



EAPA Newsletter

of the European Association of Psychological Assessment

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Editorial

Dear EAPA members, colleagues, and friends,

It is an honour for me that the EAPA Executive Committee has assigned me the task of editor of the newsletter of our association. I thank Johnny Fontaine, the previous editor, for his advice and wish him all the best as new president-elect.

I know EAPA only for a few years, but I could already experience its impact in the academic world and its growing relevance for practitioners. Some of you may remember me as one of the organizers of our previous congress, ECPA10, that took place in Ghent in September 2009. I am an academic specialized in adaptation of instruments for psychological assessment, and I have a serious concern for how psychological assessment is applied in the field. I hope to inform you with lots of challenging news in the future.



Please find here my first newsletter. After the news of our new president Fons van de Vijver, it highlights the most important moments of 11th European Conference on Psychological Assessment that took place in Riga last summer. It was a wonderful experience in Latvia. Thank you, Sandra and Malgozata! In the meantime, we are looking forward to see you all in San Sebastian in 2013 for our next conference.



I like to focus your attention on our first call for an EAPA-Summer school, which takes place at Ghent University, Belgium, from the 10th till the 14th of September 2012. The subject is *Internal structure analysis for validation of psychological assessment instruments*. Interested candidates have to apply before March the 1st of 2012!

I invite all of you to send me news and information about the development of psychological assessment in Europe, about new books, and about future meetings, etc.

May I remind you to visit regularly our updated website, see <http://www.eapa-homepage.org/> to keep informed on all new developments!

Finally, I wish you all the best, for your family and work in the new year. **HAPPY 2012!**

Mark Schittekatte (Ghent University)



News from the President

Fons van de Vijver,
President EAPA



Welcome to all members and other readers of this Newsletter, which is an informal medium of contact between the Executive Committee of EAPA and its members. EAPA has seen various positive developments in the last period; as a consequence, it is an interesting period to be president. Let me mention some of these developments and events: we had a successful conference (pictures can be found at <http://www.ecpal1.lu.lv/index.php?id=gallery>). The conference was very well organized, the average quality of the presentations was high, and from the feedback I received, the conference also served its purpose of being an enjoyable meeting place to meet old friends, to make new ones, and of being a platform to establish contacts between participants to develop new research. I sincerely hope that the next conference in 2013 in San Sebastian, Basque Country, Spain, will be a worthy successor of the Riga conference. Furthermore, our journal is in very good shape. We receive many submissions and the impact factor has increased for the fifth year in a row. Also, the last elections marked the end of a long period of involvement of Anastasia Efklides (Greece) in the Executive Committee. However, we are very happy that she is the chairperson of the Hogrefe-EAPA Book Series, which aims at producing a series of volumes on state-of-the-art theory and research in psychological assessment in various fields of psychology; see <http://www.eapa-homepage.org/bookseries> for a more extensive description. Finally, we have a revamped website now up and running for a while (<http://www.eapa-homepage.org/index.php>); the usage statistics suggest that many people find their way to our website. We would like to use the website more for communication with members. In addition to the public part there is a secluded part for members where they can pay their dues. Furthermore, the website has been used for a “paperless” election procedure. The software behind the elections worked well.

I would like to see that the number of members of EAPA will increase in the coming period. Information about membership can be found at <http://www.eapa-homepage.org/membership/>.

The election results, announced in the last Member’s Assembly in Riga (September 1, 2011) are as follows (see also <http://www.eapa-homepage.org/about/elections/?id=198>):

- Johnny Fontaine was elected as President-Elect.
- Tuulia Ortner was elected as member of the Executive Committee (a position had become vacant as Johnny Fontaine has become President-Elect).

The Executive Committee now has the following composition:

- a) **President:** Fons van de Vijver (The Netherlands);
- b) **President-Elect/Vice-President:** Johnny R. J. Fontaine (Belgium);
- c) **Past-President:** Karl Schweizer (Germany);
- d) **Secretary General:** Valentin Bucik (Slovenia);
- e) **Deputy Secretary General:** Itziar Alonso-Arbiol (Spain);
- f) **Treasurer:** Nuria De la Osa Chaparro (Spain);
- g) **Members:** Prof. Dr. Laurence Claes (Belgium); Janos Nagy (Hungary); Tuulia Ortner (Germany); Mark Schittekatte (Belgium); Willibald Ruch (Switzerland).

