



# ISCAR NEWS

Vol. 6, No. 2

March 2008

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

1. On ISCAR's Executive Committee

## SECTION NEWS

2. 5. Workshop „Tätigkeitstheorie und kulturhistorische Schule“ in Haus Ohrbeck vom 27. – 29. Juni 2008
3. 18th Activity Theory Conference, Rosnæs, Denmark, 16 – 18 November, 2007
4. First UK and Ireland ISCAR Meeting, University of Bath, 17 – 18 July 2008

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

5. Call for Proposals: 9th International L.S. Vygotsky Memorial Conference, 14 – 17 November 2008, Russian State University for the Humanities, Moscow (*deadline 28 April 2008*)

## PUBLICATIONS

6. Complete Collected Works of Lev Semenovich Vygotsky to be Published

## ISCAR NEWS

7. Georg Rückriem receives ISCAR Service Medal
8. ISCAR Congress News

# From the President

## On ISCAR's Executive Committee

Dear ISCAR Member,

This letter is the third in my series of communications to ISCAR members. The first letter discussed 'what is ISCAR', explaining the diversity of the theoretical and substantive interests found among its members. The second letter discussed ISCAR's financial policy, focusing on its minimal membership fee and the importance of an active membership for organising activities (with ISCAR providing support with its website, mailing-list server, knowledge and experience. In this letter, I explain about ISCAR's Executive Committee. This letter is particularly relevant for all members because a new Executive Committee will be elected in September at the ISCAR Congress in San Diego.

The formal definition of the Executive Committee and its functions are found in ISCAR's Articles 18-32. Some of the formulations are in a (hard-to-comprehend) language required in legal documents. However, even if one looks past that language, it is still difficult to see that ISCAR's Executive Committee has a role not normally found within other scientific organisations. Therefore, this letter will focus on explaining about the Committee's structure and main functions, and conclude with a comment about the future.

### *Committee Structure*

The composition and election of the Executive Committee are defined in ISCAR Articles 20 and 21, with their associated Standing Orders. All ISCAR members are eligible to be in the Executive Committee, which can have from 9-12 members. At present there are 11 members in the Committee. The Committee is al-

ways elected at the ISCAR Congress by the ISCAR members. Before the Congress, the existing Executive Committee creates a set of regions, based on the current membership, aiming to follow the principle in ISCAR's Article 20 to be 'as representative of the members of nations and regions as possible.' At the Congress, members are called to meet in their respective regional groups, for the purpose of electing a member of the Executive Committee. A newly-elected Executive Committee elects a President, a Vice-President, a Treasurer, and a Secretary, as explained in Article 22. A coming newsletter will explain this process in more detail, including information about the regional composition, and I will prepare a letter about that election.

### *Committee Functions*

The Executive Committee is the main 'working' body in the ISCAR organisation. It has two main functions: one administrative; the other organisational.

Perhaps some believe that the Executive Committee is where important political and intellectual decisions are taken. In general, there are not important political issues to decide within the Executive Committee. Perhaps the most important political decision was taken in Moscow in 2006, when it was decided not to use ISCAR funds to support member activities, but rather to encourage and support local and regional initiatives – though this 'decision' was mostly a formalisation of the already existing tradition and practice within the Executive Committee. Most decisions in the Executive Committee have been within the administrative sphere. I will first discuss the administrative functions in

more detail, followed by a discussion of the organisational functions.

### *Administrative Functions*

The Executive Committee is the body within ISCAR responsible for administering the Society's business. When ISCAR was formed in 2002, it overtook the ISCRAT webserver, website, database, and a draft set of Articles, as well as the database for the 2000 SSCS conference, but there were no established administrative procedures. Much of the work over the past 6 years has been to build up the internal organisation of ISCAR (e.g., the Articles and Standing Orders, the website, a newsletter, a logo, a presentation, membership database, a bank account, methods of payment, discounts on book purchases and journal subscriptions, the idea of 'sections', and so forth), and to elaborate procedures to manage these things. To date, no persons have been hired to work for ISCAR. All the Society's administrative work has been achieved voluntarily by the Executive Committee (with the exception of the work of Christoph Clases and Jonna Kangasoja, who each produced one newsletter, and Gilberto Pérez and Jan Derry who helped to proof-read for a couple of years). In the future, it may be desirable for the administration of membership registration and payment to be handled by a person hired for that purpose.

