SERENDIPITY

ENVIRONMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY IN SPAIN

Editors: Henk Staats and Silvia Collado
Submissions

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All manuscripts should be written in Times New Roman 12 pt., double-spaced. The maximum word length for articles is 2000 words. Include names, affiliation and full contact details of all the authors, as well as a picture of every author.

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**New publications section for IAPS members**

Those members who have recently published an article in a well evaluated or high ranked journal, as well as a book or book chapter with a relevant publisher, please send your reference with a brief abstract (60 words) about the content of your publication, to: adriana.portella@yahoo.com.br, and it will be included into the next issue.
Editorial address
by Henk Staats and Silvia Collado

SERENDIPITY

With pleasure and pride we present the new IAPS Bulletin, #49, grateful for the input received from so many members. We think it is again a rich collection of articles describing the activities of a lively community.

And you are probably surprised and hopefully intrigued by the title of this editorial address. We thought it was time to introduce this term, serendipity, that is not only a beautiful word but also a marvelous concept, meaning the finding of important things you were not looking for. Not few discoveries were the result of serendipity: penicillin, radioactivity, DNA sequencing, Coca Cola ... Important issues all! The concept came to mind when reflecting on the current discussions about the possibilities and outcomes of virtual conferences, their benefits and potential drawbacks. This was for example the theme for a panel discussion at the recent ICEP conference in Syracuse, Sicily. We now know, after a number of successfully organized virtual conferences (e.g., EDRA 2021, IAPS 2020), or conferences with a hybrid format (e.g., ICEP 2021), several things: (a) it can be done, technically and organizationally, thanks to strongly committed conference organizations where valuable experiences will make it easier to do it again in the future; (b) it saves a lot of CO₂, otherwise spent in transportation, (c) it is much cheaper to participate. But there are costs as well, and these should be recognized and considered in the decision to choose a format for a future conference, and in the decision of individual participants to make the effort and incur the cost of going to a conference that (also) has a physical location. And here serendipity comes in: accidental meeting of people on the bus to the venue, sitting in at a symposium that you actually did not plan to attend, having lunch with a group of people that are new to you, and so on. These chance encounters may lead to ideas, findings and people that may well become important in your career. We think many, if not all of us, can recall such experiences. These are very unlikely to happen when participating online. And that is a plea to not completely abandon ‘real’ conferences. A hybrid formula, as used for ICEP 2021, may solve the issue partly. But recognizing that there are important potential benefits in simply exposing yourself to this wealth of accidental information might be a good heuristic.

Apart from this message, we present the History of Environmental Psychology in Spain. This is the third in this History series following the UK and Italy in the previous issues and we aim to continue this series. Similarly, we also present a continuation of My Favourite book/paper series, in which IAPS members present a piece of work that has been relevant to them, in a professional or even personal way. Two interesting, ambitious Research Programs are described, from the University of Magdeburg, and from A Coruna. And we have reports of the symposia and conferences recently held: the IAPS symposium on Sustainability in the Post-Covid Ea, and the Sustainable Wednesday on Climate Neutral Cities Series, both initiatives from the A Coruna group, the Webinar on Emotional Responses to Climate Change from Trondheim, Norway, and reports from the conferences from EDRA in Detroit, U.S.A, and ICEP in Syracuse, Italy. Also announced are the EDRA, IAPS, and Psicamb conferences to be organized next year.

And finally we have items in the News section, in the description of a recently completed doctoral thesis, and in the impressive list of Publications whose references were sent to us by IAPS members. Impressive, yes, but not complete that is what we know for sure. So don’t hesitate to send in the references of your recent work!

Enjoy Bulletin #49

Henk and Silvia
Environmental psychology 
in Spain

THE ADVENTURE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY IN SPAIN: 
SOME HISTORICAL LANDMARKS

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A WALK THROUGH THE FOG
One of the participants in a study on the psychological 
effects of walking through a forest had a curious experience. 
When he was performing the experimental task, the forest 
was suddenly covered by a thick fog. The participant 
described the situation by telling the researcher: I can 
clearly see where I am, but I don’t know how I got here. 
And, what’s more, I don’t really know where the path 
goes. A similar feeling (some confusion about the origin 
and a certain anguish about the uncertainty of the future) 
overwhelms us when trying to describe some of the key 
events and development of the journey of Environmental 
Psychology in our country. The goal of this brief article is 
to help reveal some parts of that journey that, perhaps, are 
covered by a certain fog.
GERMINATION PERIOD (1980-1986)

Environmental Psychology in Spain arose during the transition from the 70s to the 80s, and was driven by people academically linked to Social Psychology. In fact, it was a professor of Social Psychology who in 1981 edited a publication by a government institution on Psychology and Environment (Jiménez Burillo, 1981). This document reflects the work of psychologists studying various environmental issues. It cannot be considered a work, strictly speaking, on Environmental Psychology. It is, however, a relevant precedent conducted by psychologists from different psychological branches who were trying to explain some basic aspects of the people-environment interactions. Importantly, this publication helped give birth to the first book introducing Environmental Psychology, published by a major Spanish publishing house (Jiménez Burillo y Aragonés, 1986) with the intention of increasing the academic recognition of Environmental Psychology as its own unique discipline.

