



## EFPTA Newsletter September 2013

### Editor's note

Welcome to the latest edition of the EFPTA newsletter. Thank you for all your lovely contributions to make this newsletter such a success. It is great to hear how different countries teach, and use, psychology; without doubt we are constantly learning from each other in order to provide the best service to our students.

Since moving to Luxembourg I have seen first hand the benefits of working within a multicultural community and the importance of elevating it onto the world stage. Psychology is everywhere, we see it at work every day in businesses, advertising, on roads, in shopping centres; indeed, at some point psychological thinking and theory has touched each and every one of us in some way. Fundamentally it is the teachers of psychology who sow the seeds, and as such the next EFPTA conference is based on this theme, entitled 'Sowing the seeds of psychological literacy'. We hope you will help us celebrate EFPTA's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Berlin on 11-13 April 2014.

In May we saw a handover of presidency from Renate Schrempf to Dorothy Coombs. On behalf of EFPTA I would like to give a huge thank you to Renate for her tireless work in promoting the good name of EFPTA and her professionalism, and say a friendly welcome to Dorothy. We have every confidence that she will continue to work to the same high standard.

We have also seen the birth of a new association in Switzerland, coordinated by the capable hands of Ludovic Jeanneret. In such a short space of time he has managed to raise his membership to 35 members and it continues to grow.

Kind regards,

*Jackie Moody (Luxembourg),  
editor, [jaxamo@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jaxamo@yahoo.co.uk)*

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## PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

Dear European psychology teacher, it is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 2013 newsletter of the European Federation of Psychology Teachers' Associations. I am very grateful to Jackie Moody (an ATP member who teaches in Luxembourg) for agreeing to collect and edit items for this edition while Harpa Hafsteinsdóttir (Iceland) concentrates on studying for her Masters degree.



*Dorothy Coombs (England)  
Chair of ATP UK and  
President of EFPTA*

At our board meeting in April we held elections for the new President (Dorothy Coombs), Vice President (Hannele Puolakka), Treasurer (Wolfgang Augustin) and Secretary (Udo Kittler). On behalf of all our members I would like to thank Renate Schrempf for her wonderful work as President from 2011-2013.

During her period of office Renate was tireless in her quest to raise the profile of EFPTA, and of pre-tertiary teachers of psychology, and together we enjoyed attending various meetings, including those of the European Federation of Psychologists' Associations (EFPA). Renate always injects her own brand of enthusiasm and style, and as a pair we certainly "livened up" a few events, including an EFPA conference at the European Parliament in November 2011. People certainly sit up and listen when Renate presents her opinions. I hope that Hannele and I will turn out to be such a "dream team" (Renate's words!)

This year two new associations joined us; Switzerland and Slovakia, welcome to them both and we hope to welcome more in the future, for example we have yet to make contact with pre-tertiary psychology teachers in France, Belgium or Holland, although we believe psychology is taught at this level. If you can help us please contact us via our web-site [www.efpta.org](http://www.efpta.org)

EFPTA was established in 2004 and as such we will be celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> birthday and marking the occasion at the next conference, it is to be held at the historic Wannsee Forum in Berlin (April 11-12<sup>th</sup> 2014). You can read more about this event in this newsletter or by visiting our web site and look forward to seeing you there.

EFPTA is an affiliate member of the EFPA and we have members on their Board of Educational Affairs. (BEA). Our attending representative is Renate and I am a "corresponding" (by e-mail) member. In July 2014 we expect to be involved in a symposium at the International Conference of Applied Psychology (ICAP) in Paris, when issues relating to psychology teaching at all levels will be discussed. We are very excited to be invited to take part in such an initiative and aim to use it as an opportunity to raise the profile of pre-tertiary teaching of psychology across Europe. I hope you enjoy our newsletter and feel inspired to get involved with EFPTA in some way. We are keen to encourage collaborative projects between teachers and students in our member countries, however modest they may be. Sometimes the simple things are the best!