Consistent with the minimalist model of a central organisation (as discussed in my first letter), the main administrative tasks of ISCAR are to: (a) maintain the membership database, (b) collect membership contributions, (c) formulate and administer policies for using its funds, (d) seek member benefits, (e) provide communication resources (e.g., website, member-initiated mailing lists), (f) provide information through the website, newsletter, and occasional email an-

nouncements, (g) answer diverse questions from members and others, and (h) identify the organisers of the international Congress.

The Executive Committee is now in the process of approving a series of written documents that formulate the administrative tasks within ISCAR more explicitly. This process is, in effect, formalising what has existed as informal practices, or finding a consensus about future practices of the committee. Also, in this connection, Vitali Rubtsov and Anne-Nelly Perret-Clermont from the Executive Committee are working with a team of ISCAR members (Inna Korepanova, Arkaday Margolis, Elvis Mazzoni, and Felice Carugati) to further develop the ISCAR website.

Except for the newsletter and website, most of these administrative functions, while essential, are probably not particularly noticeable to the membership. More significant is the other main function of the Executive Committee — the organisational.

### *Organisational Functions*

At the first meeting of the first ISCAR Executive Committee, a round was taken among Committee members to hear their views about the main function of the Committee. It can be seen that from the very beginning, the Executive Committee viewed its function as providing information and coordination. "The committee was seen to be an organ for dissemination of information about regional seminars and workshops, supporting the arrangement of those, involving new persons to the cooperation, developing the identity and profile of the Society as well as disseminating knowledge of it and its activities. Rather than being a scientific decision maker the committee was seen as an organizer and catalyst" (Minutes from Executive

Committee meeting, 22 June 2002, <http://www.iscar.org/minutes2.html>).

The most important work of each member of the Executive Committee is to help organise activities within the region for which this person is elected. The particular activities might include annual meetings, mailing lists, symposia, doctoral courses, cooperation with other regions, webpages, and so forth. All these activities together are too much for one person, but the Executive Committee member should be helping to raise and initiate ideas as well as interact with and support initiatives from members in the region.

### *The Future*

In September 2008, at the ISCAR Congress, the members in attendance must elect a member to the new Executive Committee. This will be an exciting and important moment in ISCAR's further development. Many persons who have been in ISCAR's Executive Committee since its beginning, including the current president, must now leave the Committee. After the Congress in San Diego, ISCAR will necessarily have a new presi-

dent (who will be selected by the newly-elected Executive Committee), and the new Committee will have no member who was present in ISCAR's first Executive Committee. Maybe this transition will yield some momentary crises (though, at present, there are no concrete reasons to expect any). If they do arise, I believe that over time we will come to appreciate these moments as part of the necessary growth of ISCAR as a scientific society.

### *Conclusion*

ISCAR is an association of scientific colleagues. The Executive Committee is not a political body that represents the interests of its members, but an administrative body that manages a few central functions within ISCAR and an organisational body that tries to initiate and support member initiatives. In that respect, if one wants to see more activities within ISCAR, then you must consider who you have elected to the Executive Committee, and the extent to which you have brought ideas and voluntary labour to initiate or support desired activities.

Seth Chaiklin <[seth@iscar.org](mailto:seth@iscar.org)>

## Section News

### **2. 5. Workshop „Tätigkeitstheorie und kulturhistorische Schule“ in Haus Ohrbeck vom 27. – 29. Juni 2008**

The Fifth Workshop on 'Activity Theory and the Cultural-historical School' will be held from Friday, 27. June (um 18 Uhr mit dem Abendessen, Sammeln ab 17 Uhr) through Sunday, 29. June (mit dem Mittagessen um 13 Uhr) in Haus Ohrbeck (near Osnabrück).

