



CANADIAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Section on Environmental Psychology

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.

Summer/Fall Issue, 2001 Cheuk F. Ng, PhD

My condolences to those of you who have lost their loved ones in the horrific event in U.S. last Tuesday. It's very sad to realize that the life of each and every one of us has been and will be affected by this event.

2001 CPA Convention Report

The 2001 CPA Annual Convention was held at Laval University in Ste-Foy, Quebec on June 21-23, 2001.

Our section symposium, Human Behavior in Fires: Between Panic and Apathy, by Dr. Guylene Proulx of the National Research Council of Canada was attended by a small, selective crowd. I heard that the presentation was excellent, despite the noise interference from a non-CPA event in an adjoining room. (*What can an environmental psychologist do in such instances?*) Her talk had caught the eye of the media; a newspaper reporter was in the audience.

Four interested colleagues were in attendance at our Section business meeting. One attendee was from Europe and one from Quebec. Those present noted the need for a new Chair and a newsletter editor. No nominations for these positions had been made. All in attendance were enthusiastic about next year's convention.

Executives for 2001-2002

As there were too few members at the business meeting to achieve the quorum required by our By-law, election for this year's officers proceeded by ballot. Ballots were sent out to section members and BEING members in mid-August. Robert Gifford had kindly agreed to be the returning officer. Twelve ballots were returned. The votes for all candidates were unanimous except for one write-in for Richard Kaley for Chair, and there was a write-in vote for newsletter editor for Jennifer Veitch.

So, this year's executives are:
Chair and interim newsletter editor: Cheuk F. Ng
Secretary-Treasurer: Mark Sandilands
Webmaster: David Eichhorn

2002 CPA Convention

The 63rd Annual Convention will be held May 29 – June 1, 2002 at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, B.C. The convention will be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Canadian Society for Brain, Behaviour, and Cognitive Science (BBCS).

Please consider submitting a poster or a paper. Note that the deadline, **October 14**, is fast approaching. **To assist reviewers in their task, the Call of Submission this year asks for a summary (up to 1000 words) in addition to the usual 200-word abstract. The new requirement for a summary applies to individual presentations: posters, oral papers in a paper session, individual symposium presentations, workshops, and theory reviews.**

A few of us are thinking of organizing a section symposium on Aging and the Environment. We plan to invite Dr. Gloria Gutman, Director of Gerontology Centre at Simon Fraser University to be a CPA invited speaker. A message was sent to those members on e-mail to ask for ideas and support.

I am glad that, so far, the Adult Development and Aging Section has indicated strong support for our proposed nomination for invited speaker. The Chair also thinks the symposium is a great idea, and is asking his section members for support.

If you have any suggestions for presenters, or if you have a paper to present, please let me know soon.

Welcome, New Members

I wish to extend our warmest welcome to new members who joined our section in 2001. They are:

Bosecke, Anthony – Richmond, BC
Charles, Kate – Ottawa, ON
Devlin, Julie – Fredericton, NB
Girash, Martin – Windsor, ON
Jansen, Birgitta – Whitby, ON
Kaley, Richard – Ottawa, ON
Ledingham, Jane – Ottawa, ON
Lee, Kang – Ottawa, ON
Nash, Chris – Sudbury, ON
Pelletier, Luc – Ottawa, ON
Pappas, James – Regina, SK
Heath, Yuki – Victoria, BC
O'Connor, Diane – Toronto, ON

We need your involvement in the running of this section. Please volunteer your services, become the newsletter editor (for example), send in materials for the newsletter, propose new ideas.

Kudos – Jennifer Veitch

Congratulations to Jennifer for being recognized in the most recent issue of *Psynopsis* for her research in the Indoor Environment Program at the National Research Council of Canada. Jennifer has succeeded in introducing behavioral science research to the world of engineers and designers – a task that all of us know was not an easy one. By combining the expertise of engineers and psychologists, researchers gain useful knowledge about how lighting affects people. Such knowledge can then be used to develop better design criteria that benefit us all. I think such recognition of her work and dedication by her colleagues is long overdue.

Environmental Psychology in the UK

Report on EDRA Conference

I attended the 32nd Environmental Research Design Association (EDRA) Conference held in Edinburgh, Scotland, on July 3-6. It was the first time I attended the EDRA Conference, and it turned out to be a very stimulating experience for me. There were sessions on noise, virtual reality, workplace, housing, classroom, children's outdoor environment, methods of tracking movements, etc. It was great to meet in person several colleagues whose work I have read over the years.