Wishing you all a successful year, but most importantly a happy and healthy one!  
Dorothy Coombs, President [dorothycoombs21@gmail.com](mailto:dorothycoombs21@gmail.com)

## UPDATE FROM THE COMMITTEE

### EFPTA elects its new Board and looks ahead to Berlin 2014

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**10th anniversary will be celebrated with an international conference in Berlin**

By Udo Kittler & Morag Williamson

The Board of the European Federation of Psychology Teachers' Associations, (EFPTA), held its regular meeting in Brussels in April. National associations were represented, as well as individual members, from Iceland, Finland, Denmark, Scotland, England & Wales, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, Russia, Switzerland and Luxembourg. German members comprised Renate Schrempf (representative of the national association, and President of EFPTA 2011-2013), Wolfgang Augustin (Treasurer) and Dr. Udo Kittler (Secretary). The meeting venue was, for the fourth



time, the headquarters of EFPA (the European Federation of Psychologists' Associations, the representative body for all psychologists' organisations in Europe), with whom the outgoing President, Renate Schrempf, has built strong links. Renate also represents EFPTA, including German interests, on EFPA's Board of Educational Affairs, which discusses, inter alia, topics such as the International Baccalaureate, and a common curriculum for the future.

Amongst the agenda items at the EFPTA meeting were the following two important matters:

1. Elections to the Board, and
2. The international conference for psychology teachers in April 2014, in Berlin.

**The newly-elected EFPTA Board (for the period 2013-15), from right to left: Hannele Puolakka, Vice-president (Finland); Udo Kittler, Secretary (Germany); Dorothy Coombs, President (England & Wales); Wolfgang Augustin, Treasurer (Germany). Photo: Morag Williamson.**



German members will be interested to know that elections proceeded as follows: in accordance with the Constitution, Renate Schrempf stepped down as President at the end of her two-year term of office, and in turn the Vice-President, Dorothy Coombs (England & Wales) succeeded her to become the new President. However, thankfully Renate remains as the elected representative of the German teachers' association. She can look back on a successful term of office as EFPTA President.

During her presidency new EFPTA members were recruited: in the Swiss canton of Vaud, on Lake Geneva, the first Swiss association of psychology teachers has been established, called AVE-Psy, with Ludovic Jeanneret as President. Jackie Moody, an English psychology teacher who teaches at an international school in Luxembourg, is our contact in that country, and Olga Zvereva, teacher in a Moscow college, has become an individual member and takes part in meetings as an observer. Also to Renate's credit, she has not only strengthened our relationship with EFPA, but has stimulated their interest in our work, such that the current President of EFPA, Robert Roe, has repeatedly highlighted the importance of our teaching in schools for the further development of academic psychology in Europe as a whole. In its member associations, (other than Russia), EFPTA counts more than 3000 psychology teachers. All in all, Renate can be very content that in the 8th and 9th years of its existence, EFPTA has become both consolidated internally, and externally more visible.



**The complete EFPTA Board in good spirits – after productive committee work.  
(Photo: Morag Williamson, Scotland)**

## **EFPTA CONFERENCE 2014**

In October 2012 the EFPTA Board had decided to hold the next international conference in 2014, in Germany. The Secretary was therefore given the task of finding a venue in Berlin, which could on the one hand meet the expectations of EFPTA, but on the other hand take into account the scarce resources of all European members, who are mostly teachers who will self-fund. The following proposition was put to the Board meeting on 20th April:

**The Wannsee FORUM could be booked for the period 10th-13th April 2014 – a place with history, with the required capacity, and with very reasonable prices.**

An alternative was a hotel in central Berlin, however that would entail higher costs for participants (for comparison: in Copenhagen in 2012 we charged 80 euros per delegate; in Berlin we will not charge more than that). The new President Dorothy Coombs requested that Board members send her their opinions on the matter so that a decision could be reached by the beginning of May. Single and double rooms, and also a few 3-bed and 4-bed rooms are available, so Berlin 2014 could be attractive



and affordable for students and young teachers. Now intensive preparations lie ahead (in terms of both programme content and organisation), to be discussed by the EFPTA Board at the October 2013 meeting (around the same time as the federal assembly of the German psychology teachers' association), to be held in Berlin.

**On 12th April 2014, in the same venue (Wannsee FORUM), the 2014 assembly of regional representatives (Landesvertreterversammlung) will also take place.**

This report was distributed as a printed handout to psychology teachers of Nordrhein-Westfalen at their regional meeting on 25th May 2013 in Brühl.