This group has a good mix of ages, countries, and domain of interest in assessment.



Finally, I would like to extend an open invitation to members who would like to contribute to the Association, the website, or the listserv (epa@uvt.nl; accessible for members only) to contact me (fons.vandevijver@uvt.nl) with their ideas.

The success of EAPA is dependent on the level of engagement of its members.

I look forward to working with you in the coming two years!

Fons van de Vijver

The 11th European Conference on Psychological Assessment, Riga, Latvia, 31 August – 3 September, Riga, Latvia

Text by Sandra Sebre and Malgožata Raščevska
(conference Co-Presidents), University of Latvia, Latvia



The 11th European Conference on Psychological Assessment was truly a very important, groundbreaking scientific event for the psychology researchers and practitioners of Latvia and the Baltic States. We, the University of Latvia Department of Psychology, were greatly honoured to host such a major conference on psychological assessment with such internationally prominent researchers as keynote speakers, invited symposium chairs and presenters of oral and poster presentations.

The conference was attended by 251 participants from 5 continents, 37 countries (in alphabetical order) – Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Gibraltar (territory of the UK), Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Rumania, Russia, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and the United States. The scientific program included 12 symposia of which 10 were invited symposia. There were 130 oral/paper presentations and 82 poster presentations, for a total of 212 conference presentations.



The Presidential Address by EAPA President Karl Schweizer, Goethe University, Germany, „On the homogeneity crisis in the construction of psychological measures” was the first presentation within the scientific program, and set the tone of remarkable ability to lucidly transmit state-of-the-art assessment concerns to an audience of both researchers and practitioners, albeit all interested in issues of psychological assessment.



Within the course of the three day scientific programme, conference organizers were very grateful and honoured to introduce five renown keynote speakers: Dave Bartram, SHL Group, UK, on “The impact of personality on the competitiveness and economic performance of nations”; Thomas Oakland, University of Florida, USA, on “The status of test development and use internationally”; Jaan Valsiner, Clark University, USA, “Assessment and its discontents: A view from cultural psychology”; Klaus Boehnke, Jacobs University, Germany, “On comparing apples and oranges: Towards a quantitative emic cross-cultural psychology”; and Antonio Godoy, University of Malaga, Spain, on “Clinical decision making: Past, present and future”.

It was wonderful that the conference was able to offer symposia presentations on a broad range of very current and enticing topics, including cross-cultural assessment, online assessment, assessment of positive psychology traits, facets of metacognition, aggression and conduct problems in childhood, test adaptation, response styles in rating scales, as well as construct representation and construct underrepresentation in the assessment of the affective domains. Following were oral/paper presentations which were grouped within the domains of organizational psychology, personality psychology, educational psychology, clinical psychology, test adaptation and special issues in psychological assessment.

A particular innovation at the 11th ECPA was the initiation of the first EAPA conference Poster Competition, an idea which must be attributed to Karl Schweizer, supported and refined by Fons van de Vijver. The competition was organized so that during the afternoon poster sessions all conference participants were asked to mark with a special tag the posters they considered as most successful. Poster competition awards for first, second and third place were presented at the closing ceremony to the following winners:

