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## **The International Society for Comparative Psychology: The First 15 Years**

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On June 15, 1983 a small group of comparative psychologists from countries around the world met in Toronto, Canada to establish a new Society. The International Society for Comparative Psychology (ISCP) was formally recognized by the Assembly of the International Union of Psychological Sciences at their meeting in Acapulco, Mexico in September 1984. This article describes the founding and organization of the ISCP, and traces the development of the Society over its first 15 years. It also examines the reception of the Society by the comparative psychology community at large and some of the problems it has faced in the past and may face in the future.

Recently, my term as Historian of the International Society for Comparative Psychology (ISCP) came to an end. When I took the position several years ago, it was suggested by the first president of the Society that in due course I should record the history of the Society. Fifteen years seemed to provide enough perspective to outline the origins and development of the ISCP, and I presented such an account to the Society's 1998 biennial meeting in Cape Town, SA. Here is that brief institutional history, slightly updated. I hope that it will give the members a sense of how the Society began, how it is structured, and how it has been received. Perhaps an understanding of the roots and the aims of the ISCP will also encourage members who have not been active in the past to become more involved in the Society.

### **In the Beginning**

In November 1980, a number of comparative psychologists received a letter inviting them to become founding members of an "International Union of Comparative Psychology." The letter indicated that the idea to form an association was the result of informal discussions at the International Congress of Psychology (ICP) in Leipzig in July 1980, and later that summer at the American Psychological Association meeting in Montreal. The letter was signed by Ethel Tobach, as the representative of a committee comprising an international group of psychologists from Canada

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(Dalbir Bindra), Colombia (Ruben Ardila), the German Democratic Republic (Hans-Dieter Schmidt), and the United States (Jack Demarest, Laurel Furumoto, Gary Greenberg, Ethel Tobach and Everett Wyers). All of these psychologists had participated in one or more of the earlier discussions.

Tobach, a comparative psychologist at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City, spearheaded the movement, and the objectives of the International Society for Comparative Psychology, as it soon would be called, epitomized her approach to comparative psychology. As the letter indicated, their major concern was that “the study of the evolution of behavior *as a psychological discipline* [had] been eclipsed by recent developments in evolutionary biology” (Committee to comparative psychologists, November, 1980). (This letter and other materials used in this article are in the files of the ISCP at the Archives for the History of American Psychology, Akron, Ohio.)

This, in part, was a reaction to the emergence of sociobiology as a popular and viable field, and the fear that it would, as E. O. Wilson (1975) predicted, result in the demise of comparative psychology (E. Tobach to N. Innis, August 20, 1998). The letter went on to state, “[w]e aim toward an openness of theoretical orientation in comparative psychology and so the ‘psychology’ of comparative psychology may be defined variously. The ‘comparative,’ however, is firmly based on evolutionary principles” (Committee to comparative psychologists, November, 1980). This has continued to be the aim of the Society.

### **Organizational Meeting**

By the summer of 1982, plans had been made for the first meeting of the new society. It was held on June 14-15, 1983 in Toronto, Canada at the Glendon College campus of York University, in conjunction with the meeting of Cheiron: The International Society for the History of the Behavioral and Social Sciences. There was an historical reason for choosing Canada as the site for the inaugural meeting. The very first such society, an Association for the Study of Comparative Psychology, was started in Montreal in 1885 by McGill University professor, T. Wesley Mills (Cadwallader, 1984; Murray, 1990; Tobach, 1987). Unfortunately, it was not possible to hold the meeting in Montreal. Representatives from several countries attended the Toronto meeting. The first paper session, on Tuesday morning, June 14, 1983, comprised a discussion of the current status of comparative psychology with speakers from Canada (Charles Tolman), Italy (Graziano Fiorito), Japan (Kiyoko Murofushi), and the United States (Everett Wyers). In the afternoon there was a general paper session and in the evening Dr. Lorraine S. Boykin, with the Foreign Missions, Friends of Africa, addressed the Society. Some of the papers from this meeting, as well as papers presented at the Cheiron meeting, were published in *Historical Perspectives*

and the International Status of Comparative Psychology, a book edited by Tobach (1987).

