



THE SOCIETY FOR APPLIED RESEARCH
IN MEMORY AND COGNITION

SARMAC

SARMAC NEWS

January 2010

Enhancing collaboration and co-operation between basic and applied researchers in memory and cognition

Message from the Executive Director Mike Toglia

As we close 2009, it has been an exciting year for SARMAC. Our membership reached 290, the second highest to 2007. OK, OK you say...but can we do better? Well in a word, YES! And I will appoint additional people to serve on the membership committee this year so to hopefully significantly increase our membership. In 2009 we set another record, that of attendance at SARMAC VIII where 310 of us gathered in late July in Kyoto. This of course contributed to a highly successful conference featuring wonderful hospitality and cultural activities, and of course, great science.

2009 brought with it some frustrations as well because SARMAC and Wiley had quite different views on the selection ACP editors. This became apparent when two editors, Bob Belli and Martine Powell, had their terms expire during 2009. SARMAC eventually opted out of the selection process. Some form of resolution will hopefully be reached in 2010. Though I noticed that their names are still on the masthead in the January 2010 issue of ACP, soon, I expect, Wiley will announce the new editors.

Due to technical difficulties, the election to seat 6 openings on the Board of Governors has been delayed. I will announce results as soon as I know them. Also delayed is the 2010 renewal, so please stay tuned. I do not anticipate any major problems from the delay.

Planning is underway for SARMAC IV in 2011 to be held in New York City at John Jay! The dates have yet to be established. A generic conference

website is being developed and the 2011 meeting will be the first to utilize it. Also under construction is a "new and improved" society website. These sites are being developed by Bryan Campbell, who is also our new Technical Advisor.

The biannual newsletters represent an important forum for the society and thus I am always so grateful to our editors, Leslie Miller and Lauren Shapiro, for their time and talent.

2010 is likely to be a year in which SARMAC will evolve in ways that will enhance itself and its reputation. And so best wishes to the society and to all of you for the New Year.

Special Issues of Cognitive Technology Steve Fiore

The upcoming issue of *Cognitive Technology* focuses on "Games for Good as Cognitive Technologies" and is guest edited by Rudy McDaniel of the University of Central Florida and Erik Vick of Rochester Institute of Technology. This special issue highlights some of the innovative and interdisciplinary research being done within the domain of cognitive technology as it relates to computer games. After several decades of research on cognition using computer games, the field has now broadened to include video games that impact cognition for a particular prosocial purpose — games known simply as "games for good." These games may be developed to examine economic policies and their impact on low SES

communities, to educate schoolchildren about history, or to encourage the discussion of public health policy for individuals who might not normally think about such problems. Because of the representational and simulated nature of games, the type of good potentially done by these types of games is limited only by the resources and imagination of the game designers and developers who produce them. As such, this represents an exciting and important area of inquiry into our understanding and study of the relationship between cognition and computer games. A list of the contributions for this upcoming special issue follows.

Learning and Change – A view from MIT's Education Arcade

Lan X. Le and Scot Osterman

University of California, Santa Barbara and
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Exercise and Play: Earn in the Physical, Spend in the Virtual

Shlomo Berkovsky, Mac Coombe, Jill Freyne, Dipak Bhandari, Nilufar Baghaei, and Stephen Kimani

Australian Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial
Research Organisation

Designing Game Affordances to Promote Learning and Engagement

Matthew Sharritt

Situated Research

Designing Games to Foster Empathy

Jonathan Belman and Mary Flanagan

New York University and Dartmouth College

Game Design towards Scientific Literacy

Margaret Chmiel

National Geographic and George Mason University

THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES ON AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL MEMORY Conference Announcement Dorthe Berntsen

**June 13-16, 2010, Aarhus University, Denmark
Abstract Submission Deadline - January 15th, 2010**

If you would like to submit an abstract, but missed the deadline, please contact Dorthe Berntsen: dorthe@psy.au.dk

Studies on people's memories for their personal lives have grown dramatically over the past 20 to 30 years. The newly established Center on Autobiographical Memory Research (Con Amore), invites you to its opening conference at the Department of Psychology, Aarhus University.

The conference brings together some of the most outstanding researchers on autobiographical memory who each presents their key findings and particular theoretical perspectives on the field. We invite all researchers in the field to submit poster presentations describing some of their most recent and exciting findings concerning autobiographical memory.

For a conference description, submission and registration information, go to:

<http://www.psy.au.dk/autobiographicalmemory>

Keynote speakers include:

Allan Baddeley, University of York
Patricia Bauer, Emory University
Dorthe Berntsen, Aarhus University
Norman Brown, University of Alberta
Roberto Cabeza, Duke University
Martin Conway, University of Leeds
Arnaud D'Argembeau, University of Liege
Merlin Donald, Queen's University
Joseph Fitzgerald, Wayne State University
Robyn Fivush, Emory University
Tilman Habermas, Frankfurt University
William Hirst, New School for Social Research
Morris Moscovitch, University of Toronto
David Pillemer, University of New Hampshire
David C. Rubin, Duke University

New Books by SARMAC Members

Davies, G.M. & Wright, D.B. (Eds.). (2009). *Current issues in applied memory research*. Philadelphia, PA: Psychology Press.

Research on applied memory is one of the most active, interesting and vibrant areas in experimental psychology today. This book provides descriptions of cutting-edge research and applies them to three key areas of contemporary investigation: education, the law and neuroscience.

In the area of education, findings from the study of memory are described which could have a major impact on testing practice, revision techniques for examinations and teaching basic literacy and numeracy. In applications to the law, recent findings shed new light on the dynamics of child abuse investigations, the status of traumatic memories recovered after long delays and a further challenge for the eyewitness: change blindness. Finally, in neuroscience, contributions cover the frightening question of whether patients can remember incidents during surgical operations under anaesthetic, the unexpected impact of handedness and rapid eye movements on memory proficiency and the status of déjà vu: mystical experience or memory error?