These initial achievements were supported by some earlier contributions in this area. For example, a book by Pinillos (1977) on the psychopathology of urban life, university courses on the same subject taught from a psychobiological point of view by Professor Francisco Rodríguez-Sanabria, and works promoted by Fernández-Ballesteros (1987). During this same period, a professor of Ecology, Fernando González Bernáldez, began a line of research in Spain that provided interesting and internationally relevant contributions on landscape perception. Moreover, the psychologist Maciá (1981) wrote a doctoral thesis on personality and landscape.

At the same time, initiatives were undertaken, especially in Barcelona, which also contributed in a very remarkable way to the creation of this decisive breeding ground for the development of Environmental Psychology. For example, around 1980, a series of meetings took place in Barcelona that focused on the school environment (Pol & Morales, 1980). In fact, in 1981, another text was published bearing the title Psicología y Medio Ambiente (Psychology and the Environment; Pol, 1981). The celebration of the VII IAPS Conference took place in Barcelona in 1982. This conference is an important milestone because it can be considered the first international event in Environmental Psychology in our country (Pol, Muntañola, Morales, & Siguán, 1984). In this context, Hernández, Remesal, and Riba (1985) published a piece of work oriented at ecological psychology.

This germinal period led to the beginning of a research program in Psychology (1981-1986), that led to a set of relevant doctoral theses (i.e., by J.I Aragonés and B. Hernández in 1983, I. López Barrio in 1984 and J.A. Corraliza, E. Pol and L. Íñiguez in 1986). From a historical perspective, these dissertations constitute psychological research of a psycho-environmental nature, and are the most relevant achievement of this germination period.

This body of research led to the organization of the First Conference of Environmental Psychology (Madrid, November 1986). More than 300 academics attended the conference, including professionals from sectors beginning to form ties with Environmental Psychology. The conference was chaired by Juan Ignacio Aragonés from Complutense University, with technical support from the Autónoma University of Madrid (José Antonio Corraliza), and scientific support from additional Spanish universities that contain Environmental Psychology programs: The University of Barcelona (Enric Pol) and the University of La Laguna in Tenerife (Bernardo Hernández). Ricardo de Castro also joined the team as a professional psychologist linked to the Environmental Agency of the regional government of Andalusia. This event was the first meeting of all the people who were working in the different academic centers of Spain. This conference provided the first opportunity to initiate a close relationship between researchers in this field. These relationships, formal and informal, provided fundamental support for mutual learning and the establishment of Environmental Psychology in Spain.


The germinal period of Environmental Psychology was born with the aforementioned First Conference on Environmental Psychology (1986). More important than the conference itself, this first meeting allowed those involved to be recognized as environmental psychologists by much of the academic world, as well as by those within environmental management. Since then, an uninterrupted series of meetings began that remains to this day. The basic data from these meetings appear in Table 1, and the Proceedings derived from each of them are cited in this table. We do not intend to provide a detailed description of each of these meetings, rather highlight some of the most relevant features that characterize this process as a whole. From the first of these meetings, an effort has been made to produce a publication linked to the meeting that documents, better than any other source, the evolution of Environmental Psychology in Spain. An analysis of the papers presented was carried out by Aragonés and Valera (2014). This historical perspective has also been documented in a video that was presented at the Conference held in Toledo (Sevillano, Pérez-García, & Aragonés, 2004).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Name of the event</th>
<th>Proceedings reference</th>
<th>Key Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>Madrid</td>
<td>I Jornadas de Psicología Ambiental</td>
<td>Aragonés &amp; Corraliza, 1988.</td>
<td>Terence Lee&lt;br&gt;David Canter&lt;br&gt;Ian Griffiths&lt;br&gt;Gerhard Kaminski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>Palma de Mallorca</td>
<td>II Jornadas de Psicología Ambiental</td>
<td>AA.VV., 1989.</td>
<td>Tommy Girling&lt;br&gt;Necdet Teymour&lt;br&gt;Denise Jodelet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Barcelona</td>
<td>V Congreso de Psicología Ambiental</td>
<td>Pol &amp; Vidal, 1996.</td>
<td>Gabriel Moser&lt;br&gt;Miguel Ángel Aguilar&lt;br&gt;David Uzzell&lt;br&gt;José Luis Pinillos&lt;br&gt;Miguel Sigüán</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Toledo</td>
<td>VIII Congreso de Psicología Ambiental</td>
<td>Américo, Cortés, Sevillano &amp; Talayero, 2004.</td>
<td>Jose Q. Pinheiro&lt;br&gt;Guido Francescato&lt;br&gt;José Antonio Corraliza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Madrid</td>
<td>IX Congreso de Psicología Ambiental</td>
<td>Corraliza, Berenguer &amp; Martín, 2006.</td>
<td>David Canter&lt;br&gt;Gary Evans&lt;br&gt;Víctor Corral-Verdugo&lt;br&gt;César San Juan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Lisboa</td>
<td>X Congreso de Psicología Ambiental</td>
<td>AA.VV., 2008.</td>
<td>María Amerigo&lt;br&gt;Juan Ignacio Aragonés&lt;br&gt;José Antonio Corraliza&lt;br&gt;Paula Castro&lt;br&gt;Paul Stern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Évora</td>
<td>XII Congreso Internacional de Psicología Ambiental</td>
<td>Bernardo &amp; Loureiro, 2017.</td>
<td>Taciano L. Milfont&lt;br&gt;Susan Clayton&lt;br&gt;Jose Q. Pinheiro&lt;br&gt;José M. Palma-Oliveira&lt;br&gt;Luisa Lima</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Tenerife</td>
<td>XII Congreso Internacional de Psicología Ambiental</td>
<td>Hernández, Ruiz &amp; Suárez, 2019.</td>
<td>Claire Twigger-Ross&lt;br&gt;Ann Devlin&lt;br&gt;Bas Verplanken</td>
</tr>
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</table>