On June 15, 1983, an organizational business meeting was held and members present agreed to “serve as an interim steering committee.” Those present were from Canada (Victor Emerson, Bennett G. Galef, Thom Hermann, Nancy K. Innis, Charles Tolman), Italy (Graziano Fiorito), Japan (Kiyoko Murofushi) and the United States (Thomas Cadwallader, Jack Demerest, Joe Erwin, Gary Greenberg, Ethel Tobach, Everett Wyers). Ethel Tobach was named Secretary Pro Tem and Everett Wyers, Treasurer Pro Tem of the Society.

### **Affiliation with the International Union of Psychological Sciences**

In order to achieve international status, the main practical objective of the group was to obtain affiliation of the ISCP with the International Union of Psychological Sciences (IUPsyS). It was hoped that this could be accomplished at the meeting of the ICP in Acapulco, Mexico the following year. As the result of the organizational skills of secretary pro tem Ethel Tobach, publication of several issues of a Newsletter by Gary Greenberg, and substantial participation in symposia and paper sessions at the 1984 meeting of the Society, the ISCP proved itself and was unanimously granted affiliate status by the IUPsyS Assembly at their meeting in Acapulco, in September 1984.

### **Constitution and By-Laws**

At a business meeting of the ISCP in Acapulco on September 3, 1984, attended by 26 people, the constitution and by-laws (prepared by Tobach and published in the August, 1984 Newsletter) were discussed, amended, and ratified. Modifications to the Constitution and By-Laws over the years have generally involved relatively minor changes, e.g. in the membership of the Operations Committee, terms of office, membership dues, voting procedures and issues related to the publications of the Society. The ISCP Constitution and By-Laws are available on the ISCP Web site at: <http://rana.uqam.ca/iscp/>

### ***Operations Committee***

An Operations Committee, elected by and responsible to the membership, makes decisions for the Society. This committee meets at the biennial meetings of the Society and also consults by mail and now typically by electronic mail. Election of officers and committee members in the past has usually occurred at the biennial meetings; however, the By-Laws have been amended at least twice with respect to voting procedures.

The first election of officers took place at the General Meeting in Acapulco on September 3, 1984. Those elected were: President - Ethel Tobach (USA), President-Elect - Ruben Ardila (Colombia), two-year terms; Secretary - Mauricio Papini (Argentina) and Treasurer - Charles Tolman (Canada), four-year terms; and four Members-at-Large - Graziano Fiorito (Italy) and Jerry Hirsch (USA), four-year terms, and Jerry Hogan (Canada) and Pierre Roubertoux (France) two-year terms. Gary Greenberg was unanimously elected editor of the Newsletter.

The Operations Committee has expanded since that first meeting and it now includes: president-elect, president, past-president, president emerita, secretary, treasurer, Newsletter editor, journal editor, historian, local organiser for the biennial meeting, and, most recently, six members-at-large. The constitution states that “every effort will be made to guarantee that the ... members of the Operations Committee are nationals of different nations.” Overall, this aim has been achieved; however, a large proportion of the executive officers has been from North America. For example, fifty percent of the presidents have been from the United States.

The people who have served as presidents of the ISCP are listed in Table 1. Following an amendment to the Constitution in 1986, election of the president is for a six-year term served as president-elect, president and finally past-president. Thus, following the Mexico meeting, Tobach was president from 1984-1986, and then Ardila from 1986-1988. At the meeting in Costa Rica in 1986, S.A. Barnett was acclaimed president-elect, but early the following year, he indicated that “for personal reasons” he was unable to attend the meeting in Australia and could not accept the office. Charles Tolman, who had withdrawn from the race in favor of Barnett, was then asked to accept the position (G. Greenberg to Operations Committee, April 15, 1987). Acclaimed to office as president-elect at the meeting in Australia in 1988, Barbara Zoeke, a Germany psychologist, presided from 1990-1992. During this same period, as president-elect, Roger Thompson worked hard to invigorate the ISCP which was beginning to show a decline in membership. However, Thompson became increasingly frustrated during his presidency and did not complete his term of office, resigning in 1993 because of concerns about the finances of the Society. President-elect Lesley Rogers completed Thompson’s term before beginning her own; she was followed in the presidency by Allen Gardner. Jeannette Ward was president from 1998 to 2000, and Gary Greenberg currently holds the office. Bryan Jones, from the United Kingdom, became President-elect at the 10<sup>th</sup> biennial meeting in Warsaw, Poland in July 2000.

