points about Klaus Kubinger.

- he is the editor-in-chief of a scientific journal titled Psychology Science Quarterly. It is the English version of a prestigious old German journal.
- and last but not least in 2007 he was awarded the Alfred-Binet award of the German Psychological Society.

All in all, Klaus Kubinger is a very worthy winner of the EAPA award 2009.

Karl Schweizer
EAPA President-elect

The European Association of Psychological Assessment turns 20: The new paths after reaching maturity

Itziar Alonso-Arbiol

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There has been a long way since the founder members met in Madrid in 1990 to develop this initiative. The European Association of Psychological Assessment (EAPA) was then founded by our always enthusiastic colleagues; along the years some others have continued serving EAPA on the purpose of making the international field of psychological assessment progress (thanks to all of them!). The diverse areas of Psychological Assessment (PA) have evolved enormously in these 20 years, even though some of us were not mature enough at that time to follow the progress (I was still in secondary school when that happened). It is my perception, from what senior colleagues have described, that the EAPA has been successful in accompanying the evolution of PA and contributing to it. The question remains as how EAPA will continue in this endeavour; in other words, which new (or renovated) challenges it would face and which specific tasks/project could be undertaken to warranty the growing of the field as a whole, and the fostering of interrelations of professionals of PA in particular. The development of specific projects will depend on members' initiatives; the role of the association, by means of its Executive Committee (EC), is to provide the necessary tools to make all those projects possible and viable.

As stated in the Article 2 of the EAPA bylaws, the aim of the association was defined as follows in the foundational meeting: *"To promote the scientific interest in and study of psychological assessment in Europe, and in order to achieve the same ends internationally, the exchange of information on this discipline among the European members and other associations throughout the world"*. The extensive connections with professionals outside Europe, most notably among those involved in research, have made our association more worldwide oriented. Hopefully, more colleagues from everywhere will join us in the following years in the general aim of improving theories, methods, and the practice of PA. Consequently, this will allow more exchanges on PA among Europeans and between Europeans and scholars from other parts of the world.

One of the most remarkable changes that have made a difference in our work activity is the availability of many electronic resources linked to the use of Internet. Without any doubt, this technological advance has made our jobs easier (and by the same token, our lives more enjoyable). Connecting to databases, sending and receiving emails and attached documents, and engaging in online discussions with colleagues are among such resources, to name but a few. In this context, it makes perfectly sense to re-orient our association to a more 'virtual' environment for the establishment of relationships among EAPA members. There are at least four ways in which EAPA may adopt the possibilities opened with the new technologies: electronic version of European Journal of Psychological Assessment (EJPA) journal, interactive website, EAPA listserv, and online meetings and/or voting systems.

While they are still many adepts of the paper version of EJPA journal articles, it is undeniable that having electronic versions available adds considerably to the efficiency, quickness, and 'anytime-anywhere' access some readers would seek for. In some ways, electronic instant access avoids any possible delay in sending regular post to the most remote regions of Europe or to other continents of the world. Hence, I consider that the current option for EAPA members of having both paper and electronic versions of EJPA articles is indeed a very interesting addition.

In the era of information technology, an interactive website with renovated contents is a must for any professional association, and ours should not be an exception. Whether for announcements or for the exchange of materials, any professional on PA may benefit from online resources. This website should be as dynamic as possible and be useful for colleagues whose activities fall within the teaching, research, or applied arenas. Nevertheless, should we want the website to serve its purpose, members' active implication for exchange material/information is highly recommended.

Likewise, and as an even more interactive resource, the newly set up listserv is intended to provide opportunities to EAPA members for connection. It may be used to facilitate exchange of information or

materials, to provide bits of updated information on advances of PA or other announcements, and to help building bridges among colleagues with the same interests. I can foresee that some interesting opinion discussions or development of projects may use this way. The main advantage is that in some seconds one should be able to quickly scan the information provided by email and decide whether it is relevant to oneself or not (and accordingly react engaging in the activity or just discard/ignore it). Here again it is on members to make it a useful tool for the development of their work.

And last but not least, the Executive Committee (EC) of EAPA is benefiting from using Internet. In our hectic lives frequent travelling can be exhausting (not to mention the uncertainty/anxieties that staff's strikes or volcanoes expelling ash to the air could cause to our airplane trips), so efforts to avoid unnecessary travels are always welcomed. In this direction, online meetings and quick exchanges of messages have been lately more often used by EC members for making decisions and discussing internal matters. It would be possible to imagine that in a close future we could even use similar online meetings or website-based voting systems for topics that may be discussed by all EAPA members.

What I have described so far is my view on the current and future online possibilities that EAPA have incorporated (or may do it soon) for the achieving of the goals of association. However, these promising perspectives of the virtual environment are not in conflict with the organization of the EAPA biannual conferences, but rather a supplement to them. Still the conference will be a central activity of the association for the years to come. Advancements made by colleagues will be revealed to the professional community during the intense few days that each conference lasts. I can imagine myself having more extended discussions with other PA professionals in such a setting. And it is my impression that many colleagues would be with me in thinking of the conference as a non-replaceable activity. Not only do we enjoy the stimulating and lively professional discussions we may have every two years, but we also get the pleasure of meeting again old friends and colleagues over a palatable dinner or a savoury glass of wine in a nice European city. I have done it so in the last four EAPA conferences and look forward to continuing with this tradition for some other future reunions.

