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1. Message From The President by Marilyn Fleer

This is the first newsletter for 2012. Mohammed-Aminu Sanda is the new newsletter editor, and he has assembled a range of material that we believe will be of interest to our ISCAR Society. We thank the previous newsletter editor, Michalis Kontopodis, who prepared many rich and interesting newsletters and the outgoing Executive Committee members who worked hard to advance cultural-historical theory and research through discussions and activities within their regions (Anne Edwards; Inger Eriksson; Fernanda Liberali; Beatrice Ligorio; Yui Moro; Morten Nissen; Kevin O’Connor’ Sylvia Rojas-Drummond; Vitaly Rustov).

ISCAR brings together many people across a whole range of fields who have as their focus, research and theoretical work. As an ISCAR community, we share the same theoretical tradition of thought and even though there is no one approved view or perspective on this, or discipline, we share understandings around what is sometimes called sociocultural theory, Activity Theory, or cultural-historical theory. We also name the work we do as Cultural Historical Activity Theory (CHAT). Our community stretches across the many regions of the world, and it continues to grow. Even when we reside in Departments where we might be the only person working in this tradition, we know that we are part of a larger community. Our Society has many events and structures which support our work – the Congress; Executive Committee; Sections; and the newsletter, plus more.
**Congress**: September 2011 saw the Congress hosted in Rome. This is our major ISCAR event, with plans already underway in Sydney to host the 2014 Congress. Inside this newsletter are details of this up and coming event. For those of you new to ISCAR or those who have not attended an ISCAR Congress previously, this event seeks to support the objects of our association, which is to promote and develop multidisciplinary theoretical and empirical research on societal, cultural and historical dimensions of human practices. It is also a site for the interchange of information related to our research among members. Importantly, the Congress brings together like-minded scholars, and gives a sense of community for our theoretical tradition.
New Executive Committee: As President, I would also like to introduce you to your Executive Committee members (see photo below), who also actively support the objects of the Society through collaborative work on the committee, but also individually through their regional coordination.

Members of the new executive committee: from right to left: Marilyn Fleer, Manuel Louis de La Mata Benitez, Martijn van Schaik, Mohammed-Aminu Sanda, Marília Mendes Ferreira, Malcolm Reed, Mariane Hedegaard, Rebeca Mejía-Arauz and Thérèse Laferrière. At the extreme left is Natalya Ulanova, a member of the ISCAR website team in Russia.

Manuel Louis de La Mata Benitez (Vice-President/Treasurer) and Regional Coordinator for Spain, Portugal, France, Italy, Switzerland, Serbia and Baltic countries, Luxemburg, Greece, Turkey, Cyprus, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Afghanistan, Israel.

Malcolm Reed (Secretary) and Regional Coordinator for United Kingdom and Ireland.

Mohammed-Aminu Sanda (Newsletter editor) and Regional Coordinator for Ghana, South Africa and other African countries.

Thérèse Laferrière Regional Coordinator for USA, Canada.

Marília Mendes Ferreira Regional Coordinator for Brazil.

Rebeca Mejía-Arauz Regional Coordinator for Caribbean, Central America, South America (except Brazil), Mexico, Chile, Colombia, Uruguay, Puerto Rico, Argentina.

Mariane Hedegaard Regional Coordinator for Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Poland, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia.
Arkadiy Margolis Regional Coordinator for Russia, Belorussia, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan.

Martijn van Schaik, Regional Coordinator Germany, The Netherlands, Austria.

Marilyn Fleer (President) and Regional Coordinator for Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Singapore, Vietnam, Taiwan, Thailand.

Many of these members have already coordinated in their respective regions a range of activities or have plans in place for future events, some of which are reported in this newsletter.

Sections: In addition to regional coordinators, ISCAR also has Sections. Sections are made up of groups of people from all over the world who actively create the conditions for scientific communication around a common element of their work. The activities may include symposia, conferences, newsletters, publications, course, mailing lists etc. Anyone can join these Sections. Details can be found on the website on the range of Sections that exist, who to communicate with if you would like to join, and also past activities that specific Sections have hosted. You can also form a new Section. Look on the ISCAR website for details.

Logo: Over the past three years Morten Nissen worked with the previous Executive Committee on the development of a new logo for ISCAR. This work continues and is now being led by Thérèse Laferrière. Inside this issue of the newsletter are ideas about how to get involved in this process. Our goal is for a new logo to be created and launched in Sydney at the 2014 Congress.

Newsletter: The ISCAR newsletter is being edited by Mohammed-Aminu Sanda and I would like to encourage you all to consider sending in items to share with your colleagues – books you have recently published; themed issues of journals that you are promoting – to readers or to potential authors; postgraduate activities that are open to the ISCAR student community; summer schools and other events that will bring together all those who draw upon our theoretical tradition.