Table 2 lists those who have served in some of the other positions on the Operations Committee. The positions of Secretary and Treasurer have sometimes been combined. The table clearly shows that committee members have represented countries from around the world.

Table 1  
*ISCP Presidents, year in which they were elected, and (in parentheses) their country of origin*

Year Elected	President-Elect	President	Past-President
1984	R. Ardila	E. Tobach (USA)	
1986	C. Tolman	R. Ardila (Colombia)	E. Tobach
1988	B. Zoeke	C. Tolman (Canada)	R. Ardila
1990	R. Thompson	B. Zoeke (Germany)	C. Tolman
1992	L. Rogers	R. Thompson (USA)	B. Zoeke
1994	A. Gardner	L. Rogers (Australia)	
1996	J. Ward	A. Gardner (USA)	L. Rogers
1998	G. Greenberg	J. Ward (USA)	A. Gardner
2000	B. Jones	G. Greenberg (USA)	J. Ward

Table 2  
*Members of the Operations Committee and (in parentheses) their country of origin*

Year	Secretary	Treasurer	Members-at-Large
1984	M. Papini (Argentina)	C. Tolman (Canada)	J. Hirsch (USA) G. Fiorito (Italy) J. Hogan (Canada) P. Robertoux (France)
1986		J. Barlow (USA)	Fiorito, Hirsch B. Zoeke (Germany) L. Simbayi (Zambia)
1988	E. Tobach (USA)	J. Ward (USA)	Simbayi T. Asano (Japan) M. Balakrishnan (India) E. Yamamoto (Brazil)
1990			Asano, Yamamoto R. Ardila (Colombia) L. Rogers (Australia)
1992	S. McFadden (Australia)		Ardila C. Ades (Brazil) B. Jones (United Kingdom) E. Prato Previde (Italy)
1994			Ades, Jones, Previde L. Simbayi (South Africa)
1996	R. Murphey (USA)	M. Papini (USA)	Simbayi, Ades, Jones W. Pisula (Poland)
1998	R. Murphey		Ades, Jones, Pisula Simbayi
2000	R. Murphey	E. Weiss (USA)	Simbayi, Pisula, Ades S. Morato (Brazil) R. Muzio (Argentina) R. Hughes (New Zealand)

### ***Membership in the ISCP***

Membership in the ISCP is open to anyone “who by example of research, writing, or training has evidenced interest in the aims of the Society” (ISCP Constitution and By-Laws). Most members have faculty appointments in universities or colleges. There are a few student members. Membership in the Society has never been large, peaking at about 150 members. Over the years, the number of members has risen and fallen. There was a continuous decline from 1986 through 1990, then, possibly due to the efforts of then President-elect Roger Thompson, interest in the Society revived. However, the membership began decreasing again during the late 1990s. An approximate breakdown of the membership with respect to different regions of the world between 1988 and 1998, the Society’s fifteenth year of existence, is shown in Table 3. About two thirds of the members have consistently come from North America (mainly the USA). While membership in South America increased across the period shown, it began falling in Europe. A cursory examination of the membership lists indicates that there is a small core of individuals who have maintained membership across the years. There have typically been increases in membership in a region around the time when meetings were held there, or following a field trip by Ethel Tobach to a particular area (e.g. several Russians psychologists joined in the late 1980s, but did not remain in the Society).