The previous workshop (held in 2007), had many talks focused on a cri-

tique of the notion of 'competence' — competence in testing and education. At that meeting, it was also decided that future meetings should include:

- some kind of historical part (e.g., The zone of proximal development - What Vygotskij really said)
- a topic of general interest, such as the practical and theoretical relevance of a concept like ZPD.

- address questions of how the categories of cultural-historical psychology are applied, evaluated and developed further.

- other permanent areas of interest: How is CHAT passed on to prospective users? What is new and newly published about the classics?

In the 2008 meeting, Peter Keiler will present his project *Understanding (A.N.) Leont'ev*, which aims to reconstruct the evolution of activity theory in the period of

1932-1937. There are also plans to have a session on the zone of proximal development.

To participate in this meeting, send an email to: Falk Seeger (Tel: 0521 106 5042): [falk.seeger@uni-bielefeld.de](mailto:falk.seeger@uni-bielefeld.de) with your name, address, and telephone number (auch eventuell Titel des Beitrags, Abstract bis spätestens 30. Mai 2008).

### **3. 18th Activity Theory Conference, Rosnæs, Denmark, 16 – 18 November, 2007**

The 18th conference on activity theory was held from 16–18 November in Rosnæs, Denmark, with about 45 participants — a mixture of university-based researchers, doctoral students, and persons working in public institutions, and coming from several different professions and disciplines including psychology, occupational therapy, computer systems, nursing, sociology, criminology, and pedagogy.

The theme of the conference was *Action- and practice-research: Differences and change*. As noted before in this newsletter, the name of the conference has been retained from its historical origin, but today, the participants come from a variety of different theoretical traditions that could be described primarily as cultural-historical, activity-theoretical, and critical psychology.

On the first evening, the participants were placed in groups to discuss what they liked about this meeting. Many experience the meeting as comparable to an annual family get-together; and an important opportunity to have good dialogues with others with shared theoretical perspectives.

The main theme of the meeting was addressed by a series of researchers who are engaged in forms of research in and on practice. Each researcher presented their work, followed by reactions from a discussant and then a general discussion. There were many good theoretical discussions and debates about the methodological problems involved in research on practice, with a particularly active debate about the concept of 'co-researcher' (i.e., the relation of the persons who are the object of research to the researcher).

### **4. First UK and Ireland ISCAR Meeting, University of Bath, 17 – 18 July, 2008**

The First UK and Ireland ISCAR meeting will be held at the University of Bath, 17–18 July 2008. The primary purpose of this meeting is to provide an opportunity for researchers in the United Kingdom and Ireland who are actively working with theoretical perspectives

found within ISCAR to engage in extended dialogue and discussion about research efforts and conceptual questions within these perspectives. Full information about the meeting is at: <http://www.iscar.org/uk/>

# Announcements

## 5. Call for Proposals: 9th International L.S. Vygotsky Memorial Conference, 14 – 17 November 2008, Russian State University for the Humanities, Moscow (deadline 28 April 2008)

*Methodology and Methods in Psychological Research (Cultural-Historical Aspect)* (9th International Memorial Vygotsky Conference) will take place on 14 – 17 November, 2008 at the Russian State University for the Humanities, Moscow. At the conference, methodological problems of modern society and theoretical and experimental approaches in classical and non-classical psychology will be discussed. Special attention will be given to the experimental-genetic method developed by Lev Vygotsky, its specific features and the way it is used as a tool in psychological research.

### *Keynote Speakers*

V.P. Zinchenko, S. Chaiklin, G.A. Tzuckerman, P. Hakkarainen, A.N. Poddyakov, V.F. Spiridonov, A.G. Asmolov

The main themes of the conference are:

- Classical philosophy in non-classical psychology
- Experimental-genetic psychology as a modern way of realisation of Lev Vygotsky's cultural- historical approach
- 'Classical' and 'non-classical' models of psychological research (basis, technology and results)
- Experimental-genetic method as the basis for multidisciplinary integration in the sphere of humanities
- Comparative analysis of different methods in psychology (research and practical methods)

Working languages are Russian and English.