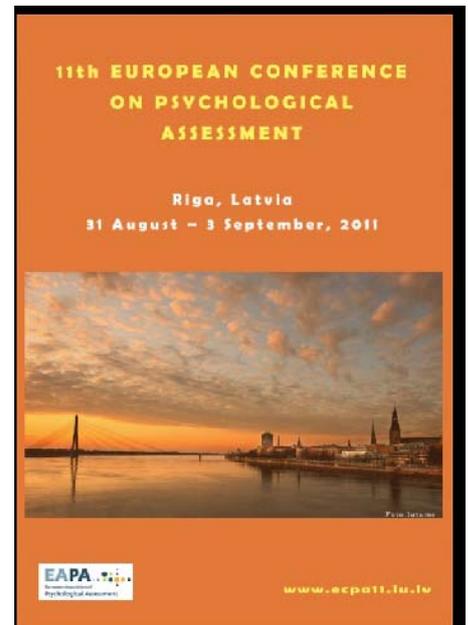
- Marta Maćkiewicz, University of Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński in Warsaw, Poland, Co-author: Jan Ciecuch. **Picture Based Personality Survey for Children – new instrument for measuring Big Five in childhood.**
- Jan Ciecuch, University of Finance and Management in Warsaw, Poland, Co-authors: Tomasz Rowiński; Włodzimierz Strus. **Polish version of the IPIP scales for measuring Abridged Big Five Dimensional Circumplex (AB5C).**
- Ina Melny, Technische Universität München, Germany, Co-author: Hugo Kehr. **Impact of fear on self-control.**
- Willibald Ruch, University of Zurich, Switzerland, Co-authors: Sarah Auerbach; Karin Sommer; Karin Hösli. **The humorous temperament of children and youth: Development of an age based version of the State-Trait-Cheerfulness-Inventory (STCI).**
- Johanna Pretsch, University of Koblenz-Landau, Germany, Co-authors: Manfred Schmitt. **Assessing teachers’ personality in 6 seconds: What leads to high consensus?**
- Inese Muzikante, University of Latvia, Latvia. **Psychometric Properties of Latvian version of Driver Behaviour Questionnaire.**



Maïke Malda won the 2011 PhD Thesis Award, which is a new prize for young researchers whose PhD thesis has made an important contribution to psychological assessment. Her doctoral work was conducted at Tilburg University, under the supervision of Prof. dr. Fons J. R. van de Vijver. The title of her thesis was “There is no Place Like Home: On the Relation Between Culture and Children’s Cognition”. Her thesis deals with the adaptations of cognitive instruments for use in non-western cultures.

The local organizing committee of the 11th ECPA is very grateful for the trust, support and encouragement provided by the EAPA Executive Committee during the conference organizational process as well as during the conference itself. Of particular importance was the ongoing communication with and support from Karl Schweizer, Fons van de Vijver and Itziar Alonso-Arbiol.

The 11th ECPA was truly a “scientific happening” in Latvia in that this was the first time that such a major international scientific psychology conference was held in Latvia, and it was a force that strengthened an awareness of the scientific importance and practical impact of psychological assessment for the scientific community and society at large.



For more pictures of the conference see
<http://www.ecpa11.lv/index.php?id=gallery>

EAPA Award 2011

Text by Anastasia Efklides
(Aristotle University of Thessaloniki)



It is my great pleasure on behalf of the EC and the EAPA Award Committee to announce to you the decision for the recipient of the award for 2011. The EAPA Award originated in 1994 and is meant to advance psychological assessment by acknowledging important developments in the field and honoring people who have made significant scientific or professional contributions to psychological assessment in the last five years. It is endowed with 2000 € and is presented every two years at the Opening ceremony of the EAPA biennial conference. Following the conditions of the Award, an open invitation for peer nominations was sent to EAPA members early this year. The EAPA Award Committee following a decision of the EC consisted of Anastasia Efklides, President, and F. van de Vijver and Itziar Alonso members.

The Call for nominations was successful and there were nominations of two highly distinguished academics. This made the job of the Committee difficult but it was understood that selection of one in no way belittled the worth of the other. We would like to thank the colleagues who responded to the Call for Nominations and prepared the proposals. Their gesture manifests their commitment to academic excellence and values and to the noble tradition of recognition of people who have offered to science or practice and have advanced the field.

The unanimous decision of the Award Committee was that the 2011 award goes to **Boele de Raad**. Boele is a highly esteemed scholar and member of EAPA who has served this association for many years and from various positions, including those of the general secretary and president. Although the emphasis of the Award is on nominees' production during the last five years, Boele's work extends for more than 30 years and has been highly recognized by the international scientific community in terms of citations and positions of trust. He has not stopped producing new ideas and pushing forward research on personality even now that he is professor emeritus. Thus, although the Award is meant for contributions in the last five years it is impossible to limit Boele's work only in this period. Boele has a long history and an impressive record of research in personality assessment as I will try to show to you in what follows.



