



ISCAR NEWS

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The International Society for Cultural & Activity Research 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.

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1. Report on the Second ISCAR Congress

The second Congress of the International Society for Cultural and Activity Research (ISCAR) was held in San Diego, USA, 8 – 13 September 2008. More than a thousand registered participants from more than 40 different countries attended the Congress. The general consensus was that the Congress was an enjoyable event, and that the intellectual quality of the sessions was high. The organizers created a variety of ‘ecologies of participation’ including webcasts, fireside chats, film sessions, second life presentations—exploring highly innovative ways to give different forms of access to the content of the Congress. There were many opportunities for social interaction, often with a glass of wine and something good to eat (reception, concert etc.). Many participants commented on the friendly community-like feeling at the Congress. Many sessions had lively, open debate, which speaks well for the future growth of the theoretical traditions found with in ISCAR, and the diversity of participation shows that ISCAR is truly an international and multidisciplinary organiza-

tion.

One can find the program, book of abstracts, and relevant information here:

<http://www.iscar2008.com/Program.html>

It is also possible to create an account and access drafts of the papers presented by using the software Moodle. For more information about this see:

<http://www.iscar2008.com/Sakai.htm>

11 pages with photos of the conference are presented at:

<http://www.uweb.ucsb.edu/~lmaaia/iscar2008/index.html>

One can also see all the photos made into a video at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mEfQf-VzlgY>



The Conference President Olga A. Vásquez at the Reception Desk

2. New ISCAR Executive Committee

In connection with the ISCAR Congress, a new Executive Committee was selected. Following ISCAR's Articles, the countries from which ISCAR members come are divided into regions, and ISCAR members from each region meet to identify the person from their region who should sit on the Executive Committee.

The new Executive Committee, which will

serve a term of 3 years, is listed below. From among their members, the new Committee elected *Marilyn Fleer* as President, *Inger Eriksson* as Vice-President, *Michalis Kontopodis* as Secretary, and *Maria Beatrice Ligorio* as Treasurer. We are very happy about the high level of participation of women and young scientists in the Executive Committee.

We would like to thank the members of the previous Executive Committee for their contributions to ISCAR over the past years, and acknowledge those who have now left the committee, Antonia Candela, Harry Daniels,

Fran Hagstrom, Anne-Nelly Perret-Clermont, Alberto Rosa, Ana Smolka, Naoki Ueno, Irina Verenikina and especially the former president Seth Chaiklin!

Executive Committee, 2008-2011

Sylvia Rojas-Drummond

(Argentina, Mexico, Puerto Rico)

Michalis Kontopodis

(Germany, Netherlands)

Anne Edwards

(Ghana, India, Ireland, South Africa, UK)

Manuel Luis de la Mata Benítez

(Portugal, Spain)

Inger Eriksson

(Finland, Latvia, Poland, Sweden)

Yuji Moro

(Japan, Korea)

Marilyn Fleer

(Australia, China, New Zealand, Singapore)

Morten Nissen

(Denmark, Luxembourg, Norway)

Fernanda Coelho Liberali

(Brazil)

Kevin O'Connor

(Canada, USA)

Maria Beatrice Ligorio

(Cyprus, France, Greece, Iran, Italy, Serbia, Switzerland)

Vitaly V. Rubtsov

(Russia, Ukraine)

Full address information is available at: <http://www.iscar.org/execcom.html>

3. Next ISCAR Congress in Rome, 2011

The next ISCAR Congress will take place in Rome, Italy in 2011. The president of the

Organizing Committee will be Prof. Anna Maria Ajello, from the University of Rome.

4. Call for News Items & Next ISCAR Newsletter

The new Executive Committee decided that a Newsletter will be published twice a year. The Newsletter may include short information in different languages on various topics and coming events. Longer information will be published on ISCAR's webpage. The deadline for submitting information for the next Newsletter is the **December 30, 2008**. Please submit reports on the ISCAR section

meetings, short abstracts of dissertations, event announcements (workshops, conferences, exhibits etc.), information on recent and forthcoming book and journal publications, calls for papers and special issue proposals as well as information on grants and job positions **in all languages** to: michalis.kontopodis@staff.hu-berlin.de and to: mluis@us.es.

5. Events

The recently founded Section of ISCAR in **Luxembourg** organizes a **Conference** called "learning08" on "Methodologies and Practices for Approaching Learning as a

Social Phenomenon Inside and Outside of School" in **December 10-12, 2008**. For more Information please visit: <http://www.dica-lab.org>

6. Job Vacancies & Ph.D. Positions

⇒ The **University of Luxemburg** invites applications for the following vacancy in its Faculty of Language and Literature, Humanities, Arts and Education: **Assistant-Professor in Educational Sciences (m/f)** with an emphasis on learning and development from a social and cultural perspective (Full-time (40h/week), Ref: FLSHASE/F3-090013)

Application deadline: December 19, 2008
The candidate will join the Unit for Sociocultural Research on Learning and Development (<http://www.lcmi.lu>) which is concerned

with the analysis of situated processes of learning and development in multilingual and multicultural contexts. S/he will be part of the innovative study programs in the field of Educational Sciences of the FLSHASE and be involved in the conception of study modules, on the level of undergraduate (Bachelor in Educational Sciences - BScE), graduate (MA multi-learn) and post-graduate programs.

For further information please contact:

Prof. Dr. Charles Max

Phone: (+352) 46 66 44 9413

Mail: charles.max@uni.lu

⇒ The Institute of psychology and education of the University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland, invites applications for **TWO PhD POSITIONS (100%) FOR 3 YEARS** within the framework of the doctoral School "Argumentation Practices in Context" (Argupolis), funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation. The candidates are expected to begin their work as soon as possible, preferably in January 2009 (deadline for submission: November 30, 2008). The doctoral school is organized by the University of

Lugano (*Institute of linguistics and semiotics*), in collaboration with the University of Neuchâtel (*Institute of psychology and education*), the University of Lausanne (*Institute of psychology*) and the University of Amsterdam (*Department of Speech Communication, Argumentation Theory and Rhetoric*). In this framework, the PhD students will become part in an important international research community. Their study program will include a series of courses covering the theoretical foundation of argumentation, the study of argumentation in context, methodo-

logical advances on argumentative text analysis and on logical, as well as rhetorical and linguistic tools for argumentation. Additional information can be found at www.unine.ch/ipe

For more information please contact:
Prof. Anne-Nelly Perret-Clermont
email: anne-nelly.perret-clermont@unine.ch

7. Lev Vygotsky Educational Documentary

This documentary was created as a classroom and student self directed teaching tool, and is divided into chapters of varying lengths, which can be accessed from the main menu. It covers three main areas of interest- Lev Vygotsky's Life, his Theory, and Practice Stories from around the world told by the practitioner. For more information: www.vygotskydocumentary.com



ISCAR NEWS is published regularly twice per year as well as on special occasions.

EDITOR: Michalis Kontopodis, Secretary of ISCAR

The deadline for submissions for the next issue is December 30, 2008. Submissions in all languages are welcome. News items, conference reports, announcements, calls for papers, short abstracts of recently completed Ph.D. theses etc. should be submitted to:

michalis.kontopodis@staff.hu-berlin.de and to Manuel Luis de la Mata Benítez: mluis@us.es

Copies of previous newsletters are available from: news@iscar.org