*Deadline for paper submissions: 28 April 2008;*

Notification of proposal acceptance: 28 August 2008

A proposal can be submitted as:

- an abstract of the paper corresponding to one of the conference themes (1000 - 1200 words);
- an abstract of the poster paper presentation corresponding to one of the conference themes (maximum 2500 words);
- a symposium programme that corresponds to one of the conference themes;
- participation in a round-table discussion or workshop.

All paper proposals must include: (a) title of the paper (symposium); (b) author's name and academic degree; (c) author's place of work; (d) mailing address and e-mail; and (e) reference to one of the conference themes.

Send proposals by e-mail, regular mail or fax to the **Conference Secretariat**: Vygotsky Institute of Psychology, Russian State University for the Humanities, Miuskaya Square 6, Moscow 125267, Russia

Tel./Fax: +7 499 973 44 33

Email: [vygotsky1@ru.ru](mailto:vygotsky1@ru.ru)

Registration Fees:

- €200 for overseas participants
- 1000 roubles for those from CIS
- 500 roubles for Russian participants

To receive more information about the Conference, please write to the Conference Secretariat.

The conference is organised by the Russian State University for the Humanities, the L.S. Vygotsky Institute of Psychology, the International L.S.Vygotsky Society and the L.S. Vygotsky Fund.

# Publications

## 6. Complete Collected Works of Lev Semenovich Vygotsky to be Published

The Lev Vygotsky Fund is preparing to publish the complete collected works of Lev Semenovich Vygotsky. The collected works will include new materials from the L.S. Vygotsky family archives and from other private and state archives. Also, they will contain the original versions of all previously published materials written by L.S. Vygotsky. The collected works will be annotated by leading Vygotsky scholars.

While in the early 1980s a Moscow publishing company, Pedagogics, published the collected works of Vygotsky in six volumes, the volumes were incomplete. Some of the published papers had essential gaps, and many important papers and other materials were not included.

The new complete collected works will include not only Vygotsky's most famous books and articles, but also will make widely available for the first time his early articles, manuscripts, scientific diaries, notes, and letters. The collected works will be grouped chronologically to allow readers to re-create a fuller picture of L.S. Vygotsky's scientific creativity and to track the evolution of his theoretical ideas. Also, they will include informal and documentary photographs directly related to Vygotsky and his life.

In addition, they will contain other materials that document the conditions and the social and political context within which Vygotsky lived and worked.

The complete collected works of Vygotsky (in Russian) will be issued in 15 volumes, with the first volumes to be published in 2008. Each volume will cost from 500 to 700 rubles (\$20 to \$32 USD). They will be available through subscription.

Persons, libraries, and others interested in subscribing to purchase this series should provide the following information to the L.S. Vygotsky Fund:

your name or name of your organization (if the subscription is not for personal use)

your e-mail and postal address,

the number of complete sets of the collected works for which you would like to subscribe.

Send this information to the Fund by email: [vygotsky@list.ru](mailto:vygotsky@list.ru), telephone at +7 495 250 61 47, fax at +7 495 973 44 33, or through the website at: <http://www.levvygotsky.ru>. Queries can also be sent through these channels.

---

### THE COMPLETE COLLECTED WORKS OF L.S. VYGOTSKY

*Honorary Chairwoman of the Editorial Board:*  
Gita Lvovna Vygodskaya

*Editor-in-Chief:* Professor Elena E. Kravtsova, Director of the Vygotsky Institute, Russian State University for the Humanities

Planned Volumes of the Complete Collected Works of L.S. Vygotsky

#### **Volume 1. Dramaturgy (Dramatic Art) and Theater**

- Theatrical reviews and notes (never republished)
- *The Tragedy of Hamlet* with notes (1916) and parallel texts from draft copies written in 1915

- The thesis of Hamlet from notebooks (unpublished) and others

### Volume 2. The Literature and Art

- Book reviews of philological works
- *The Tragicomedy of Searches*. Earliest of L.S.Vygotsky's known works (1912), devoted to the *Book of Ecclesiastes* (unpublished)
- Book and other reviews (never republished)
- *The Psychology of Art*
- K.N. Kornilov's letters on *The Psychology of Art* (unpublished)