*Table 1: List of Environmental Psychology conferences in Spain and Portugal (1986-2019).*
A second important feature of these meetings is the international orientation of Environmental Psychology in Spain, manifested in the ongoing international exchange of ideas and theories. The best indicator of this characteristic is the list of speakers invited to these congresses (see Table 1). In fact, even in the first editions of these events, intentionally, the guests always came from other countries. For example, in the first conference we had the privilege of welcoming D.Canter, T. Lee, and I. Griffiths (University of Surrey). At that time, they represented the most influential group in Environmental Psychology in Europe (see, Gatersleben, 2019), and G. Kaminski, one of the most relevant European authors in the development of Ecological Psychology. For Spanish participants, these conferences offered the opportunity to discuss and establish scientific contacts with researchers that, at that time, were leading the research in Environmental Psychology. These conferences also acted as an incentive to present research in other international conferences, such as the IAPS conferences or the events of other international associations.

A third noteworthy feature is that these conferences have also served as a stage for training and mutual learning by the participants. Thanks to the conferences, we learnt the different possibilities to explore the people-environment relationship from a psychological perspective. They also provided an opportunity to discuss some dilemmas that affect work in Environmental Psychology. For example, the debate between more basic research developments (guided by theory) versus those more linked to intervention (oriented to problems), as well as differences in methodology (qualitative versus quantitative). They were also an opportunity to experience the evolution themes of Environmental Psychology in Spain, from urban topics to the constructed environment, to issues more linked to environmental issues and environmental education. These formed part of the step to “green” Environmental Psychology (Pol, 1994) as reflected in the work of Amérito (2006) on pro-environmental attitudes and ecological behavior.

Two important milestones run in parallel with these developments. The first of these is the creation of a Master’s Degree in Environmental Intervention and Management (University of Barcelona, 1998), which incorporates Spanish and other teachers from the international sphere into their teaching training. This postgraduate offer continues to this day, and many students dedicated to environmental management have gone through its classrooms. The second is a meeting, organized by Ricardo de Castro (Andalusian Environment Agency, 1988) about the most applications and interventions derived from Environmental Psychology (Castro, Aragonés, & Corraliza, 1988).

Major advances for Environmental Psychology in Spain are the conferences of Environmental Psychology (taking place every two year) and the increased academic implementation of Environmental Psychology both in the degrees of Psychology and in other degrees (especially linked to the Environmental Sciences). The academic implementation of Environmental Psychology was reinforced in 1988 during an informal meeting in Salamanca, in which it was decided that the “environment and social behavior” content would be a mandatory component of Social Psychology curricula. This contributed to the recognition of environmental psychology as an optional subject in practically all psychology curricula. Throughout this period, new research was developed that gave rise to a new generation of doctors who developed their dissertations on Environmental Psychology. A seminar in which students presented their doctoral theses in 1992 in Orellana (Extremadura) was especially important to this process. This seminar was an exchange of ideas being developed in these new dissertations. A summary of this work has been collected by Amérito, Aragonés and Corraliza (1994). It supports the recognition of a new generation of doctors whose activity will prove to be decisive in the consolidation of academic Environmental Psychology.