Finally, I would like to encourage you to seek out others who may wish to be a part of our ISCAR society. As you know, the membership costs are kept as low as possible so as to encourage as broad a group as possible to join, including postgraduates and colleagues not in employment. Telling others about ISCAR means we share this community more broadly and through this we each gain from the more expansive interchange of research and theoretical works that results.

2. Highlighting ISCAR International Congress for 2014 in Sydney, Australia by Matthew Campbell

The Griffith Institute for Higher Education, Griffith University; the Faculty of Education, University of Wollongong; the School of Education, Australian Catholic University; and, the Education for Practice Institute, Charles Sturt University, with support from Business Events.

Sydney extends to all ISCAR members a warm welcome to attend the ISCAR International Congress to be held in Sydney, Australia, in September, 2014.

The month of September is the most pleasant time to visit Sydney. During September the weather is almost perfect, with an average 21 days of sunshine in the month, and temperatures being around 20º C during the day.

The Congress will be hosted at Darling Harbor, within walking distance of the Sydney CBD, with the President’s Dinner to be held at the iconic Sydney Opera House. Nearby, participants of the Congress, and
their families, can take in the sights of Bondi Beach, Manly or climb the Sydney Harbor Bridge.

Sydney promises to not only be a beautiful place to visit, but to provide the space and forum for engaged exploration of cultural and activity research. With Australia positioned geographically between Asia and the Pacific the Congress will allow for all members of ISCAR to expand their horizons and share in a truly international congress; the first to be held outside the Northern Hemisphere. Travelling to Sydney and Australia is not that difficult with regular flights from all major transport hubs into Sydney Airport. Our airport is located only 8 kms from the city with an easy train or taxi ride to most hotels and the conference venue. If you are feeling adventurous a short flight away is New Zealand with spectacular scenery, or explore inland Australia including Uluru (Ayres Rock) and Kata Tjuta (the Olgas), or travel north to the Great Barrier Reef.

Currently the organizing committee is beginning preparations for the Congress with the congress website to be launched in June this year. On the site will be a call for papers and other important information about the Congress and Sydney. It is anticipated that we may be able to provide some scholarships to academics in developing nations and details of these will be posted on the website when available.

If you wish to receive ongoing email updates about the Congress and preparations please forward your contact details to the Congress Chair, Matthew Campbell (Griffith University) via Email: m.campbell@griffith.edu.au.

3. ISCAR EXCO Approves New Membership Contribution for 2012 and Beyond

The ISCAR Executive Committee has come out with a new guideline for ISCAR membership contribution fee from the year 2012 onwards, according to the new guideline;

- The ISCAR membership contribution is per calendar year.
- There is also the possibility of a three-year membership, which requires a previous membership of ISCAR of at least two years.
- ISCAR members may choose between regular or reduced membership on the basis of their economic/financial situation.
- The regular membership contribution for 2012 is €30 (Euros) for one calendar year and €75 (Euros) for three years.
- The reduced membership contribution is €20 (Euros) for one calendar year and €60 (Euros) for three years.
- A free 1-year membership for members in special situations is also possible. To apply for this free membership, please make your case in writing to the President, who will make the final decision, assisted by the Treasurer.
- The criterion we use for reducing a fee or awarding a free membership is where the applicant has a reduced income (i.e. a student or a retired person) or earns a relatively lower income (i.e. where exchange rates and/or the applicant's income in a particular country make our fees expensive in relative terms).

For further information on how to pay, if you have not yet paid through 2012, please contact the treasurer of ISCAR: treasurer@iscar.org

If you also wish to apply for the free membership, please contact the treasurer of ISCAR: treasurer@iscar.org
4. News from the Regions: Focus on UK-Ireland, Nordic-Baltic-Polish, and Brazil Sections

The UK-Ireland Section

This regional section is made up of members from England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. The coordinator is Malcolm Reed (Bristol), who has recently taken over the responsibility from Anne Edwards (Oxford). We have a thriving membership of academic and doctoral students and we meet annually in the summer, with meetings attracting around forty people. The fourth UK-Ireland regional ISCAR meeting was held in Bailbrook House, Bath, England on 14th and 15th July, 2011, and was jointly organized by Seth Chaiklin and Joe MacDonagh. It followed three very successful meetings in Bristol (2010), Worcester (2009) and Bath (2008). The format involved brief presentations from participants, whose material was based on what they were going to deliver in Rome at the 2011 congress, followed by questions and comments. Rather than a formal conference format there was an emphasis on presenters outlining the key elements of their ideas to stimulate discussion. This year’s meeting will take place in Bath in late June 2012 and is currently being organized. We welcome ISCAR members from other regions who are in the UK at the time of the meeting, and expect to meet at the same venue, Bailbrook House (see above) as we did last year. Our contact email is uk@iscar.org

The Nordic-Baltic-Polish Section

Mariane Hedegaard is a member of the ISCAR executive committee. She is the contact person for the Nordic, Baltic and Polish members. Besides this there are national contact persons (see table next page) so that national meetings can be organized. The national e-mail list can only be used by members from the respective country.