Boele de Raad, since his dissertation in 1985, has been working with language and how people use it to communicate their conceptions of personality characteristics. From this point of view his work belongs to the lexicographic approach and the search for universals, that is, categories people use despite linguistic differences. The question whether it is the “big five”, more (six) or less (three) factors that can explain human personality is a central theme in his research. To be able to answer this question Boele has collaborated with colleagues from many countries, particularly from countries that speak non-Germanic languages or even non-Indo-European ones, like the Hungarian. This long experience with diverse languages and his methodological skillfulness with data bases that came to include 14 countries, have offered Boele a deeper sense of how language is used to convey meanings about personality.

He progressively became keenly aware of the effects not only of language but also of *culture* and of *situations*. And this is where he made the difference.



Specifically, he extended the lexicographic approach to include — besides adjectives— nouns, verbs and expressions. This innovation led to a very influential publication in the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* in 2008 that introduced a new taxonomy of Dutch personality traits. Another seminal contribution is his use of taxonomic analyses that involve both traits and situations. This work was published in the *European Journal of Personality* in 2008 and showed how we can get a much richer and refined

understanding of people's conception of personality traits. During these years one can clearly detect a move from semantics to pragmatics, which was long due in personality research. It is the person-in-situation that dictates people's attributions about underlying personality dimensions rather than the person per se.

His sophisticated use of the lexicographic methodology has led to another insight, namely the search for the structure of values, virtues, or even abuse in relation to personality descriptors. This line of research is reflected in his publications from 2008 up to 2011, and marks another contribution to the science of psychological assessment. This research is in agreement with a wider interest of social psychology in issues that have not attracted much attention in the past but represent major categories of human thinking and behavior. Although still in its infancy this direction in personality assessment is promising a bright future.



Before closing this brief presentation of Boele's work I would like to underscore another development in his career. His open mind and continuous search for languages and cultures that have not been studied yet, has led him to accept a university post in South Africa. Along with our warm congratulations for the award I would like to extend to him our best wishes for a successful and gratifying new career in that far away country that holds many promises for new discoveries and contributions.

„Beyond self-report: Objective, indirect, and other assessment approaches and their fields of applications” - The EAPA Summer School 2011 in Riga

Text by Tuulia Ortner (Freie Universität Berlin) &
Friederike Gerstenberg (Technische Universität München).

In the last decade new methods for assessment of personality related, emotional and social variables outside common approaches of self report have aroused considerable interest. The 2011 EAPA Summer School addressed these developments by dealing with such



alternative measurement techniques as Objective Personality Tests, indirect measurement of implicit constructs, facial expression tasks, and psychophysiological approaches and took place at the impressive main building of the University of Riga, Latvia, during 29th and 30th of August 2011. It was attended by overall thirteen participants from Latvia, Switzerland, Estonia, and Germany.

On the first day, the summer school introduced to the theoretical background of objective and indirect measures. Theory and present examples of approaches were presented and critically discussed in context of research and practice. Furthermore, facial expression tasks were discussed in context of positive Psychology research.

On the second day, participants presented their own scientific research and data in different fields of research and application. Thus, presentations were given on psychophysiological approaches with an emphasis on heart rate variability, risky driving, perfectionism, motivation and volition, motivation and mental effort, self-esteem, creativity, aggression, envy, and education. On the end of the second day, experimental software packages, data handling, and analysis was addressed and a guest from a test publisher (Markus Sommer, Austria) was welcomed.



Nevertheless, the summer school also included a social perspective. It aimed to allow for meeting and connecting with others working in similar fields within Europe, to share knowledge and get practical advice for your ongoing studies and research plans. During the sessions, participants had the opportunity to get acquainted with each others' work in coffee breaks (sponsored by Schuhfried GmbH). Furthermore, we spent a common dinner on the first evening sponsored by EAPA right in the center of Riga that facilitated deepening discussions and also introduced into the excellent Latvian cuisine (and local stimulating beverages).