**For further information please contact the EFPTA Secretary:**  
**Dr. Udo Kittler via [juu.kittler@t-online.de](mailto:juu.kittler@t-online.de)**  
**[www.efpta.org.uk](http://www.efpta.org.uk)**

## NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND



In January 2013 Ludovic Jeanneret formed the Association of Teachers of Psychology (Psy-AVE) in the Canton de Vaud, Switzerland. It consists of twenty two secondary teachers (secondary schools and vocational schools), currently 35 members. Its aim is to highlight and differentiate psychology as a scientific branch in post-compulsory education, promote quality teaching of psychology, based on the diversity of different schools (Matura schools, schools of general education, vocational secondary schools).

Jeanneret has been very active from the start and has created an excellent facebook site full of interesting and entertaining aspects of psychology, from You tube clips, classic studies and latest research information. You can find him and share documents on his Facebook group (AVE-Psy) and on his website:  
[http://educanet2.ch/psyterion/.ws\\_gen/](http://educanet2.ch/psyterion/.ws_gen/)

## NEWS FROM SLOVAKIA

**Slovak Association for the Teaching of Psychology (SATP)**



Psychology has been taught as a secondary school subject in Slovakia since 1960s when it became a part of vocational training for medical nurses. Nowadays we have about 50 different psychology courses in secondary education taught by about 600 psychology teachers. Many of them lack opportunity to meet, discuss professional issues, continuing professional development and teaching materials and tips. That is why we established Slovak Association for the Teaching of Psychology in April 2013.

By the 15th of June we have 13 registered members. Main objectives of our association are to:



- Create opportunities for contact, cooperation, sharing experiences and best practice among psychology teachers,
- Support qualified teaching of psychology at schools of different levels,
- Support and develop pre-gradual and continuing professional development of psychology teachers,
- Support and promote teaching of psychology in lower and higher secondary education,
- Support innovative approaches in psychology teaching,

In June we issued the first newsletter called „We teach psychology“ with basic information about SATP, membership, EFPTA, twinning classes and some teaching tips. Our next plan is to launch a website with key data on the teaching of psychology in Slovakia, lesson plans, events invitations and members' zone to share documents, ideas, chat etc. SATP is also a partner of the international scientific conference „Psychology at school“ that will be held on the 14th and 15th of November in Bratislava.

Contact: *Lenka Sokolová*

SATP email: [info.saup@gmail.com](mailto:info.saup@gmail.com)

## NEWS FROM DENMARK

In the Danish organization for psychology teachers (PLF), the aim for the past year has been to improve our communication with our 400 members, and to turn our magazine „Psykologi Information“ into an on-line magazine. This we have achieved quite successfully.



Firstly we have formed a closed Facebook group for members only, where more than half of our members have joined. Here our members discuss, ask for advice, share links to great material etc. The board of PLF also posts important news within our field. It has greatly diminished the distance between the members and the board, and the members now have a platform where they can network and use it as a forum for discussion. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/138587292851580/>

Secondly we have spent a lot of time converting our magazine, that's published 3-4 times a year, from a physical magazine to an on-line publication. We both save a lot of money on postage, and gain the opportunity to do a far more interesting magazine for our members. You can check it out on the link below:

<http://www.information.dk/emne/psykologi>

Brugernavn: abonnent

Kodeord: psykologi1234

## NEWS FROM FINLAND

To date our membership is about 450 members and we have our own Facebook-page with 161 members : Psykologian opettajat PSOP.



We have had some very interesting one-day psychology teacher trainings in different topics for example; 'Gambling addiction', 'Teaching students to write an excellent answer in the psychology exam', 'helping students to overcome a strong stage fright' and 'learning how to use and integrate social media into Psychology courses'.

We have also produced a short video targeted at students which is titled 'What can you gain from studying psychology at school?' This premiered on the 18<sup>th</sup> of May in Helsinki and is now available for members to buy at a special price and show it in their classes.