Membership dues have increased over the years. In 1984, the dues were established at \$5.00 (US) for full members and \$3.00 for students. When the ISCP began to publish a journal, a subscription to it was included in the dues. In 1987, dues were \$45.00 (US) for a senior member, and since 1993 they have been \$50.00. There is a reduced membership fee (\$30.00) for students and retirees.

In 1998, a Web site and discussion list were set up by the Treasurer at the time, Mauricio Papini, and his students at Texas Christian University. The Web page is now operated by Jacques P. Beaugrand, at the University of Quebec, Montreal, and the discussion list by Melissa Burns at Texas Christian University. Soon after it was established there were 84 members on the discussion list, and membership increased by 40% over the following two years, although the regional distribution remained fairly constant (see Table 4). Discussion list membership is open to all, and many list members do not belong to the ISCP. As well, some ISCP members do not subscribe to the list. The breakdown of list participants by geographic regions shown in Table 4 indicates that the list is more broadly international (i.e. there are proportionally more non-North American members) than the membership of the Society. Electronic communication may be an important vehicle for attracting new members to the ISCP and maintaining its membership.

Table 3  
*Approximate regional distribution of ISCP membership between 1988 and 1998*

	North America	Central and South America	Australasia	Europe and Africa
1988	64%	4%	8%	24%
1992	63%	5%	10%	21%
1994	64%	6%	12%	17%
1998	69%	8%	9%	14%

Table 4  
*Approximate regional distribution of ISCP discussion list members in 1998 and 2000*

	North America	Central and South America	Australasia	Europe and Africa
1998	52%	17%	6%	25%
2000	60%	9%	6%	25%

### ***Aims of the Society***

The preamble to the Constitution and By-Laws states that the ISCP “is organized for the purpose of encouraging the teaching, theoretical development, and experimental investigation of comparative psychology; that is, the study of the evolution and development of behavior.” Other goals of the Society, that are most evident in the format of the biennial meetings, were expressed in the letter of invitation to founding members. The letter stated that

many countries are at critical stages of development of a scientific cadre and policy in regard to the resources of flora and fauna in the light of pressing social priorities. Comparative psychology has much to offer in theory and practice that can be of help in the resolution of these problems (Committee to comparative psychologists, November 1980).

To further this aim, it was suggested that all sessions on one day of the biennial meeting be devoted to the ecology, biology, sociology, and anthropology of the country where the meeting is taking place. This policy has to a large extent been adopted in the meetings over the years.

The need for comparative psychologists to take an active role in resource management and other political issues reflects most clearly the approach to comparative psychology of the Society’s founder, Ethel Tobach.

At the meeting of the ICP in 1988, Tobach gave her view of comparative psychology in an invited address, entitled “Comparative Psychology in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.” As reported by Russell Gray in the Spring 1989 ISCP Newsletter,

[s]he argued that the ethologists’ and sociobiologists’ emphasis on genes and reproduction had blinkered their perspective. In contrast, comparative psychology with its focus on integrative levels and behavioral development could offer a broader approach. By placing research on comparative psychology in the context of current ecological and nuclear crises she argued that comparative psychologists could contribute to psychology and humanity by studying the relationship between animals and changing environments, and by providing an historical perspective on human evolution (p. 2).

The view that comparative psychology focuses on “integrative levels and behavioral development” was the position promoted by Tobach’s mentor, T. C. Schneirla, and does not necessarily reflect the position of all of the ISCP membership.

### **Biennial Meetings of the Society**

Since 1984, the ISCP has met every second year, with meetings every fourth year occurring in conjunction with the meetings of the ICP at which sessions co-sponsored by the ISCP typically occur. A Program Committee, appointed by the Operations Committee, assumes responsibility for the organization of the meeting; members of this committee include the president of the Society and the local host (who usually does most of the work). It is expected that the outgoing president will give a presidential address at the meeting. At least one business meeting, open to all the membership, is held at each biennial meeting. The business meeting is organized by the president, with the agenda determined in consultation with the Operations Committee.

