

Newsletter of History of Applied Psychology

IAAP Division 18

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Division!!

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President's Corner

Editorial Welcome



First of all, I would like to thank you for your interest on **History of Applied Psychology** as new division of IAAP. As an old IAAP member, always dedicated to historical research, and as the promoter of the new division, and its first president, let me invite all of you interested in our common past, to become members and to consolidate the new group. The history of Psychology is a field of psychological expertise that has been growing during the last decades. It has been a matter of producing technical reports in congresses and journals, qualitative and quantitative data collection procedures, archival technique to keep safe documents that may well serve to maintain the identity of a tradition, a school or a national development. At present there are divisions or societies, as well as journals and congresses

devoted to the study and analysis of these topics. An association like IAAP with 90 years of history in the background may well provide an important framework for such types of contributions. It should be noted that an archive for documents of its past is currently being organized in Würzburg University (Germany), and the proceedings of our early congresses have been recovered in a modern reprint edition a few years ago. In the last IAAP / IUPsyS congresses, some symposia have taken place dealing successfully with historical topics. Historical approaches could reinforce the institutional identity of our society, and be a line of interest to many colleagues members of those countries in which psychology has had a recent development, and could want to present synthetic views of the state of the art of psychology in their countries. In order to accept and approve a new division, our Society requires at least the support of fifty IAAP members for the proposal.

We hope you will find of interest our project I, and would give accordingly your support to it. In such a case, please contact by email with some of the members that are signing this letter, indicating your name, present position and address,
Looking forward to the news from you,

Very cordially,

Professor Helio Carpintero, Ph.D.

Creation of a new division for the “History of Applied Psychology”

At the recent IAAP International Congress of Melbourne (July 2010), the Executive Committee of the association has approved the creation of a new division dedicated to the study of the History of Applied Psychology which has become the Eighteenth Division of the International Association of Applied Psychology (IAAP). The History of Psychology has gradually become a field of expertise in psychology over the last decades. Five decades ago, a well known US pioneer in this field, Robert I. Watson, considered it as a neglected area, worthy to be cultivated as the ‘new’ psychology was then approaching its first centennial. Since then, many steps were given in the positive direction; important collections of reprinted classical works, and of the proceedings of early international congresses, the creation of a first rate institution dedicated to the specialty, as it is the Archives of the History of Psychology at Akron, (USA), and the appearance of journals and associations fully oriented to the research in historical topics, are quite a few indicators of the new sensibility of the psychologists toward their own past.

IAAP, our association, was established in 1920, in Paris, as an instrument that could provide for unity and strength to the growing body of applied psychologists, that began to work on the various fields in which individual and social demands of a psychological nature began to rise. School children difficulties, clinical demands for diagnosis and therapy, forensic problems, selection and orientation for working people, and an endless chain of questions and hopes were raised around the new science, that simply could not turn the back on them.

Since then, the lines and topics through which applied psychology has evolved are countless. Theories and models multiplied in all its fields. When approaching its first centennial applied psychology needs to strengthen its feeling of unity and identity. A more clear image of itself should emerge from the past. Historians could help in that point.

While the schools and ‘founders’ in the field of general and experimental psychology are now clarified and well known, those pertaining to the world of practical intervention are not in an equivalent position. It has been quoted many times Kurt Lewin as saying that nothing is more practical than a good theory. But, at the other way round, it is also true that in many cases a good practice has brought as a result a new theoretical view. The story of Binet’s mental test may serve us as a stimulus and a model.

History of psychology is too much important to be leaved to historians. People working in the various field of present day psychological expertise may say something of interest in connection with his own specialty. But it also needs of the collaboration of other people, fully dedicated to historical and archival research, in order to combine the structural and the general with the more idiosyncratic and peculiar.

The proof of the cake is the eating; the proof of the new division will be in its members, in how many and how active they decide to become. If we are all convinced that the knowledge of our past and of our masters and ingenious professionals is worth to be studied and clarified, we will promote the consolidation of the division, through our affiliation to it. We should keep in mind the fact that, in ten years from now, we will be celebrating the centennial feast. In the two coming congresses - Paris 2014, and Yokohama 2018 – some efforts should to be made in order to pave the way for that celebration. Special emphasis should be put on working a large variety of topics that would help to create a more precise idea of our science and our achievements. The knowledge of our roots would give us new strength to face the future.

Historical approaches could serve to reinforce the institutional identity of our Association, as well as that of specific lines of thought and intervention. The Division would promote these studies,

and would help to its members and other researchers to develop research and new knowledge, largely based on cooperative work and common interests of all its members.

Article

The early days of the IAAP: The First Conference. Geneva 1920

The first International Conference on Psychotechnology (French 'psychotechnique', as it was called) is a provisional starting point that may help to approach the field of applied psychology in its initial stages. This First Congress for Psychotechnology was held in Geneva, September 27-28th, 1920, sponsored by both the Institute for Educational sciences 'Jean Jacques Rousseau' and by the Laboratory for Experimental Psychology of Geneva University. It was Edouard Claparède, then professor at the Geneva University, and Pierre Bovet, psychologist and educator, head of the Rousseau Institute in Geneva, who seem to have first had the idea of holding an international meeting for the applications of psychology, in 1920. The opportunity came as a newly created Swiss Association for Vocational Guidance and Apprentice Welfare decided to run a course in its speciality in Geneva, 24-25 September 1920 (Gundlach, 1998b, I, 18).