These accounts of recent research on applied memory have been written by leading experts in the field from both Europe and America, with the non-specialist in mind. They will interest students who wish to extend their reading beyond core material in cognitive psychology, graduates on more specialised courses in education, forensics and neuropsychology, and all those who wish to enrich their knowledge of the contemporary frontiers of applied memory research.

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Davies, Wright, Introduction. **Part I: Applications to Education.** *Roediger, Agarwal, Kang, Marsh*, Benefits of Testing Memory: Best Practices and Boundary Conditions. *Macleod, Saunders, Chalmers*, Retrieval-Induced Forgetting: The Unintended Consequences of Unintended Forgetting. *Levin, Thurman, Keipert*, More than Just a Memory: The Nature and Validity of Working Memory in Educational Settings. **Part II: Applications to Law.** *Geraerts, Raymaekers, Merckelbach*, New Advances in the Mechanisms Underlying Recovered Memories. *London, Kulkofsky*, Factors Affecting the Reliability of Children's Forensic Reports. *Laney, Loftus*, Change Blindness and Eyewitness Testimony. **Part III: Applications to Neuroscience.** *Wang*, Implicit Memory, Anesthesia and Sedation. *Christman, Propper*, Episodic Memory and Inter-hemispheric Interaction: Handedness and Eye Movements. *Moulin, Chauvel*, Déjà vu: Insights from the Dreamy State and the Neuropsychology of Memory. *Wright, Davies*, Discussion: A Future for Applied Memory Research.

Congratulations to our Fellow SARMAC Members

Congratulations to our fellow SARMAC members for earning the following awards and honors—appearing in the media—publishing and making some outstanding presentations!

NAME	Richard Jackson Harris
PUBLICATIONS	A new (5th) edition of my textbook A COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY OF MASS COMMUNICATION (2009) was recently published by Routledge/Taylor & Francis.
NAME	Pooja Agarwal
RECOGNITION	Congratulations to Pooja for receiving the American Psychological Association Early Graduate Student Researcher Award. The APA Science Student Council named Pooja as one of six students as recipients of the 2009 APA Early Graduate Student Research Award. Each student received a \$1,000 award towards research-related expenses. Nearly 160 early graduate students were nominated for the

	<p>award, representing all areas of science within psychology. The recipients were selected based on the quality of their research.</p> <p>Pooja K. Agarwal is a third year graduate student in Cognitive Psychology at Washington University in St. Louis, where she works with Henry L. Roediger, III, Mark A. McDaniel, and Kathleen B. McDermott. Pooja's research focuses on basic memory processes in order to inform how we can facilitate learning in applied settings. For instance, a growing body of research has shown that taking a test can do more than simply assess learning: testing can also enhance students' learning and improve their long-term retention of material, a phenomenon known as the testing effect. Pooja conducts investigations of the testing effect in both laboratory and applied settings. Her laboratory research focuses on the effectiveness of open-book vs. closed-book tests, the length of time between studying and testing that is optimal for long-term learning, and the interaction between individual differences and the effects of testing. Pooja's applied research at a local middle school addresses a variety of topics related to testing: optimal schedules of classroom quizzes, effective feedback methods, effects of testing on students' metacognition, and students' transfer of knowledge following quizzing. She serves as Research Coordinator of a grant from the Institute of Education Sciences, extending laboratory research on the testing effect and evaluating the benefit of testing and quizzing in classroom settings, grades 6-8.</p>
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NAME	Yuri UESAKA
RECOGNITION	<p>Congratulations to Yuri and co-authors for receiving the "Outstanding Presentation Award" from the Japanese Cognitive Science Society held at Keio University (Japan) in September. Yuri and co-author's paper was entitled "Development of a teaching method that promotes the spontaneous use of diagrams in mathematics problem solving: Effects of experience in using diagrams as a communication tool." The 4 pages abstract and information about the award will be published in <i>Cognitive Studies</i> in Vol. 17 No. 1 (March 2010)</p>

NAME	Hartmut Blank
PUBLICATIONS	<p>Blank, H. (2009). Remembering: A theoretical interface between memory and social psychology. <i>Social Psychology</i>, 40, 164-175.</p> <p>Blank, H. & Peters, J. H. (in press). Controllability and hindsight components: Understanding opposite hindsight biases for self-relevant negative event outcomes. <i>Memory & Cognition</i>.</p> <p>Lowenstein, J., Blank, H. & Sauer, J. D. (in press). Uniforms affect the accuracy of children's eyewitness identification decisions. <i>Journal of Investigative Psychology and Offender Profiling</i>.</p>

NAME	Lisa Bartolotti
PUBLICATIONS	<p>'Psychiatry as Cognitive Neuroscience: Philosophical Perspectives', published by Oxford University Press in May 2009, and edited by M. Broome (Warwick University) and L. Bartolotti (University of Birmingham), was listed among The Guardian Best Books of the Year.</p>

SARMAC Newsletter Submissions

We encourage you to send us information to share with your SARMAC colleagues. We are interested in recent publications, job announcements, calls for papers – or anything else you'd like to share with your colleagues. If you would like to include information in the next newsletter (July, 2010) please email Leslie (Drlesliemiller@hotmail.com) or Lauren (lauren.shapiro@ndsu.edu).

For more information about SARMAC Contact:

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Helping to Increase SARMAC Membership

Please invite your students and colleagues who do cognitive psychology research that spans applied and basic interests to join the Society for Applied Research in Memory and Cognition (SARMAC).

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