The European Brain Council has pledged to make 2014 the European Year of the Brain as such we plan to run a two day teacher training programme in October on How music stimulates the brain. We also plan to visit the Learning Center Minerva at the University of Helsinki. In this center Kirsti Lonka and post-graduate students aim to investigate the following areas:

1. Students' conceptions of learning, epistemologies, thinking strategies and attributions, self-efficacy, self-regulative skills and their perception of learning environment.
2. To identify and describe features of various learning environments that may promote or prevent students' meaningful learning and well-being.
3. To investigate how learning is socially and organizationally mediated by characteristics of student culture and lifestyles.
4. To understand the possible factors that may lead to withdrawal (drop out) from studies and to propose a theoretical and methodological perspective on learning culture that promotes commitment and interest.
5. To investigate and develop the collaborative practices of progressive inquiry and problem-based learning. And, to look at conceptual change and the development of expertise in different domains, for instance, literacy, natural sciences, and music. They are going to establish a collaborative network among different countries for doing research on learning and teaching for facilitating cross-cultural research and comparisons. Of special interest is the selection process of how young people are selected into higher education. They also look at how high school students representing cultural minorities can enter higher education. Gender issues are also examined.

The national matriculation exam in psychology was in March and at the end of May we award the best five students to a party in the Ministry of Education. However, the Finnish National Board of Education has begun to prepare the new national core curriculum for general upper secondary school education. There will be a new syllabus and our association is working hard for psychology courses. We have in



upper secondary schools now one compulsory course and four specialization courses in psychology. Many schools have also applied courses in psychology. But the new one is coming...

Our latest magazine is in Finnish, address is

[http://www.psop.fi/images/psop\\_0113.pdf](http://www.psop.fi/images/psop_0113.pdf)

## NEWS FROM RUSSIA

As a follow up to the Conference in Copenhagen "place of evil in the classroom," 2012. We decided to continue the theme with students about cruelty in the family in the form of a role play in the form of a talk show. "Can I do without



punishment?" The game was held in the Moscow state Pedagogical University (Faculty of Preschool education). Roles were distributed in advance: TV presenter, journalists, parents, children, psychologists, teachers and lawyers. The students were first shown a film 'I'll never come back here' a problematic video of a child who had been beaten and then had to consider conflicting points of view, arguments, and examples "for" and against "physical punishment, discuss the causes and consequences and make recommendations. Everybody had to talk about physical punishment on the child's emotional state which can result in a sense of remorse and frustration.



A specialist was also available and gave reference to the Russian laws and the international Convention on the Rights of the Child. Students also had to prepare visual material in the form of campaign posters.

The participants came to the conclusion that physical punishment is not a valid method of discipline. A child who is under threat of punishment often behaves badly. For example, the 'mother' was told that cruel punishment is very useful for her son because he will behave better but the 'son' was crying.



There was another point of view: children whose parents used threats and condemnations are more likely to develop a sense of guilt and shame. The questions about a 'rough style' of upbringing was discussed. The pedagogue had a speech: the child as a result of these influences is withdrawn and is often rude in his communications. The psychologists added that

the child uses in his lexicon the type of expression he has heard from adults. The 'doctor' told about pain, tears of the child for example, pain promotes the reactions of fear and fury, as a result children become humiliated and mortified and as a result don't feel the pain of another person.

The lawyer said to the parents that in 1989 the UN adopted the Convention of the Rights of the Child, it stipulates that the children have the right to special care and assistance. So it was a very interesting form of interaction.

*Olga Zvereva (Russia)*

## NEWS FROM UK

### ATP UK: A one-day conference for teachers, by teachers



Due to the increasing cost of professional development, and government rulings that prevent examining bodies from providing courses for teachers, we decided to run our own one-day conference in March 2013. The ATP always runs events “by the teacher, for the teacher” so the focus was very much on teaching and learning. The event was hosted in a school, with student helpers and ATP committee members running the whole event. To ensure a warm and friendly atmosphere we limited numbers to 30 (the maximum we could fit in a classroom) and to our delight and amazement the event quickly sold out, clearly indicating a large demand for this type of event, especially as delegates were giving up their own free time on a Saturday. Our aims were fulfilled in that many delegates commented on the warm, friendly welcome they received and the supportive environment that we created. Overall, feedback was extremely positive, 100% of delegates rated the day as “outstanding”.