About 60 people attended the meeting. They came from Belgium, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Greece, Switzerland, Spain, Bulgaria; three countries were absent: the United Kingdom, Germany and the United States (Gundlach, 1998b, I, 32: he discusses the possibility of the presence of a US member, *Id.* 36). Among the participants, we find the names of Arthur G. Christiaens, Ovide Decroly and V. Brabant, from Belgium; Jean M. Lahy and Jules Fontègne (France); Gerard van Wayemburg (Netherlands), E. Claparède and Pierre Bovet (Switzerland); Emilio Mira and José Ruiz Castellá (Spain); and Giulio C. Ferrari (Italy). This congress became a landmark in the history of psychotechnology. Here the creation of an International Association for Psychotechnology took place. This was strongly supported by the French 'Ligue d'Hygiène Mentale de Paris', an association founded by Dr. Toulouse, and of which Dr. J.M. Lahy was an important member. The President was Henri Piéron, and JM. Lahy the secretary general, and the society was established in Paris (from where it moved to Bern at the beginning of World War II). They also decided to meet the following year in Barcelona, where an exemplary center for applied psychology was being run by Emilio Mira.

The meeting served to discuss some aspects related to ability assessment and training, as well as to the usefulness of instruments for studying and recording individual performance. Claparède was convinced that a very important point for vocational guidance was 'that of the possibility of modifying original aptitudes by practice'; he wondered: 'Can a certain individual, whose initial output is superior, be surpassed, after a time of practice, by others, whose initial output was inferior?' (Claparède, 1930, 96). Are innate abilities always superior to the learned ones, or the other way round under convenient training? Some measures -such as the percentile ranks method- were proposed by Claparède. This appears as a symbol of all the effort of standardization and unification that seem to have been inspired by that meeting.

Reference

Claparède, E. (1930): Edouard Claparède, in Murchison, C. (ed.), *A History of Psychology in Autobiography*. Worcester, Clark Univ. Press, 63-97.

Gundlach, H. (ed.) (1998b): *Applied Psychology. The first-Thirteenth Congress Proceedings of the International Association of Applied Psychology*. Vols. 1-13. Routledge, London and N. York.

News briefing (Congress, Seminars, ... & more)

Symposium of the History of Psychology in Malaga (Spanish), May 12 - 14, 2011.

The XXIV Symposium of the History of Psychology Spanish Society will take place in the city of Málaga (Spain), between the 12th and the 14th of May,

2011. We expect this Symposium to be a meeting point for historians of Psychology and other related or close fields (Philosophy, Medicine, Nursing, Sports and

Physical Activity Sciences, Law, Modern and Contemporary History, Art History, Theology, etc.), whose contributions enlighten the understanding of

evolution and historical development of Psychology. The place chosen for the celebration will be the Assembly Hall of UNICAJA, at 10-12 Andalucía

Avenue, Málaga 29007 (Spain).

For more information, visit <http://www.sehp.org/symposiums.htm>

The XII th European Congress of Psychology, Istanbul (Turkey, July 4-8, 2011.

The XII th European Congress of Psychology, which will be held in Istanbul, Turkey from July 4-8, 2011 is an excellent opportunity to meet European psychologists and learn about advances in theory and research as well as educational and professional developments in Europe. The Congress is at the same a global meeting place, where students, scholars and professionals from all countries in the world share knowledge and experiences. Co-sponsored by the world's psychology organisations IAAP (International Association of Applied Psychology) and IUPsyS (International Union of Psychological Science) the Congress welcomes all and tries to create an optimal ambience for global exchange and collaboration. For more information, visit <http://www.ecp2011.org/>

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14th Biennial Conference of the International Society for Theoretical Psychology, June 27 - July 1, 2011, Tesalónica (Greece):

For more information, visit <http://www.istp2011.net/>

European Society for the History of the Human Sciences, July 5-8, 2011, Belgrado (Serbia):

For more information, visit <http://psychology.dur.ac.uk/eshhs/>

Names & Places: Edouard Claparède (1873 - 1941)



Edouard Claparède, (Champel, Geneva, Switzerland, 1873- Geneve, 1941), member of a distinguished Geneva family, was trained as a physician like many of his relatives, first at the University of Geneva and then at Leipzig, and for a time he worked on neurology with Dejerine at the Salpêtrière in Paris. He then oriented himself towards psychology, and was deeply influenced in his early period by Théodore Flournoy, a friend of William James and the man that initiated scientific psychology in his country. Under the influence of his master, a man versed in psychopathology and parapsychology, he turned to the study of psychological phenomena, and knew at first-hand the work of Alfred Binet in Paris (Claparède, 1939). In 1904 he became head of the psychological laboratory at the Geneva University, 'ausserordentlicher' professor in 1908, and full professor in 1915.

Edouard Claparède was president of the IAAP from 1920 to 1941.