Some last words go for the new members to come. It is clear that in other 20 years some of us may be retired from the profession (hopefully not myself yet!). Therefore, the new projects/initiatives that might be developed in the near future will have to rely somehow on the participation of invigorated and passionate young professionals. It is my view that young scholars should progressively take a more prominent role so that the transition moments in which senior colleagues abandon the profession after retirement become smoother. If we are successful in incorporating new generations to the association in a steady manner, the future of EAPA and its contribution to the development of PA will be even brighter.

Rejuvenation of our Website

Fons Van de Vijver

In a meeting of the Executive Committee of EAPA, it was decided to rejuvenate the *website* of the Association (<http://www.eapa-homepage.org/>). A plan for the new website was made and the company that built the current website, Kohlhaas & Kohlhaas (<http://www.kohlhaas-kohlhaas.de/>), was approached to develop the new site. The main reason for updating the website is the need to have a more active Association and to initiate more interactions between members; a more elaborate description of the new website can be found in the table below. It is our aim to build a website that is sufficiently interesting to be visited at a regular basis and that provides up to date information in a number of areas, such as publications, developments in the Association, and job postings. The new website will be soon "up and running". When this moment has been reached, and members will be invited to contribute materials a website. We will contact members in a later stage with more details.

In addition, a *listserv* has been launched that is free for all members and for all other persons who are interested. The listserv starts as an unmoderated e-mail platform where you can post e-mails that are automatically sent to all members of the listserv. The goal of the listserv is to provide an easy, low-threshold platform for discussions about assessment issues, publications of recent books, interesting job postings, requests by members to find researchers in other countries for their studies, announcements of congresses and summer schools, etc. Signing on and signing off can be done automatically without the intervention of the moderator.

Key word	Topics
Home page* (to be revamped)	Page with partly variable, partly fixed content; Fixed: references to other parts of the site Variable: news (one or two lines with references to underlying pages) and a brief indication at the bottom of the home page that indicates the date of the last change
Job postings	Job vacancies Links to sites of job postings; for example, http://www.universityjobs.com/ ; http://www.academiccareers.com http://www.career.edu/ http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess http://www.academictransfer.com/?set_language=en
Upcoming events	An overview of congresses and summer schools that are relevant for assessment Examples: http://www.icap2010.com/ http://www.iaccp2010.com http://www.apa.org/conf.html http://www.intestcom.org/conferences/index.php http://www.allconferences.com/conferences/2006/20060328161432/ http://www.conferencealerts.com/psychology.htm http://www.innovationsintesting.org/
Resources	Very short announcements with links to relevant events or books, laws, guidelines, etc. Examples: http://www.intestcom.org/ http://www.iaapsy.org/ http://www.apa.org/about/division/div5.html http://www.apa.org/about/division/div12.html http://www.apa.org/about/division/div17.html http://buros.unl.edu/buros/jsp/search.jsp
PhD and Master programs	Brief information about PhD and Master programs where students may specialize in assessment topics, with indication of dates for application, professor to be contacted, etc. Examples: we need to decide what we will present. List is seemingly endless if we include all American universities
Journal*	Stays essentially the same (add more information, such as titles, summaries, and contact information of authors)

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Other publications	<p>Recent articles by members (if we want to make PDF files available, access should be restricted to members)</p> <p>Recent chapters or books by members (with the same restrictions for PDF files)</p> <p>Links to important journals devoted to assessment, such as Assessment and Psychological Assessment, instruments distributors, APA division... (set of assessment journals still to be defined)</p> <p>http://www.apa.org/journals/pas/description.html</p> <p>http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/authors/hjpaauth.asp</p> <p>http://www.sagepub.com/journalsProdManSub.nav?prodId=Journal201872</p> <p>http://www.sagepub.com/journalsProdManSub.nav?prodId=Journal201771</p> <p>http://www.wiley.com/bw/submit.asp?ref=0965-075x</p> <p>http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/authors/caehauth.asp</p> <p>http://www.uk.sagepub.com/journalsProdManSub.nav?prodId=Journal201628</p> <p>http://tijepa.books.officelive.com/main.aspx</p> <p>http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/15305058.asp</p> <p>http://www.springer.com/psychology/psychology+general/journal/10862</p> <p>http://asm.sagepub.com</p>
Membership*	Information about whom to contact, kinds of membership, and financial information. Some members might have their own webs they would like to link.
Conferences*	Elaborate information about past and future conferences
About EAPA*	Text will be updated
EAPA Awards	Best PhD thesis: details will follow. Young career award: current description will be used.
Educational materials	Syllabi, PowerPoint presentations, and various other materials members sent to us Overview of relevant sites with audio-visual teaching materials
Statutes	The statutes of the association
Directory*	Same as now (password protected)

*already present on the current website (pages to be updated)

Next conference

Our colleagues from the University of Latvia, namely professor Sebre and professor Rascevska, have started to organize our next conference. The conference will take place the beginning of September 2011. The precise dates will be soon announced. The conference will be held in the historical Main Administration Building of the University of Latvia in Riga. It is a beautiful location that is situated not far from the historical city centre, which as been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We can all start dreaming, and more importantly, start preparing our contributions for a new stimulating academic exchange on psychological assessment.