The day was organised around four, one hour, interactive workshops, with plenty of breaks for coffee, refreshments and networking. In the first session delegates were shown an innovative and inspirational scheme of work for teaching topics such as reductionism and the nature-nurture debate. It was based on the Dreamworks film ‘MegaMind’ and the delegates were certainly inspired.



In the second workshop there was a discussion of ways to motivate and inspire students, something that many of us struggle with. It was great to be reminded of why we actually teach psychology, because at some stage in the dim and distant past we, too, were inspired and amazed. After all, in his famous quote Keates said: ‘Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire’.



Over a light buffet lunch, served by two students, delegates had the chance to network and reflect on the morning’s experiences. As is tradition, we had an ATP raffle; delegates were given a ticket when they registered. Special thanks went to all the publishers who generously donated prizes, ranging from books and DVDs to ATP T-Shirts, stress balls, Easter eggs and wine. The raffle created a lot of excitement!

After lunch there was a session on transition from pre-tertiary education to higher education. Universities often criticize teachers for not preparing students for higher education. But is this criticism fair? The question was debated and the consensus was that perhaps some teachers in universities are not making adequate provision for students and that some of their teaching methods are outdated. Delegates

discussed, in groups, what they did to prepare students and their ideas were shared after the event via email.

The final session focused on active teaching techniques. In response to the new inspection requirement for minimal teacher talk and maximum student participation, the aim of this session was to give delegates some ideas for how to make their lessons more active. Delegates took part in a carousel activity, where they moved around 5 different tables, each with a different activity. It was lovely to see the childlike smiles of delight on the delegates' faces when they reached the PlayDoh table, some very creative models of Sperry's split brain experiment were produced.



Delegates and workshop leaders left feeling exhausted, but inspired. The day was a great success, as evidenced by the wonderful feedback we received.

*Deb Gajic, Treasurer of ATP UK*

## NEWS FROM SCOTLAND

***Association for the Teaching of Psychology, Scotland (ATPS).***



Psychology teachers in Scotland work in both high schools and 'further education' colleges (with students mainly 16-19 years old). ATPS has been member of EFPTA since the Federation started in 2004, and it is part of a thriving psychology 'community' in Scotland, building links with university academics, practising psychologists, and other organisations. Our association is currently active in a number of major areas affecting pre-tertiary psychology education:

- Our members are starting to deliver revised psychology courses under the major Scottish education reform, covering all ages 3 – 18 years, called 'Curriculum for Excellence'.
- We are campaigning for improvements in electronic marking processes which have recently been introduced by the national exam board.
- We are working with the British Psychological Society (BPS) in lobbying for the introduction of a teaching qualification for pre-tertiary psychology in schools.
- On 5<sup>th</sup> October we are holding a one-day professional development event for all psychology teachers in Scotland, with a focus on providing teaching and learning support for the new courses.

See: <http://atps.org.uk>

Also interesting: BPS Scotland <http://scottish.bps.org.uk>

Morag Williamson  
ATPS representative to EFPTA Board.

## ATP (UK) REPORT

The ATP (UK) has recently been involved in many discussions and debates about the status and future of pre-tertiary psychology. Government proposals to reform exams for students aged 14-16, including the introduction of an English Baccalaureate ("E-Bacc"), were shelved following intense resistance from teachers, parents, professional associations like the ATP and learned societies such as the BPS. The Education Secretary finally made an embarrassing U turn that was greatly enjoyed by many of our members!

We also responded to a consultation on the reform of A-levels and contributed to a report by the British Psychological Society, called "The Future of A level Psychology". Copies of this can be found on our web-site ([www.theatp.org](http://www.theatp.org)). We hope that the recommendations in this report will influence the development of future A-level courses, help to solve some transition issues and improve the future of teacher training in psychology.

We have engaged in research by the Royal Statistical Society, into the role of statistics in psychology, and have been represented at several conferences where the focus was on the apparent difficulty that many students have when coping with the mathematical content of degree courses in psychology. It would be interesting to know whether this is a problem for students in other European countries.

Perhaps our most interesting experience was in May when we met Liz Truss, the Undersecretary of State for Education and Childcare, to discuss a variety of issues including initial teacher training for psychology graduates and the status of A-level psychology. We have not received any feedback to date but when we do we will add it to the report that is already on the ATP web-site.

