



# CANADIAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

## Section on Environmental Psychology

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*Section members conduct research and advance theory to understand and to improve interactions between human behavior and the physical environment, both built and natural. Our members' varied interests include: management of scarce natural resources; effects of extreme environments on personality and behaviour; territoriality and personal space; behavioural and mood effects of lighting and noise; perception and evaluation of building function and aesthetics; and, architectural design. Members receive the section newsletter, published three times annually.*

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**Fall Issue, 2000**

**Cheuk F. Ng, Ph.D.**

Hope you all had an enjoyable, relaxing summer!

### **Report on CPA Convention in Ottawa**

#### Laboratory Tour: Psychology in a Multidisciplinary Environment.

In the afternoon of June 28 (Wed.), a few of us gathered at the Indoor Environment Laboratory of the National Research Council.

Our capable tour guide, Jennifer Veitch, began the tour by giving us an overview of the National Research Council and its divisions. Next, she outlined the goals of the Indoor Environment Research Program, i.e., to study the physical environmental conditions inside buildings in order to develop guidelines, building techniques, and technologies for the cost-effective design and operation of buildings that meet the needs of people.

The program is multidisciplinary, with engineers, architects, psychologists, acousticians, and building physicists, encompassing expertise in environmental psychology, lighting, acoustics, ventilation, indoor air quality, thermal comfort, and energy efficiency.

(They are looking for a second researcher. Their ad is at the end of this newsletter, if you are interested.)

We then visited a newly constructed two-workstation laboratory where various lighting variables are manipulated to study their effects on task performance.

Finally, we visited an older, custom-designed simulated office with six workstations, where lighting, acoustics, and temperature could be varied to study worker satisfaction and task performance.

Thanks, Jennifer.

#### Social and Business Meeting

In the evening, the same few of us moved from Jennifer Veitch's workplace to her beautifully designed home (Her husband is an architect, it's no wonder!) for our Section business meeting and social gathering.

Unfortunately, there were not enough members to reach a quorum for the business meeting. It became a social evening with good food, wine, and conversation.

Environmental Psychology Section Invited Address:  
Personal Projects and Social Ecology: Themes and  
Variations over Two Decades

On June 29 (Thurs.), more than 20 people gathered to listen to our section invited address by Dr. Brian Little of Department of Psychology at Carleton University. His most recent chapters are in the Handbook of Personality and in the just published Progress in Person-Environment Psychology.

In his address, he discussed the implications of his research for enhancing well-being both in terms of a person's life course and the social ecologies. His talk was based on two decades of research from Carleton's Social Ecology Laboratory. Earlier in the day, he gave another talk that focused on personality.

In September, he will be at Harvard University as a Fellow of the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study. We wish him well.

### Section Chairs Meeting

- Once again, small section chairs share the concern of not having enough members to run the sections. Someone suggested that small sections could be collapsed into "clusters".
- The Chair for Section Chairs suggested that a longer Section Chairs meeting be held at next year's convention to discuss sections' issues and concerns.
- The "Students section" Chair wished to find a student representative from each section.
- The Developmental Psychology section suggested that a section chair be on the Board on a rotating basis, so that sections have a voice at the Board level.
- Attendance at CPA continues to be an issue. The Developmental Psychology Section reported that they organized a successful conference in the west where members felt they got more out of it. One Section Chair pointed

out the irony that organizing section conferences was contrary to CPA's goal of bringing members back to CPA.

- Convention sites for the next few years are as follows:  
2001 June 1<sup>st</sup> week – Laval University, Ste-Foy, Quebec  
2002 June 1<sup>st</sup> week – U. of British Columbia, Vancouver  
2003 June 2<sup>nd</sup> week – Hamilton  
2004 June 2<sup>nd</sup> week – St. Johns, Newfoundland

### 2000-01 Section Officers

The mail-out ballots are in. Eight ballots were cast by the deadline of Sept. 8. All candidates were elected unanimously. There were no write-in candidates. So the slate of officers for 2000-01 is:

Chair: Cheuk F. Ng  
Secretary/Treasurer: Mark Sandilands  
Webmaster: David Eichhorn

*Please, please consider nominating someone of yourself for next year's positions. For our section to continue, we need volunteers to run the section. New member, older members!*

### Submission for 2001 CPA Convention

Next year's CPA annual convention will be held at Laval University in Ste-Foy, Quebec, June 21-23, 2001. The convention will be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Canadian Society for Brain, Behaviour, and Cognitive Science (BACS) (June 23-25).