Presentation at the meetings is not restricted to ISCP members, and attendance at the meetings has been variable. In general, as might be expected, more people participated in the years when meetings were held in conjunction with the ICP (when funding was more readily available). Attempts have also been made to hold meetings in association with meetings of related societies in the country in which the meeting takes place. The Society has tried to ensure that meeting locations reflect the international nature of the ISCP. Table 5 gives a list of the dates and locations of the meetings, and the sponsoring groups. A brief account of these meetings follows.

#### ***Acapulco, Mexico - 1984***

The Society’s second meeting was held in the Convention Center in

Table 5  
*Dates, locations and sponsors of the biennial ISCP meetings*

Year	Location	Sponsor
September 3-7, 1984	Acapulco, Mexico	
July 24-28, 1986	San Jose, Costa Rica	University of Costa Rica
Sept. 26-28, 1988	Sydney, Australia	Australasian Society for the Study of Animal Behavior
Aug. 16-22, 1990	Bridgetown, Barbados	University of the West Indies
July 20-24, 1992	Brussels, Belgium	
July 4-8, 1994	Sao Paulo, Brazil	University of Sao Paulo Brazilian Psychological Society Brazilian Society of Neurosciences and Behavior
Aug. 14-16, 1996	Montreal, Canada	Concordia University
Sept. 1-5, 1998	Cape Town, South Africa	University of the Western Cape South African Museum
July 19-21, 2000	Warsaw, Poland	University of Warsaw Warsaw School of Advanced Social Psychology Polish Ethological Society

Acapulco, Mexico from September 3-7, 1984, where the meeting of the ICP was taking place. There was a full program with a total of 10 sessions on a wide range of topics, from the Current Status of Comparative Psychology (a symposium where representatives from eight countries spoke) to Behavioral Research in Captive Settings. Some of the papers presented at this meeting were published in *Historical Perspectives and the International Status of Comparative Psychology* (Tobach, 1987). Participants were from the following countries: Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Japan, USA, and the USSR.

### ***San Juan, Costa Rica - 1986***

The third meeting was hosted by Abelardo Brenes and took place at the University of Costa Rica in San Jose from July 24-28, 1986. On the first day, the papers were devoted to the natural history and ecology of Costa Rica. Some of these were later published in the first volume of *Advances in Comparative Psychology*, entitled *The Comparative Psychology of Natural Resource Management*, edited by Brenes (1988). As well as the presidential address by out-going president Ethel Tobach (USA), there were invited addresses by Mae Wan Ho (England) on "Advances in molecular biology and behavioral evolution" (published in the first issue of the *International Journal of Comparative Psychology*) and Paulo Nogueiro-Neto (Brazil) on "Resource management and the study of animals in their natural

habitats.” There were also several paper sessions and symposia. A highlight of the meeting was a field trip to the La Selva cloud forest, lead by Peter Klopfer. The idea of having field trips in conjunction with the meetings also reflects an attempt to have members from around the world better understand the ecology and biology of the local region.

### ***Sydney, Australia - 1988***

The Society participated in a Joint Meeting with the Australasian Society for the Study of Animal Behavior in 1988. The meeting took place from August 26-28 in a beautiful setting at the conference center on the grounds of the Taronga Park Zoo near Sydney. The local host was David Croft from the University of New South Wales, and Sally McFadden also played an important role in organizing the sessions. There were symposia on behavioral ecology, visual systems and comparative psychology on the first day, and general sessions and poster sessions on day two. In a summary of the meeting published in the Spring, 1989 Newsletter, Russell Gray, from the University of Auckland, noted that the meeting was “pleasant if relatively uneventful,” adding that “absent from the talks [by the animal behaviorists] were the kind of arguments that have given ethology and sociobiology such a bad name among comparative psychologists” (p. 1). A symposium on the final morning of the meeting included talks on Australian fauna and on aboriginal “ecology.” Some of these were later published in the second volume of *Advances in Comparative Psychology*, entitled *Australian People and Animals in Today’s Dreamtime: The Role of Comparative Psychology in the Management of Natural Resources* (Croft, 1991). An excursion to the N.S.W. Cowan Field Station was scheduled to follow the meeting. Members of the ISCP also organized and participated in several symposia at the meetings of the ICP that took place in Sydney immediately after the ISCP meeting.