In March we held a very successful one-day event for teachers at Deb Gajic's school in Tamworth. (Read article above). There were 30 very enthusiastic delegates who were all willing to give up a Saturday to add to their professional development. All the sessions were run by ATP members and focused on various aspects of teaching and learning, with lots of practical ideas to use in the classroom as well as discussions of some of the important issues that face teachers in their everyday work. You can read more in a separate article of this newsletter, and you can see some wonderful photographs on the ATP Facebook page.

The ATP has recently been supporting members in Scotland after complaints were made about the on-line marking of coursework. Many markers experienced a great deal of stress throughout the process so we wrote a letter of concern to the Chief Executive of the Scottish Qualification Authority and have just received a very encouraging response, with an invitation to meet to discuss ways of resolving the issues. This is a very good example of what teachers' associations can do to support their members.

Finally, the annual ATP conference was held in July at Keele University and was attended by several of our EFPTA colleagues. You can read all about it in a separate report.

*Dorothy Coombs*  
*Chair of the Association for the Teaching of Psychology*



## ATP CONFERENCE

31<sup>st</sup> Annual ATP Conference July 5th-7th 2013

Over the last thirty years or so the ATP conference has become something of a legend, and this year's was no exception. Keele University is a beautiful venue and the sun shone the whole time, so when you add an exceptionally varied programme of lectures and workshops, great entertainment (a professional mind reader) and the "ATP Games" (second only to the Olympics!) you have a recipe for success. Several of our EFPTA colleagues joined us to enjoy a wonderful three days of work and play and, as it is 50 years since Milgram's first experiment was published, we had a very special cake too, as you can see from the photograph!



Professor David Canter (famous for his work on criminal profiling) opened the conference with a lecture in which he shared his concerns about what he sees as an increasing tendency to explain all behaviour in biological terms. The other keynote speakers included Professor Andy Field (Sussex) who talked about the challenges associated with teaching statistics to psychology students, Martin Rowley (Keele) who tried to identify the reasons why many students who go on to study psychology at university appear to lack independent study skills and Dr David Carey (Bangor) who gave a very entertaining lecture on the challenges of 21<sup>st</sup> century neuroscience.

There were over 40 breakout sessions to choose from, so delegates had to plan their time with care. In his workshop, entitled "Homo carapaciatus" (Backpacker man!), EFPTA founder member Joe Cocker talked about the psychology of travel, Morag Williamson and I shared ideas for collaborative projects with over 20 teachers from 6 European countries and there were sessions on everything from behavioural genetics to the "Flipped classroom" (if you don't know what that is please contact me!).



Fun was had by all (well most!) at the ATP games, where teams of up to ten people engaged in school-style sports such as the egg and spoon race, the Hoola Hoop challenge and various other rather silly, and no doubt quite dangerous, competitive pursuits. Researchers into aggression and cheating could have gathered rich and valuable data that evening, as you can see if you visit the ATP Facebook page.



No gathering of psychology teachers would be complete without a mind reader, and that is just what they got, after the gala dinner at Keele Hall on Saturday night. Rob Bailey, a “Psychic Psychologist” entertained us with a series of astounding paranormal stunts of psychological detection! See details at [rob@virtualbailey.plus.com](mailto:rob@virtualbailey.plus.com)

Next year the conference will be at Loughborough University and anyone who is a member of the ATP can attend. Membership only costs £25 per year so if you are not currently a member it is a good reason to join. See details at <http://www.atpconference.org.uk/>

*Dorothy Coombs  
Chair of the Association for the  
Teaching of Psychology*



## **ONE DAY SEMINAR: for the teachers by the teachers**

**Efficient, interesting, and very reasonable costs!  
An event worth to be copied**

**Landesverband Baden-Württemberg** (German association of psychology teachers, regional section)

We have a practice of annual one-day meetings including members' meeting and seminar.

In June 2013 our theme of the seminar was an exchange on two sections of our curriculum:

- Psychology as a science (introduction, methodology etc.) and
- Cognition, emotion, motivation

Again (appreciated practice) quite a few of our members presented whole teaching units or just ideas for introduction, experiments, exercises or tests. Often followed by lively discussions, further useful contributions or tips (books, seminars, films etc).