### Volume 3. Psychology, Pedagogy and 'Defectology' (1922-1926)

#### Part 1: Early Research

- Pedagogical-related works, the Gomel research, early works in 'defectology'
- Several articles and reports from the family archive (published for the first time)

#### Part 2: Pedagogy

- *Pedagogical Psychology* (author's original unedited version)

### Volume 4. General Psychology and Methodology of Psychology (1923-1927)

- Methodological works, book forewords, other articles written during Vygotsky first period of creativity (1924-1927)
- *Meaning of Psychological Crisis* (original unedited version)
- Several unpublished theoretical articles, plus other published articles that have not been reprinted

### Volume 5. Cultural Development of the Child (1927-1930)

First theses of cultural-historical theory containing the hypothesis of sign mediation, and research related to 'age psychology' and 'defectology.' (Much of this research will be published for the first time or republished for the first time since they were originally published)

### Volume 6. Psychological Development in Onto- and Phylogenesis (1929-1930)

#### Part 1. Theory and Methodology

- Notes and programmatic plans for L.S. Vygotsky's second period of creativity (1928-1930)

#### Part 2. Psychological Development in Onto- and Phylogenesis Ethnopsychology

- *Essays on the History of Behaviour* (with A.R. Luria) (These essays are related to Luria's travel to Central Asia)

### Volume 7. Psychological Dictionary by B.E. Warsawa and L.S. Vygotsky

- Articles for encyclopedias, dictionaries, forewords, and reviews (1929-1930)

(This volume includes several texts published for the first time since their original publication)

### Volume 8. Development of the Higher Psychological Functions (1930-1931).

The central works of the Vygotsky's second period of creativity (1928-1931), including *Tool and Sign in the Development of the Child* and *History of the Development of the Higher Psychological Functions*

### Volume 9. 'Pedology' of the Adolescent (1929-1931)

- *'Pedology' of the Adolescent* (first time published since original publication).
- Fragments from *The 'Pedology' of Young Adults* (never republished)
- *The 'Pedology' of School Age* (never republished)
- Several works related to transitional age (never republished)

### Volume 10. Lectures on Age (Developmental) Psychology (1932-1934)

Transcripts of lectures on 'age psychology,' delivered by L.S.Vygotsky in Leningrad and Moscow. (Most of these texts are published for the first time)



### **Volume 11. Problems of Learning and Development (1931-1934)**

- Transcripts of lectures on pedagogical psychology and 'pedology'
- The manuscript entitled "Bases for 'Pedology'" (1934) (previously inaccessible to most researchers)

### **Volume 12. The Problem of Affect (1931-1933)**

- *The Doctrine of Emotions in View of Modern Psychoneurology* (1931-1933) (first publication of the complete version)
- Vygotsky marginal notes on Spinoza's *Ethics*

### **Volume 13. The Problem of Consciousness, Thinking and Speech (1932-1934)**

The central works of L.S.Vygotsky's last period of creativity (1931-1934) during which the principle of a semantic and systemic structure of consciousness was realized. The works include:

- *Lectures on Psychology*
- *Thinking and Speech*
- *The Problem of Consciousness*
- Materials from internal conferences on the problem of the consciousness held with close colleagues, including A.R. Luria, A.N. Leont'ev, and others (previously unpublished)
- Plans for an unwritten book about the problem of consciousness (previously unpublished)

### **Volume 14. The Problem of Development and Disintegration of Psychological Functions (1931-1934)**

- Works in the field of patho- and neuropsychology from Vygotsky's last period of creativity, including:
- Clinical notebooks (including the notebook from the Don's Clinic, 1933-34) containing conversations with patients and clinical cases
- Materials from internal conferences with colleagues on problems of neuropsychology (previously unpublished)

### **Volume 15. Notebooks, Scientific Diaries, and Letters**

Archival materials published for the first time. These materials provide new insight into the creation of Vygotsky's key works, including *Thinking and Speech* and *The Doctrine About Emotions*. The materials include:

- Records and notes of L.S.Vygotsky's from the 1920s and 1930s
- Materials from internal conferences with colleagues
- Notes and other previously unpublished materials, including plans for books, outlines, written thoughts, and other such materials.