### ***Bridgetown, Barbados - 1990***

The Cave Hill Campus of the University of the West Indies in Bridgetown, Barbados was the site of the fifth meeting which took place from August 16-22, 1990. The program on the first day included papers on the natural and agricultural history of Barbados and everyday life in that country, and on the second day there was a roundtable discussion “On decolonizing comparative psychology” with guest speaker Dr. Euna Moore from the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies at the University of the West Indies. There were three sessions of research presentations. Incoming-president Barbara Zoeke chaired the meeting and, because outgoing-president Charles Tolman was unable to attend, she gave the presidential address, entitled “Comparative psychology and global cri-

ses: Challenges for the future.”

### ***Brussels, Belgium - 1992***

The sixth meeting coincided with the ICP meeting in Brussels, Belgium, July 20-24, 1992. There were many problems associated with this meeting, beginning with a breakdown in communication with the ICP organizers, who initially had not included the ISCP satellite meeting in their program. In July 1991, the local co-ordinator, Barbara Zoeke, submitted a tentative program for the meeting (B. Zoeke to G. Greenberg, July 8, 1991), which was to be held in Liege, Belgium just prior to the ICP meetings. This program was published in the September 1991, Newsletter. However, as weeks passed, it seems that Zoeke could not come to an agreement with a representative of the University of Liege with respect to meeting there (R. Thompson to G. Greenberg, March 10, 1992). By November 1991, Roger Thompson, who as president-elect was also on the Program Committee, had become the contact person for the meeting, and he began to look for a place to meet in Brussels at the same time as the meetings of the Congress. The meeting was held at the Institute of Cultural Affairs which was situated at some distance across the city from the ICP venue making it inconvenient for people to attend the sessions. As well, because of the disorganization concerning the dates and location of the meeting, there were few submissions and the program was not extensive. This was also the first meeting to break with the tradition of having a day devoted to the ecology, biology, sociology, and anthropology of the country where the meeting took place. Society members also organized and participated in sessions and symposia at the ICP.

### ***Sao Paulo, Brazil - 1994***

The University of Sao Paulo was the site of the seventh biennial ISCP meeting, held July 4-8, 1994. Cesar Ades was the local host, and the meeting was co-sponsored by the Department of Psychology, the Brazilian Psychological Society, and the Brazilian Society of Neurosciences and Behavior. Returning to a focus on local ecology and anthropology, the meeting opened with an address by Ethel Tobach on “The future of comparative psychology in a new world,” followed by sessions on “Indigenous people’s knowledge about nature” and the “Behavior and ecology of Brazilian animals.” Subsequent scientific sessions and symposia included reports of work on the neurobiology of bird behavior, primate behavior, and applied contributions in animal behavior. There was also a large poster session. All sessions of this highly successful meeting were very well-attended. Following the meeting, a number of members took part in a field trip to the Serra do Mar State Park visiting the historical town of Paraty and the rain

forest of Picinguaba.

### ***Montreal, Canada - 1996***

The ISCP met in Montreal, Canada from August 14-16, 1996, just prior to the meeting of the ICP. Nancy Innis was the local organizer and, thanks to the assistance of Dr. Peter Seraganian of the Department of Psychology at Concordia University, the meeting was co-sponsored by Concordia, and took place in the University Faculty Club. The symposia, paper and poster sessions at this meeting were devoted entirely to the presentation of scientific research and its application; there were presentations on the behavior of a large number of species ranging from spiders to humans. Over 70 people, from 13 countries, representing six continents, participated in the meeting. Lesley Rogers's presidential address was entitled "Early experience and behavioural development from a comparative perspective." Society members also participated in the ICP meetings.