As the organizing team, we would like to thank the participants for sharing their ideas, experiences and enthusiasm in their research with us. We would also like to thank the local organizing team in Riga for their preliminary support and help during the summer school.



First call for the EAPA-Summer school 10-14 september 2012, Ghent University, Belgium



EAPA organizes a Summerschool for European PhD students and postdocs at Ghent University, Belgium, from the 10th till the 14th of September 2012.

Organizers: Prof. Dr. Johnny Fontaine & Dr. Mark Schittekatte

The theme is: **Internal structure analysis for validation of psychological assessment instruments**

The summer school consists of three parts:

- Part one (two days) will focus on confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) and will be taught by Prof. Dr. Yves Rosseel from Ghent University (Belgium).
- Part two (two days) will focus on Item Response Theory (IRT) and will be taught by Prof. Dr. Klaus Kubinger and Dr. Christine Hohensinn from Universität Wien (Austria)
- The final part (one day) will focus on application of the model to own data and doing research and publishing about psychological assessment in a European context. This part will be taught by Prof. Dr. Fons van de Vijver from Tilburg University (The Netherlands), Prof. Dr. Karl Schweizer from Goethe University (Germany) and Prof. Dr. Johnny Fontaine from Ghent University (Belgium).

Participants should do research on construction and/or adaptation of psychological assessment instruments, and should have **data from their own research before the start of the summer school**.

Location: an old abbey close to the city of Ghent, see

<http://www.oudeabdij.be/geschiedenis.html>



Price: 350 € for 6 nights and 5 days of full board (25 € for one extra night)

Scholarship or bursary possible on request. Max. 20 participants!

Apply **before the 1st of March 2012**, by sending your CV, a motivation, a description of your research, and the data you want to work on during the summer school to Dr. Mark Schittekatte (mark.schittekatte@ugent.be)

PSYCHOLOGY – a contribution to EU Policy Making
November 9, 2011 – European Parliament Brussels

On November 9th, 2011 the first psychological conference for policy-makers took place in European Parliament in Brussels, Belgium. This event was organized by the European Federation of Psychologists Associations (EFPA) at the occasion of its 30th anniversary. It was hosted by MEP **Leonidas Donskis**, MEP **Nadja Hirsch** and MEP **Vilja Savisaar Toomast** and supported by the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe.

The aim of the conference was to provide Members of the European Parliament, officials from the European Commission and other European bodies up-to-date information on psychology and what it can offer to European society. The conference highlighted psychologists' expertise and possible contributions to policy-making in such areas as health, education, work, community, traffic and other fields. Prof. Dr. **Robert Roe**, President of EFPA and professor-emeritus from Maastricht University, the Netherlands, spoke about „Psychology for Europe“. He clarified how psychology differs from other disciplines and why using psychology can have a multiplier effect on policies based on technical or medical sciences. He warned against relying on common sense, stressing that psychology roots in measurement, facts and theory. Prof. Roe highlighted seven areas in which psychological expertise can contribute to EU policy-making: health, school, work, community, transport, sport, law and law enforcement. He put a special emphasis on prevention. He noted that psychologists can do much more than treating individual clients on a 1:1 basis, namely by helping to change the behaviour and the living and working conditions of large number of people. In his view, psychologists can be made more effective by strengthening their role as gatekeepers in schools, neighbourhoods, and organizations, signalling problems and intervening at an early stage. They can also play a role as architects of behavioural interventions that raise awareness and equip people with self-management and social skills. And finally, they can acts as designers that help changing the legal and material conditions under which people live. Prof. Roe also made a case for teaching psychology at schools. He argued that it is hard to understand why people should learn the basics of physics and biology, but not the basic of human thinking, feeling and acting. Psychological literacy for all might help to avoid and reduce many problems people suffer from. Other speakers looked into psychology in mental health care, education, organizations and public health.

For EAPA, now also member of EFPA, our representatives at this meeting were EC-members Johnny Fontaine and Mark Schittekatte (Ghent University).

More information via

<http://www.efpa.eu/psy-and-europe/psychology-a-contribution-for-eu-policy-making>