The deadline for submission of abstracts for posters, oral paper sessions of 3-5 related papers, symposia, theory review sessions, workshops, or conversation sessions is *October 27, 2000*.

Any nominations for a Section Keynote Address will have to be submitted to CPA by *October 27*,

2000 as well. Each section is allowed one fee waiver for their Section Keynote Speaker.

If you plan on submitting an abstract for a poster, please let me know. If you wish to present a paper but are not sure if there are other similar submissions, please let me know. I might be able to put together a symposium. If you have any suggestions for a Section Keynote Speaker, please let me know at [cheukn@athabascau.ca](mailto:cheukn@athabascau.ca). The deadlines are fast-approaching, so move quickly.

### **Our New Section Website**

Our Section homepage has been wonderfully re-designed by David Eichhorn. Please take a look at it at <http://www.psych.ubc.ca/enviropsych>.

### **Interests of Members**

Welcome to our newest member, Dr. John Connors of Canadian University College. His interest is in extreme environments. His e-mail address is [jconnors@cauc.ab.ca](mailto:jconnors@cauc.ab.ca).

A not-so-new member is Dr. Donald Mazer of Dept. of Psychology at U. of Prince Edward Island. He teaches a course entitled Ecopsychology at UPEI that focuses on examining the importance of the relationships between human and nature.

### **Recent Conferences Held**

*The First Asian Pacific Seminar on Environment-Behavior Research* took place at Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan, July 20 – August 1, 2000.

Lectures were delivered by Amos Rapoport of U. of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Sanjoy Mazumer of U. of California, Irvine, Seymour Wapner of Clark U., Takashi Takahashi of Nigata U., Japan, Madhab Mathema of Habitat, Fukuoka Office, and Le Wei of Dailian Institute of Technology, China.

Topical workshops and discussion groups included the following:

Creating basic concepts and issues of environment-behavior research and person-environment system design in the Asian Pacific context; theory and practice of qualitative and field research in environment-behavior studies; rebuilding person-environment system following natural disaster; integrating human development and environment design; and new frontier of environment-behavior research.

### **Memories of APA**

By *Jennifer Veitch*

As always, APA was an exciting and exhausting few days! No two people can have the same experience of APA, the smorgasbord of events is just too diverse. I focused my time on the sessions organised by Division 34, Population and Environmental Psychology, but even at that I couldn't take them all in. As usual, there was also a smattering of environmental psych across other divisions, too.

The poster session for Division 34 was on the Friday morning, and included mostly environmental posters covering the range of topics you might expect, from tornado preparedness through urban university settings, through person-environment fit theory. I didn't get to see much of this, however, as I had to stand by my own poster. I discovered that a key to getting a broader walk-by traffic is to use another major subject heading (in this case, industrial-organizational) for the program index - most of the people at my poster weren't environmental psych types at all (until now, I hope!).

International attendees provided some of the best content. One colleague from India, Nachiketa Tripathi, made his first visit to North America to present a poster on his work on the fit between desired and actual privacy and its consequences for satisfaction and other outcomes. I was surprised

to learn that his findings in India mirror findings from Western cultures. A group of German researchers presented a symposium on "Cognitive Representation and Evaluation of Environmental Risks", which addressed in various ways the sorts of biases that influence such judgements. Policy-makers should know more about such research than it often seems to me that they do!

A high point of the Division 34 program is always the architectural tour put on by Joseph Juhasz, an environmental psychologist in the College of Architecture & Planning at the University of Colorado, Boulder (and current President-Elect of Division 34). This is an institution; he arrives early in the host city, maps out his walk, takes many photos (of which he is justly vain), and then delivers both a virtual (with slides) and a physical tour. This year the tour was a walking tour of the district around the Mayflower Hotel, in which Joe developed a thesis that architecture during the Cold War was mostly about ordered, heavy structure; whereas post-Cold-War architecture is about penetrating that structure with other elements. His is a highly educated eye, and his ideas fascinated some of us who stuck with him for the 90-minute walk at 90+ degrees Fahrenheit.