### ***Cape Town, South Africa - 1998***

Leickness Simbayi was host for the ninth biennial meeting which was held from September 1-5, 1998 in Cape Town, South Africa. The meeting was co-sponsored by the University of the Western Cape and the South African Museum. The Museum provided a charming setting for the sessions. On the first morning, Allan Gardner gave the presidential address entitled "Comparative intelligence and intelligent comparison." In keeping with tradition, President Emerita, Ethel Tobach, spoke on "Biodiversity, genomics and comparative psychology," and there were three sessions devoted to African palaeontology, paleogeology, archeology, and anthropology. Paper and poster sessions on the following days of the meeting were devoted to research topics and their application.

### ***Warsaw, Poland - 2000***

The most recent meeting, organized by Wojciech Pisula, was held in Warsaw, Poland from July 19-21, 2000. Paper and poster sessions, including Jeannette Ward's presidential address, "The horse's mouth revisited: From observation to story," took place on the campus of the University of Warsaw. A highlight of the meeting was a trip to the Bialowieza Forest where the Thursday sessions, including a symposium on "evolutionary psychology" which elicited "many pointed criticisms and strong feelings," were held (Ward, 2000, p. 1). Several members went on from Warsaw to the ICP meeting in Stockholm, Sweden, where the ISCP co-sponsored a symposium on comparative cognition organized by Gary Greenberg and Marilyn Turner.

## **ISCP Publications**

The ISCP has supported a number of publications, including a newsletter, a journal and occasional books.

### ***ISCP Newsletter***

The Newsletter--the main vehicle for conveying information concerning the activities of the Society--has been edited by Gary Greenberg since 1983, with the support of his department at Wichita State University. Recently he has been assisted by Emily Weiss and now Daniel Callahan. The Constitution and By-Laws of the Society stipulate that there must be at least two issues per year, and the annual number has ranged from two to four issues.

### ***Advances in Comparative Psychology***

Advances in Comparative Psychology was envisioned by the series editor, Ethel Tobach, as a series of books in which papers presented at the biennial meetings would be published. Publication was supported by the University of Calabria; their press put out the first volume, and they provided financial support for the second volume published in the USA by Praeger. These volumes (Brenes, 1988; Croft, 1991) comprised papers on resource management presented at the Costa Rica and Australia meetings. There have been no other volumes.

### ***International Journal of Comparative Psychology***

Financial support from the University of Calabria also made it possible for the ISCP to begin publishing its own journal relatively early in the Society's history. The International Journal of Comparative Psychology (IJCP) began publication with the Fall 1987 issue, with Ethel Tobach, Editor, and Roger Thompson, Associate Editor. Support from Calabria continued through Volume 4. Tobach edited the first six volumes of the journal, with Nancy Innis replacing Thompson as Associate Editor in the summer of 1990 (Volume 3, Number 4). In 1993, the Operations Committee elected Robert Hughes from New Zealand to replace Tobach, and he edited Volumes 7 through 9 with Innis continuing as Associate Editor. Volumes 10 through 12 were co-edited by Sally McFadden and Lesley Rogers in Australia. At the 2000 ISCP meeting, Mauricio Papini was elected Editor and Michael Renner Associate Editor of the Journal. The IJCP has published research, theoretical and historical articles, including a number of papers presented at the meetings of the ISCP and the ICP.

Initially, a board of National Editors, representing 15 countries, was appointed. Submissions from each country were to be solicited by, and sent to, the National Editor who would have the papers reviewed and then submitted to the Journal Editor for final approval. However, this system did not work well and, at the 1990 meeting of the Society in Barbados, the Operations Committee voted to establish a more typical Editorial Advisory Board with all submissions being sent to the Journal editors. Most of the National Editors remained on this new Board. In an attempt to attract more submissions, in 1995 membership on the Board was again revised to include “a mixture of high profile names and younger, less well-known people who might work enthusiastically for the journal.” Members of the Board were “expected to actively promote the journal and encourage submissions” (R. Hughes to Operation Committee, June 8, 1995). Following Papini’s election as Editor, a new Editorial Board was formed.