Because the theme of the conference was "Old and New" and that there had been very little on the shopping/retail environment discussed in environmental psychology, I proposed to present a preliminary literature review of shopping environments that span from the old village market to the cyber-mall. My paper turned out to be the only presentation on shopping at the conference. It was grouped with presentations about public buildings, which was not quite appropriate.

The sightseeing was great! It was quite noticeable how new buildings were designed to blend in with older buildings. The old, winding alleys paved with cobblestones in Old Town were certainly not designed for automobiles. Edinburgh's solution to traffic jam is to have bus lanes and bicycle lanes, and to make a bus day-pass a good value for its riders (2.2 pounds for unlimited rides).

The weather was quite cool (in the teens) most of the time, except the first two days when I did not have my baggage with me. My bags arrived two days late – after my presentation, of course! I should have learned by now to always have my presentation materials and a set of clothing with me whenever I go anywhere.

During the EDRA Conference, the Environmental Psychology in the UK (EPUK), a network of researchers, practitioners, and individuals interested in environment-behaviour relationships held their business meeting. Like us, they are a small group. The network was formed in December of 1999. The group is trying to establish a section within the British Psychological Society, but apparently BPS's criteria are more stringent than CPA's. So this group has decided to continue to "meet" as an interest group, and to continue working toward meeting the BPS criteria.

For further information about this group and their activities, visit their website at:

<http://www.lgu.ac.uk/psychology/ungar/epuk/>

Calls for Paper and Upcoming Conferences

1. First International Workshop on Architectural and Urban Ambient Environment will be held on **February 6-8, 2002** in Nantes, France. Visit their website at <http://www.cerma.archi.fr/workshop02/>.
2. The 33rd Conference of the Environmental Design Research Association (EDRA 33) will be held in Philadelphia, May 22-26, 2002. The deadline for submissions is **October 1, 2001**. For more information, visit their website at <http://www.telepath.com/edra/>.
3. The 17th Conference of the International Association for People-Environment Studies (IAPS) will be held in A Coruna, Spain, **July 22-27, 2002**. The central theme is Culture, Quality of Life and Globalization: Problems and Challenges for the New Millennium. The deadline for submission of abstracts and symposia is **November 2, 2001**. For more information, please visit their website at <http://www.udc.es/dep/ps>.

4. The 25th International Congress of Applied Psychology (ICAP), jointly hosted and organized by the Singapore Psychological Society and the National University of Singapore and held under the auspices of the International Association of Applied Psychology (IAAP) will take place in Singapore, **July 7-12, 2002**. IAAP has a division in environmental psychology (Division 4). More information about the conference is available at <http://www.icap2002.org>.

Funding Opportunities

The Institute of Gender and Health (IGH), an institute within the Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR) will soon be making calls for applications for strategic initiatives. Under an initiative called “New Perspectives on Gender and Health”, IGH will fund: (1) up to 12 non-renewable **Opportunity Grants** of \$30,000 (maximum) each to nine priority research themes identified during extensive consultations across the country. One of the priority areas is *gender and environmental determinants of health*; (2) up to two **Retraining Awards** (\$50,000 each); (3) up to ten **Seed Grants** (\$10,000 each) in any of the priority areas mentioned above. Their website is at <http://www.cihr.ca/www.irsc.ca>.

New Publications

1. The third edition of Gifford’s *Environmental Psychology: Principles and Practice* should be out by the end of September, 2001. It has a new publisher. More information is available at: <http://www.optimalenvironments.com/optimalbooks.htm>.
2. The most recent issue (Vol. 27, No. 2, Spring, 2001) of *Population and Environmental Psychology Bulletin*, a newsletter published by APA Division 34, has a number of essays on Conservation Psychology. Visit their website at: <http://web.uvic.ca/~apadiv34>.

3. *Designing for Humans* (2001), written by Jan Noyes of University of Bristol, UK and published by Psychology Press. The author provides an overview of human-machine interaction and the design of environment.
4. *Mind and maze: Spatial cognition and environmental behavior* (2001), written by Ann Sloan Devlin and published by Praeger Publishers. The author “takes the reader on a journey from the crib to the city, examining each life phase the development of how we know where we are in space and our appreciation of spatial relationships...” (extracted from the publisher’s promotional materials)
5. *Ecological psychology in context: James Gibson, Roger Barker, and the legacy of William James’s radical empiricism* (2001), written by Harry Heft, is the latest book in the Resources for Ecological Psychology Series published by Lawrence Erlbaum Associates. In this book, “Harry Heft examines the historical and theoretical foundations of James J. Gibson’s ecological psychology in 20th century thought, and in turn, integrates ecological psychology and analyses of sociocultural processes...” (extracted from the publisher’s promotional materials)

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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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