I had arranged with Jim Wise, an environmental psychologist in Washington state, to have a tour of an installation of Healthy Workplaces at the National Institutes of Health. It was a comedy of errors - at the last minute, I couldn't attend and neither could our NIH contact - but in the end it was a very interesting meeting. The Healthy Workplaces are part of an attempt by the NIH design people to awaken the NIH to the importance of the physical environment on people, so they have taken the route of a demonstration project (or in this case, 7 of them in one building that badly needs renovation). Two areas are complete at this point, but they have no funding to evaluate the effects of the 'best practice' installations; it's a classic case of turf protection. The people we met with have no research expertise and yet a good

research idea, but haven't managed to convince the other arm of their own institution to put their considerable research resources to test it in even a modest way.

There were many other wonderful things at APA: Bob Sommer delivered his Presidential Address on "Making a Difference" using action research to achieve important goals and to advance science at once. Deborah duNann Winter and others reported on "Greening APA", and some successes in making the parent organisation act in more environmentally-friendly ways both at the convention and in its regular operations (we could perhaps take a leaf from that book at CPA!). I can't even begin to talk about the events I didn't see, but you can see a listing of them in the Spring issue of the *Population and Environmental Psychology Bulletin*, which is archived at <http://web.uvic.ca/~apadiv34/>.

### **Recent Publications**

(1) There are several articles on environmental sustainability in the recent, May issue, Vol 55(5), of *American Psychologist*:

- A sustainable future for humanity? How can psychology help? By Stuart Oskamp
- Adapting human lifestyles for the 21<sup>st</sup> century by George S. Howard
- Some big ideas for some big problems by Deborah Du Nann Winter
- Psychology and the science of human-environment interactions by Paul C. Stern
- Fostering sustainable behavior through community-based social marketing by Doug McKenzie-Mohr

(2) A special issue of the *Academy Journal* (August 2000, Vol. 43, No. 4) has just come out on "The management of organizations in the natural environment". Check it out.

## Call for Contribution

I am preparing a chapter that is specifically focused on particular studies or efforts by environmental psychologists that have made a tangible, particular, demonstrable "difference" in the real world. This difference could be in an improved building, park, city, natural setting, or the whole globe. It could also be some effect on law or policy that in turn has had a salutary effect on the built or natural environment.

The study or effort could have occurred long ago or recently. It could be your own work, or that of someone else. The typical contribution will be a piece of consulting or action research, but it could be theoretical work, if there is a clear and unambiguous link between the theory and some improvement to the real world. If in doubt, send it and I'll see how it might fit in. Multiple suggestions are welcome. Feel free to distribute this request to anyone who may not be on this list but might have a contribution to offer.

Published accounts are preferable, but I will consider personal (unpublished) accounts. For sending contributions, my preference (in order!) is:

- (a) a faxed copy (fax number below)--please ensure that my name is on the first or cover page
- (b) an email attachment of the article sent to me (not the whole list) at [rgifford@uvic.ca](mailto:rgifford@uvic.ca)
- (c) a PDF (Adobe) version of the article.
- (d) a mailed paper copy--(address below)-- or
- (e) a reference citation by email to [rgifford@uvic.ca](mailto:rgifford@uvic.ca)

If you reply by email, please use the subject header "Making a Difference."

All contributors, whether their contributions are their own work or not, will be credited in the chapter--unless they ask not to be credited.

Many thanks,

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## Future Conferences

1. **The World Congress on Environmental Design for the New Millennium** welcomes all paradigms, academic disciplines, professionals and people related to environmental design. It will be held November 8-21, 2000 in Seoul, Korea. The World Conference is divided into Universal Design (Nov. 9-13), Green Design (Nov. 13-17), and Cultural Design (Nov. 17-21). For more information, visit <http://www.millenniumED.org>.

2. **The 32th Annual Conference of The Environmental Design Research Association (EDRA)** will take place in the historical Edinburgh in Scotland, July 3-6, 2001. EDRA will join forces with International Association for People-Environment Studies (IAPS) to co-host specific elements of the conference. The conference theme is Old World – New Ideas. Keynote and plenary sessions will focus on the theme by examining how we can develop new ideas from Old World solutions between user needs and the built environment.