The Nordic mailing list can be used for all members of this Nordic-Baltic-Polish section. If you cannot use the list, it is because you are no longer a member. Then you need to go to ISCAR’s homepage www.ISCAR.org to pay your membership fee.

Section meetings: The 22nd Danish yearly Activity meeting will take place as usual at Røsnæs in November (9th - 11th). If you want more information about the meeting you can write to Lars Bang lj@learning.aau.dk

The 6th Nordic Baltic meeting (Now Nordic-Baltic-Polish) meeting will take place in Sweden, 2013. Contact person is Hans Knutagard: hans.knutagard@hkr.se
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<td>Lars Bang</td>
<td>Institut for Læring og Filosofi, Aalborg Universitet <a href="mailto:lrj@learning.aau.dk">lrj@learning.aau.dk</a></td>
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The Brazil Section

The site for the Brazilian ISCAR section has been recently reformulated. Our representative is Marília Mendes Ferreira of the Department of Modern Languages University of São Paulo Brazil. We would like to invite you to visit us at [http://iscarbrasil.wordpress.com/](http://iscarbrasil.wordpress.com/). Hopefully, there will be an English version soon. We would like to also invite ISCAR members to visit SCIELO, an open source database where peer-reviewed, good quality journals are hosted. Some journals are written in English and Portuguese and others only in Portuguese but with abstracts in English. The link to the database is: [http://www.scielo.org/php/index.php?lang=en](http://www.scielo.org/php/index.php?lang=en)

Some journals that might have articles with a CHAT perspective are

- Psicologia escolar e educacional [Educational and school psychology].
- Cadernos Cedes [Cedes Journal].
- Psicologia em Estudo [Psychology under study] (the last issue 16 is a special issue on Vygotsky: Psychology, education and art.)
• Psicologia: reflexão e crítica [Psychology: reflexion and criticism].
• Psicologia teoria e pesquisa [Psychology: theory and practice].

II Forum ISCAR Brazil: This is a biannual event created by our former representative, Fernanda Liberali, whose goals is to congregate the Brazilian scholars who work on the chat perspective and to provide them the opportunity to share their research results, projects, work in progress, will take place at the University of Juiz de Fora, MG on the 10th and 11th August, 2012. A call for papers will be posted soon. For more information on ISCAR BRASIL, visit: http://iscarbrasil.wordpress.com/

5. News from the CHACDOC Section by Mariane Hedegaard

At the ISCAR meeting in Rome, the second CHACDOC (Cultural-Historical Approaches to Children’s Development and Childhood) preconference was held with the theme: *An analytical approach to children’s perspectives based on Cultural-Historical and activity conceptions*. One hundred people participated. Half of the time of each presentation was dedicated to discussion with a final one hour discussion. As usual a CHACDOC meeting took place independent of the preconference.

Participants at the CHACDOC section meeting during the 2011 ISCAR conference in Rome

*Courtesy: Marianne Hedegaard*
MINUTES from meeting at the Rome ISCAR congress-8th September 2011

Reporter: Paula Cavada

1. Overview of the history of CHACDOC (MH).

2. Outlined the publications that have been generated by CHACDOC (MH).

3. Evaluation was made of the Rome ISCAR Preconference Day.
   - More discussion time after keynotes
   - At the end of the day – make final exposition made by the Panel of Keynote presenters.

4. Next meeting of CHACDOC to be in Seville in 2012. To be organized by Jose Sanchez. At that meeting the Sydney preconference theme will be decided.

5. New positions
   - Mariane Hedegaard as the President of CHACDOC.
   - Marilyn Fleer as Vice President of CHACDOC
   - Paula Cavada as Secretary
   - Pernille Terlonge as Newsletter editor

6. The group expressed a desire to have more information sharing about CHACDOC members between meetings. Paula will send an email inviting people to share information about themselves and their work.