We use schools as a venue and can therefore offer these meetings at a very low fee (just to pay for copies, coffee etc.). There are no costs for presenters from outside or for the venue.

And most important: we can be sure the seminar meets the needs of our teachers: what they get is directly applicable.

*Renate Schrempf, Germany*

# Report on the Board of Educational Affairs (BEA) Meeting May 2013

by Renate Schrempf (Member of the Board of Educational Affairs):

The present work in BEA shows that EFPTA's contributions are well received and dealt with and that our relationship with EFPA is proving to be very valuable. Some items that may interest EFPTA members:

- The questionnaire to collect information about the teaching of psychology to other (than psychologists') professions at psychology departments is still running. Link: <http://tinyurl.com/cp26hho>, new deadline: 15 June. So whoever has connections to a psychology department at a university please support by passing on this link.
- BEA will present its work at ECP Stockholm 2013.
- On invitation from Robert Roe (EFPA President) BEA agreed on organizing a symposium at ICAP Paris 2014 to show EFPA's efforts to accumulate knowledge on the teaching of psychology at all levels. For application with ICAP we produced an abstract containing four items:
  1. Psychology in secondary schools
  2. Teaching psychology in the bachelor phase
  3. Employability with bachelor degree
  4. Teaching of psychology to non-psychologists

The text to No.1:

"The first talk refers to the opportunity to learn academic psychology in secondary school (Renate Schrempf, Dorothy Coombs, Els Mampaey, Iva Stuchlikova). In this context, - besides providing basic knowledge in academic psychology - psychological literacy can play a role in developing important transferable skills and life competences in secondary school students. However, psychology is not yet a regular subject that is offered to all pupils. The presentation will give an overview of the available information on this topic based on the research projects of the European Federation of Psychology Teachers' Associations (EFPTA). There are differences in the curricula in Europe but issues about teachers' qualifications and perception of the difficulty of the course content are similar. The presentation will stimulate discussion about the motivation for, and the impact of, studying psychology in adolescence."

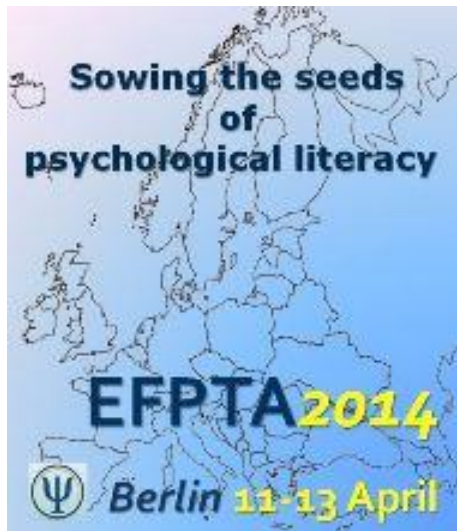
We are quite optimistic about being accepted as this application goes through EFPA.

Europlat member Peter Reddy reported about Europlat's situation after they dropped funding. They even had to shut down their website but are still present at Facebook ([www.facebook.com/Europlat](http://www.facebook.com/Europlat))



# SEE YOU IN BERLIN!

The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at our Berlin conference in 2014  
Be prepared for something special!!



- Workshops on teaching & learning
- Speakers on key issues & research
- Meet psychology teachers from a dozen countries
- All sessions in English
- Share ideas & good practice across European borders
- Set up collaborative projects
- Excellent CPD!
- VENUE: the historic Wannsee Forum, Berlin
- ACCOMMODATION at the venue or in the city center
- BOOK NOW! See [www.efpta.org](http://www.efpta.org)
- Low conference fee

**KEEP YOUR EYE OUT FOR THE LATEST NEWS AND INFORMATION ON THE EFPTA WEBSITE**

<http://www.efpta.org/home/index.asp?sid=1>





Department of Psychology and Pathopsychology  
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Slovak Association for the Teaching of Psychology

## CALL FOR PAPERS

# PSYCHOLOGY AT SCHOOL

International scientific conference dedicated to the 20th anniversary of master's study programme of the psychology teachers training at the Faculty of Education, Comenius University in Bratislava

**14th and 15th November 2013, Comenius University Congress centre Družba**

### Conference themes:

Training in psychology for teachers and other school system professionals  
Teaching psychology at the secondary and tertiary levels  
Social-psychological training at school and in pre-gradual teacher training  
Current issues in school and educational psychology and psychodidactics

### Organizing Committee:

Mgr. Lenka Sokolová, PhD.  
PhD.  
Mgr. Miroslava Lemešová, PhD.  
PhD.  
PhDr. Radomír Masaryk, PhD.  
PhD.  
PhDr. Katarína Cabanová, PhD.  
PhD.