## Websites

1. Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) Environmental Psychology Section  
<http://home.uleth.ca/~sandilands/sec7/default1.html>  
switching gradually this Winter to <http://www.psych.ubc.ca/enviropsych>
2. American Psychological Association (APA) Division 34 – Population and Environmental Psychology  
<http://www.uvic.ca/~apadiv34/>
3. Environmental Design Research Association (EDRA)  
<http://www.telepath.com/edra/home.html>
4. International Association of Applied Psychology (IAAP) Division 4 -- Environmental Psychology  
<http://www.psy.gu.se/iaap/envpsych.htm>

5. International Association for People-Environmental Studies (IAPS)  
<http://www.bwk.tue.nl/iaps/>
6. National Research Council of Canada, Institution for Research in Construction, Indoor Quality Division  
<http://www.nrc.ca/irc/ie>
7. Environment Canada  
<http://www.ec.gc.ca>
8. Envirolink  
<http://www.envirolink.org/>
9. Journal of Environmental Psychology  
<http://www.academicpress.com/jep>
10. Environment and Behavior (journal)  
<http://www.sagepub.co.uk/journals/usdetails/j0163.html>

### **Employment Opportunity**

(1) Environmental Psych/ Human Factors Job Opportunity, National Research Council of Canada

The National Research Council of Canada (NRC) is a dynamic, nationwide R & D organization committed to helping Canada realize its potential as an innovative and competitive nation. Combining our strengths – outstanding people, core science expertise and information, research programs focused on key technologies and technology diffusion – with those of industrial and academic partners, we foster Canada's emerging national system of innovation.

Institute for Research in Construction, Ottawa, Ontario  
Position for Research Officer in Environmental Psychology – Human Factors  
Reference: 44-00-18

### **Your Challenge**

The successful incumbent will, individually or as part of a team, develop, initiate, participate in and manage strategic and client-supported research activities in areas related to human behavioural and health consequences of the physical indoor environment (including but not limited to acoustics, thermal comfort, lighting, and ventilation/indoor air quality), and transfer the research findings to industry and stakeholders.

### **Your Credentials**

A Ph.D. in Psychology with specialization in Environmental, Social, Engineering, Industrial/Organizational, or Health Psychology, or in Human Factors/Ergonomics, OR, Ph.D. in Architecture or Building Science with specialization in environment-behavior research. Experience in behavioural science research concerning the effects of the built environment on performance, health, mood, and comfort is essential; scholarly publication in this area is highly desirable. Experience with a variety of research designs and statistical techniques for both laboratory and field research is essential. English is essential. An Enhanced Reliability check will be required. Superior benefits package. Relocation costs may be negotiable.

A full job description available on request.

To explore this opportunity, send your resume before *30 November 2000*, indicating reference number 44-00-18 to: Sylvie Brault, Human Resources Systems Coordinator, National Research Council Canada, M-20, Room E-103, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0R6, by fax at (613) 954-5984, or e-mail at [sylvie.brault@nrc.ca](mailto:sylvie.brault@nrc.ca). Please visit our web-site at <http://www.nrc.ca/orc/>.

We are committed to Employment Equity and encourage members of the Aboriginal, disabled, visible minority groups and women in non-traditional occupations to self identify on their resume or covering letter.

NRC is an equal opportunity employer. We thank all those who apply. However, only those selected for further consideration will be contacted.

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On the WWW:  
Lighting Research: <http://www.nrc.ca/irc/ie/light>  
Cost-Effective Open-Plan Environments:  
<http://www.nrc.ca/irc/ie/cope>

(2) Assistant Professor (Tenure-Track), Aging and the Built Environment, Simon Fraser University  
(extracted from Canadian Association of University Teachers Bulletin, September 2000 issue)

Gerontology Program, Simon Fraser University invites applications for two tenure track positions at the junior Assistant Professor rank for September, 2001. One position's specialization is in aging and the environment.

Qualifications required are Ph.D., demonstrated teaching ability, and a developing publishing record. The successful candidates will teach for both the Post-Baccalaureate Diploma in Gerontology and the Master of Arts in Gerontology.

Closing date is November 15, 2000. These positions are subject to final budgetary authorization. Candidates should send curriculum vitae, transcripts, names of three referees, and reasons for applying for the position to Dr. Andrew

Wister, Graduate Committee Chair, Gerontology Program, Simon Fraser University at Harbour Centre, 515 West Hastings St., Vancouver, B.C. V6B 5K3; fax (604) 291-5066; e-mail [gero@sfu.ca](mailto:gero@sfu.ca). Further information is available on <http://www.harbour.sfu.ca/gero>.

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Please send any information about conferences, publications, teaching and research ideas, brief reports on conferences attended, etc. to me at:

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