### **Reception of the ISCP**

The ISCP was founded by a small group of comparative psychologists who wanted to prevent the demise of their discipline. The Society has attracted comparative psychologists from around the world, but it has never maintained a large or stable membership, nor, in general, has it attracted many of the leading researchers in the field. There are likely a number of reasons for this. To begin with, some of the founding members of the Society, and particularly the first president Ethel Tobach, were seen as attempting to “revive the theoretical constructs proposed by T. C. Schneirla” (Dewsbury, 1989), an approach that is not popular with most North American comparative psychologists. As we saw from statements made when the Society was established, the ISCP readily accepts members with diverse theoretical positions, and the interests of the present membership attest to this fact. Although the Society has never actively promoted his views, the perception of the ISCP as a Schneirlarian organization may have attenuated its initial appeal. The fact that, until recently, a photograph of T. C. Schneirla was prominently displayed on the Society’s web page does nothing to dispel this perception.

Donald Dewsbury, an American who has published widely, both as an active researcher and as an historian of comparative psychology, examined the status of the ISCP in a talk on “Academic societies and their impact on comparative psychology” as part of a symposium, “Comparative Psychology: Retrospective/ Prospective,” organized by Nancy Innis at the ICP meeting in Brussels in 1992. In the published version of this address, Dewsbury (1993) concluded that “the ISCP has failed to accomplish” the goals outlined in its constitution “primarily because of its failure to involve the more active comparative psychologists in its activities”(p. 37). He went on to state that because of its failure to attract these researchers, the ISCP

has had a “blocking effect on other organizational efforts in comparative psychology. With one organization already in place, it would make little sense to begin a competing organization in a field as small as comparative psychology” (Dewsbury, 1993, p. 37). The membership naturally disagrees with this assessment. Only the future will tell if it is valid.

The major problem persistently facing the Society has been the viability of the Journal. Publication of a journal is considered by a majority of the membership to be an essential factor in maintaining the viability of the Society. In 1990, a “Membership Survey” was conducted in the Newsletter, asking (among other things) about the importance and effectiveness of the IJCP. Responses were received from only a few members, but all who replied believed that a journal was “very important.” However, a majority of respondents did not think that at the time the IJCP was “very effective.” Their comments – which continue to be complaints today – were that publication was sporadic, issues typically thin, and the quality of articles highly variable. However, when on at least two occasions the possibility of amalgamation with other more well-established journals was proposed, the idea was not well-received. N. Innis, at the July, 1992 meeting in Brussels indicated that *Behavioral Processes* might be interested and B. Jones in a letter to R. Thompson (November 13, 1992) discussed a possible merger with *Behavior Genetics*. As costs soar, and libraries are no longer able to keep up their subscriptions, maintaining a journal inevitably means high membership dues. It seems that the sporadic publication and variable quality of journal issues have, in part, contributed to resignations. It is imperative, then, that the Society publishes a journal of the highest quality in order to sustain membership and to maintain credibility.

Another factor that may have discouraged some comparative psychologists from joining the Society, and has been of concern to a few members as well, relates to the political goals of the ISCP. These are most evident in the policy to devote one day of biennial meetings to sessions on the ecology, biology, sociology, and anthropology of the country where the meeting is taking place. The volumes of *Advances in Comparative Psychology* in which papers from these sessions were published were not well-received by the comparative psychology community. ISCP founder Ethel Tobach strongly believes that scientists should always take political positions (see Tobach, 1994); however, an emphasis on the importance of the goal of comparative psychology “to contribute to the development of appropriate social policies and practices” for resource management (draft of an Appendix, dated November 22, 1988), is considered by some members to detract from the legitimacy of the ISCP as a scientific society.

The strength of the ISCP lies in its international commitment; but just what does this commitment entail? Some years ago, Gary Greenberg, now the Society’s President, indicated that the ISCP “was to be characterized by our bringing comparative psychology to those places in which it

was poorly developed” (G. Greenberg to R. thompson, April 23, 1991). If so, is this aim a scientific one: to help comparative psychologists in these countries develop strong teaching and research programs and to publish their work so it can be widely disseminated? Or is it more political: to provide expertise on resource management and other social issues? Can the ISCP successfully accomplish both of these goals?

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