### **Planned additional volumes:**

In addition to these collected works, the Lev Vygotsky Fund plans to publish the following:

- G.L.Vygotskaya and T.M.Lifanova *Lev Semenovich Vygotsky* (Reprint)
- Memoirs and articles by pupils of L.S.Vygotsky, including A.R. Luria, B.V. Zeigarnik, D.B. El'konin, N.G. Morozova, A.V. Zaporozhets, and others
- Publications by the opponents of L.S. Vygotsky

## 7. Georg Rückriem receives ISCAR Service Medal

The Executive Committee has initiated the ISCAR Service Medal to acknowledge significant contribution to promoting or sustaining the research community engaged in multidisciplinary theoretical and empirical research on societal, cultural and historical dimensions of human practices (which is ISCAR's purpose). The first recipient of this Medal is Georg Rückriem. Some of Professor Rückriem's major contributions include: initiator and organiser of the first ISCRAT Congress in Berlin in 1986; initiator and organiser of the first Executive Committee of ISCRAT (see photo below from around 1988); initiated, co-edited,

and produced eight double issues of the *Multidisciplinary Newsletter for Activity Theory* from 1988 to 1994; initiated the website 'International Cultural-Historical Human Sciences' (and developed further with Joachim Lompscher and now Hartmut Giest); and recently completed editing translations of A.N. Leontiev's works into German. Along with the Medal, ISCAR will pay the cost of a plane ticket to the Second ISCAR Congress, together with the congress fee and the housing cost as a small acknowledgement of his voluntary contributions over the years.



**Meeting of ISCRAT Executive Committee (approx. 1987)**

Participants (clockwise from lower left): Ulla Henning, Serena Veggetti, David Middleton, Lazlo Garai, Klaus Helkama, Leena Norros, Berthel Sutter, Georg Rückriem, Charles Tolman, Martin Hildebrand-Nilshon, Antti Kauppi

## 8. ISCAR Congress News

The deadline has passed to submit abstracts to the Second ISCAR Congress. At last count, the organisers have received 116 symposium proposals, 377 paper proposals, and 78 poster proposals.

The organising committee expects to send acceptance and rejection notices by 30 March 2008.

Information about the program at:  
<http://www.iscar2008.com/Program.html>

All information about registration and accommodation for the Second ISCAR Congress (9-13 September 2008) is available at the Congress website:  
<http://iscar2008.com/>

### Other news

- Individuals interested in organizing a webcast center to receive some of the presentations at the Congress should contact Olga Vasquez:  
[ovasquez@weber.ucsd.edu](mailto:ovasquez@weber.ucsd.edu)

- Congress brochures and poster at:  
[http://iscar2008.com/Contact\\_Us.html](http://iscar2008.com/Contact_Us.html)

- To register for the Congress, get a copy of the PDF document at:

[http://www.iscar2008.com/Registration\\_files/Reg\\_Form-Revised\\_1\\_14\\_08.pdf](http://www.iscar2008.com/Registration_files/Reg_Form-Revised_1_14_08.pdf)

### Early Registration

Remember that Thursday **15 May 2008** is the deadline for early registration for attendance at the Second ISCAR Congress.

Rates for ISCAR members before 15 May 2008: \$350 USD / \$175 USD (students). After 15 May, the rates increase by \$50 USD.

Remember that your ISCAR membership must be paid through 2008 in order to receive the member's rate.



You are welcome to submit news items to: [news@iscar.org](mailto:news@iscar.org)  
Send short abstracts of recently completed ph.d theses to: [news@iscar.org](mailto:news@iscar.org)  
Copies of previous newsletters are available from: [news@iscar.org](mailto:news@iscar.org)  
Send email and postal address changes to: [new-address@iscar.org](mailto:new-address@iscar.org)

Design and Layout: Seth Chaiklin  
Editor: Seth Chaiklin

*ISCAR is an association, whose purpose is the promotion and development of multidisciplinary theoretical and empirical research on societal, cultural and historical dimensions of human practices.*

<http://www.iscar.org>  
[info@iscar.org](mailto:info@iscar.org)