7. Suggested themes for next CHACDOC meeting in Australia:
   - Relations between emotions and cognition
   - Adult-child interaction
   - Learning in cultural-historical tradition in relation to children
   - The relation between learning and imagination

8. The preconference to be held in Australia will be organized by Marilyn Fleer.

If you want to be a member of the CHACDOC section write to Mariane. Hedegaard@psy.ku.dk

Forthcoming CHACDOC Conference in Seville, Spain, 2012

The purpose of the CHACDOC section under ISCAR is to create a forum for researchers who are interested in research about development and childhood, drawing on cultural-historical theory and activity theory. New original work and work in progress will be discussed, so that there is half an hour for presentation and half an hour for discussion followed each day by a general discussion of one hour. The main purpose is to come together to discuss new ideas within the CHACDOC section.

The forthcoming conference is the fifth scientific event of the CHACDOC section. It will be hosted by the University of Pablo de Olavide in Seville, Spain, from 6th to 7th September 2012 under the theme: Transition between institutions (e.g., from home to school and from kindergarten to school): Implications for children’s development.

The conference is planned with five planned and six open presentations and is organized by Sanchez Medina and Mariane Hedegaard. It will start with a shared dinner in the evening of September 5th 2012.

We invite all CHACDOC members to submit proposals that are relevant to the conference theme. Presenters will include:
Professor Anne Edwards, Department of Educational Studies Oxford University, U.K

Professor Marilyn Fleer, Centre for Early Education, Monash University, Australia

Professor Tania Zittoun (yet to be confirmed), Institut de Psychologie, Université de Lausanne, Switzerland

Professor José A. Sánchez Medina & Dr. Virginia Martínez Lozano, University Pablo de Olavide, Seville, Spain

Professor Mariane Hedegaard & PhD Paula Hrepich, Copenhagen University, Denmark

Information concerning conference participation is provided below under conference/journal announcements and special calls.

6. Conference/Journal Announcements and Special Calls

Fifth Scientific Meeting of ISCAR’s CHACDOC Section

Theme: Transition between institutions (e.g., from home to school and from kindergarten to school): Implications for children’s development.

Venue: University of Pablo de Olavide, Seville, Spain,

Date: 6 – 7 September, 2012

Send an abstract to Mariane Hedegaard (Mariane.Hedegaard@psy.ku.dk), if you want to participate with a presentation. There is only possibility for 6 presentations, so please if you would like to come and present, but your abstract is not selected, you can also indicate if you are happy to just be a participant.


The registration fee is 150 EUR. This includes dinner on the day of arrival 5th and a dinner 6th and lunches and coffees in the meetings. The University will take care to organize a special price for Hotels (less than 100 EURO per night) to be announced later. To register, contact Virginia Martínez Lozano: vmarloz@upo.es

11th Annual Research Conference of the Society for the Study of Occupation (SSO): USA

Theme: Occupation and Place: Sustainability, Balance, and Occupation

Venue: Benson Hotel, Portland, OR, USA

Date: 4 – 6 October, 2012

Pre-conference Research Institute (to be announced): October 4, 2012 from 3:00pm – 7:00pm

Deadline for Papers: March 16, 2012

For paper details and specific instructions for abstract submission on online, visit: www.sso-usa.org
Transdisciplinary Symposium on “The Absent Presence of the Body in Social Sciences, Art, Education and Sciences of Health: Methodological Issues and New Perspectives”

Host: University of Crete, Laboratory of Psychological Research, Department of Preschool Education, Faculty of Education

Venue: Rethymnon, Crete, Greece

Date: 23 – 24 June, 2012 (the symposium may last 3 days depending on the number of participants).

The symposium official languages are Greek and English. Please submit a max. 300-400 word abstract for a 20 minute presentation (including title, presenter’s name and affiliation, telephones) before the 30th April 2012 as e-mail attachment to Marios Pourkos: mpourkos@gmail.com

Refereed abstracts will be published in an abstract book available at the symposium. All presentations will take place at the University Campus of Gallos in Rethymnon (http://www.uoc.gr/index_gb.html).

Journal Call for Papers (Special Issue)

The Journal “Outlines. Critical Practice Studies” invites papers for possible publication in a forthcoming Special Issue on “Transformative Social Practice and Socio-Critical Knowledge”.

Guest Editors: Ines Langemeyer (langemeyer@ph-ludwigsburg.de) & Stefanie Schmachtel (Stefanie.schmachtel@gmx.net)

Deadline for Manuscript Submissions: July 15 2012.

For further information and manuscript submission, please visit www.outlines.dk

7. Publications


Thesis and Dissertations:


*Master’s dissertation to be defended:*

SANTOS, C.L. DE O. Ensino da escrita em inglês com foco no desenvolvimento: uma análise das concepções de língua e escrita dos alunos. [Teaching writing with a focus on development: an analysis of the students’ conceptions of language and writing]. Department of Modern Languages, University of São Paulo, Brazil. Date of the defense: 16/03/2012