Inspired by the ideals of his fellow countryman Jean Jacques Rousseau, who provided the basis of modern active education, Claparède founded in his native country an institute, the “Jean Jacques Rousseau Institute for education” (1912), that would integrate the enlightened insights of that philosopher of Geneva with the more recent ideas of the new scientific psychology, in order to establish a solid system of education. He then became one of the leaders of the new pedagogy in Europe, and his Institute soon became a worldwide known center situated in the very research front of its own field (Trombetta, 1989). His interest in child psychology soon drove him upon many other questions related to vocational guidance, personnel selection, testing and classification, and other basic problems in applied psychology. He tried to combine two humanistic ideals in one common project : a better education for people, and a better people for societies to live in peace and progress. Convinced as the true Geneva-born person he was, that international cooperation was the adequate way to build a solid scientific body of knowledge, he promoted the foundation of a society – the Société Internationale de Psychologie Appliquée (1920), that would become the present day International Association of Applied Psychology, IAAP- , and the gathering place for its early meetings. He was also a prolific author with many articles and books, that exerted a wide influence among educators and professionals. Above all, he was one of the main leaders in the field of applied psychology in the decades in which this field experienced a great development. But, as has been mentioned, he also explored the grounds of this applied activity. We will now turn to these questions.

The history of scientific psychology in Spain and Portugal, and more in general, the development of applied psychology in European countries, are essentially associated with the figure of the great Swiss psychologist, Edouard Claparède. Many young psychologists and teachers from those countries paid a visit to the well-known Institute for Education ‘Jean Jacques Rousseau’ , that Claparède and other colleagues built in Geneva, as a pioneer center for an active education well founded upon scientific psychology and pedagogy. People like the Spaniards M. Rodrigo, J. Peinado, J. Jaen, J. Mallart, and Portuguese such as A. Faria de Vasconcelos, visited the center and acquired there a deep understanding of the ideals and methods that were backing the new model of school all over Europe. Since his early days as a psychologist, Claparède was interested in international cooperation, giving special support to new developments taking place in Latin countries of southern Europe, where the new science was viewed as a means for enhancing new methods in education. His were the first efforts to gather around a table colleagues from all over Europe, after the break produced by the 1st World War. He tried to overcome the growing hostility among scientists and intellectuals that was one of the after-effects of the great social crisis.

He was also one of the souls that promoted not only peace but deep understanding and friendliness and cooperation among psychologists in the early decades of the 20th century. But, at the same time, he was also a theorist, sensible to the need for a solid basis in the various dimensions and fields of applied psychology, persuaded as he was of the essential connections binding life and theory, explanation and applications. In what follows an attempt is made to present a cursory view of Claparède’s basic concepts on applied psychology, in order to gain a deeper understanding of his projects and efforts in that field.

links of Interest

International Association of Applied Psychology

<http://www.iaapsy.org/>

APA History and Archives

<http://www.apa.org/about/archives/index.aspx>

The National Archives. Records of the UK government from Domesday to the present

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

Psychology Museum at the School of Psychology at The University of Sydney

<http://www.psych.usyd.edu.au/museum>

The British Society for the History of Science

www.bsbs.org.uk

Registration: Become member of the New Division 18 - IAAP Membership Subscription 2011

Joining International Association for Applied Psychology. It pays to be a member of IAAP!



Make the new Division of History of Applied Psychology (Division 18) as one of your 4 IAAP Divisions choice!

As a member, you will be invited to select up to four Divisions to belong to within the IAAP. Your selection will help to track key areas of interest within applied psychology. We encourage you to choose the Division of History of Applied Psychology as one of your four selections in order to collaborate and to enrich this Division with your contribution.

IAAP Membership is excellent value for money and you receive many direct benefits including:

- A free print subscription to either Applied Psychology: An International Review (AP:IR), or Applied Psychology: Health and Well-Being (AP:HWB);
- Free online access to both IAAP Journals;
- The IAAP Bulletin and Division Newsletters;
- The ability to participate in IAAP international conferences at reduced rates;
- And 20% off many books and personal subscriptions to journals published by Wiley-Blackwell.

IAAP Membership Subscription 2011

International Association of Applied Psychology Membership Subscription	UK	Rest of World
4 Year Membership: Print + Online	<u>£144</u>	<u>\$216</u>
4 Year Subsidised Membership: Print + Online	-	<u>\$75</u>
Standard Membership: Print + Online	<u>£40</u>	<u>\$60</u>
Student Membership: Print + Online	<u>£7</u>	<u>\$10</u>
Reduced Membership: Print + Online	<u>£26</u>	<u>\$40</u>
Subsidised Membership: Print + Online	<u>£13</u>	<u>\$20</u>
SIOP Members: Print + Online	<u>£33</u>	<u>\$50</u>
EAWOP Members: Print + Online	<u>£33</u>	<u>\$50</u>

For more information or to become a member, simply follow the instructions at IAAP official

Website <http://www.iaapsy.org/>

Invitation to collaborate to this Newsletter

If you wish to collaborate to this Newsletter you can send us your comment or topic reaching our co-editor, Professor Richard Mababu, Ph.D

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