### Scientific Committee:

Doc. PhDr. Blandína Šramová,  
Doc. PhDr. Mária Glasová,  
PhDr. Katarína Cabanová,  
Mgr. Lenka Sokolová,

### Pre-conference and social activities:

Workshop for psychology teachers, Banquet and alumni event  
Panel discussion „Why teach psychology on secondary level of education? “

### Registration and further information:

<http://www.fedu.uniba.sk/?konferencia2013>, e-mail: [sokolova@fedu.uniba.sk](mailto:sokolova@fedu.uniba.sk)

### Registration fees:

**25 euro** - full conference fee (including conference materials, coffee breaks and lunch)  
**5 euro** – reduced conference fee for university students and school teachers  
**20 euro** – banquet fee (alumni event: buffet dinner, wine tasting, programme)

### Deadlines:

31.7.2013 registration of active participants, **abstract submission**  
15.9.2013 **full text submission** (.doc or .docx format to be sent to [info.saup@gmail.com](mailto:info.saup@gmail.com))  
15.10.2013 registration of passive participants

**Accommodation:** [www.hotel-druzba.sk](http://www.hotel-druzba.sk)

## BOOK REVIEWS

### PSYCHOLOGIE MACCHIATO

Published by Pearson Deutschland (2013)  
Udo Kittler & Sabine Stanicki

Illustrations by Thomas A Muller  
ISBN 978-3-8273-405-1

I don't speak German but that hasn't prevented me from enjoying this very appealing little book. It is compact and yet it has eight chapters, each one packed with information, and amusing cartoons that are very effective in illustrating the main points. Clever use of symbols in the margins flag up, to the reader, things like a short summary (the light bulb), things to look at more closely, (the eye) and, my favourite, the absolutely important bits to understand, or 'Aha' moments(!).

Students who need to work a little more on a topic will look for the 'dumb bell' symbol and there are lots of reminders to go to the Pearson web-site that accompanies the book, where there is further information and ideas for applying what is learned to everyday life.

This book will provide students with a good introduction to some of the main topics in psychology and, more importantly, an enjoyable one. The four main characters, who we meet again and again throughout the book, are Mara (a young PhD student), Dag (her dog), Prof. Dr.Ustad (Mara's supervisor) and Alwin, an ex-business studies student who ends up being 'converted' to psychology. The topics covered in the books are all ones that are relevant to young people and include perception, learning, development, personality, social psychology and psychology in the workplace. There is a chapter dedicated to practical activities that will reinforce the student's learning of each topic.

I think this is a book that will appeal to any student who simply want to find out what psychology is about. They will learn useful things about themselves, such as how to enhance their learning, improve their relationships and even how to manage their stress. It will be a valuable resource for those who are already studying the subject, and teachers will find lots of ideas to use in the classroom (as well as how to manage THEIR stress!)

I hope this book is published in English very soon because it is a refreshing change from the very prescriptive texts that most students and teachers use.

*Dorothy Coombs.*





## **Ihminen mielessä: Psykologian perusteet lähihoitajalle** (“The Human Mind: Psychology Basics for Nursing Practice”)

Marjatta Lehtovirta and Leena Peltola, Finland



EFPTA Adviser Marjatta Lehtovirta of Finland, and her colleague Leena Peltola, have published a book entitled “Ihminen mielessä: Psykologian perusteet lähihoitajalle” (“The Human Mind: Psychology Basics for Nursing Practice”). It deals with how the mind works, issues of mental functions, developmental psychology, mental health basics and psychological problems and disorders. It is a psychology textbook aimed at young practical nurse students as well as adult students, at ‘second level’ and also at the beginning of ‘high level’.