As previously mentioned, these conferences have also been an excellent opportunity to meet with researchers from other countries. This expansion period has had a remarkable influence on the strengthening of ties with field researchers in Portugal (e.g., Luis Soczka and his research group) who attended the First Conference (1986). Soon after, other Portuguese researchers such as such as Luisa Lima and José Manuel Palma Oliveira joined the conferences. This Spanish-
Portuguese collaboration is key to the evolution of psychology in the Iberian Peninsula. The confluence was clearly consolidated in the Conference of Environmental Psychology in 2009 held in Lisbon. In 2017, the conference took place at the University of Évora, and the next scheduled conference will be held in Faro in 2022. At the same time, collaborations are also created with research teams in Latin America. Throughout the different conferences, the participation of Latin American researchers has progressively increased, with particular significance placed on the relationship with researchers from the Central University of Venezuela (E. Wiesenfeld and E. Sánchez) and, subsequently, with José Pinheiro (Brazil), Víctor Corral-Verdugo, César Follen Tapia and Blanca Fraijo (Mexico) and Pablo Páramo (Colombia), among others. Further north of the Pyrenees, strong ties were established with Gabriel Moser, Óscar Navarro, Karin Weis (France) and Giuseppe Carrus and Ferdinando Fornara (Italy), among others. Notably, PSICAMB maintains a special link with the Association for the Reserche en Psychologie Environnementale (ARTPENV). Both associations have been collaborating since the joint conference held in Barcelona (2013), the meetings held in Nimes (France, 2016), and in Albacete (Spain, 2017).

The international perspective of Environmental Psychology in Spanish is also reflected in a summer course on landscape perception, held in 1994 in Madrid, in which Terry Hartig, Terry Purcell, Terry Daniel and Henk Staats participated as foreign guests. We must also mention the celebration in 2002 of the 17th IAPS 2002 Conference in A Coruña (García-Mira, Sabucedo & Romay, 2002), that the first ICEP conference was held in the same city in 2017, and that García-Mira assumed the Presidency of IAPS in 2014 to 2018.

INSTITUTION-BUILDING (1998-PRESENT)
Since 1996, and the celebration of the Conference of Barcelona, a second generation of Spanish researchers have completed their doctoral thesis using a more consolidated framework of Environmental Psychology. Along with these new researchers, various aspects of Environmental Psychology related to ecological responsibility and environmental attitudes, have also been incorporated into this framework.

As indicated above, one important goal of environmental psychologists in Spain has been to record the activities carried out during the developmental process of the discipline in this country. Different universities have taken editorial initiatives to reflect the work done by Spanish environmental psychologists. The series of publications made by the Publishers Service of the University of Barcelona, entitled Monografies Socio/Ambientals, is worth mentioning. It began in 1996 and continues to the present day. Also remarkable is the set of texts published at the University of A Coruña since 1998, the year in which the VI Conference of Environmental Psychology took place there. Likewise, it should be noted that, in 2000 the Editorial Resma, a Spanish publishers company, was created, led by Bernardo Hernández. It published some proceedings of the different Conferences and several monographs of Environmental Psychology unti 2015. For example, the monograph written by Corral-Verdugo (2001) and the work edited by Áméro and Cortés (2006).

Further it is interesting to mention two important milestones regarding the development and consolidation of Environmental Psychology in Spain. The first is the Handbook of Environmental Psychology entirely written by Spanish authors (Aragonés and Amérigo, 1998, currently available as the 3rd edition of 2010). This handbook, along with others of international origin has been used to teach Environmental Psychology in Spain as well as in some Latin American countries. Soon after, in 2000, Medio Ambiente y Comportamiento Humano, the first Spanish journal of Environmental Psychology, was promoted by Bernardo Hernández. The first issue opened with a programmatic article by Robert Bechtel about the impact on Environmental Psychology of what he calls the third revolution of thought caused by the new ecological paradigm (Bechtel, 2000). This journal would continue for 10 years until its conversion into the current Psycology (Francis & Taylor), which reflects the level of development of Environmental Psychology in our context.

This process of consolidation of the discipline in Spain culminated with the foundation in 2008 of the Association of Environmental Psychology-PSICAMB (www.psicamb.org). From here onwards, all conferences – Almeria, Barcelona, Granada, Évora, Tenerife – have been organized under the auspices of PSICAMB.

OPEN HORIZONS IN ENVIRONMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

One of the keys to the period of maturity of Environmental Psychology in Spain is the foundation of PSICAMB. Indeed, researchers from Spain, Portugal and other Latin American countries, as well as researchers from other European countries, regularly participate in the activities carried out by this association. PSICAMB's activity is favoring the meetings of new generations of environmental psychologists both from the academic world and from the emerging field of professional activity related to Environmental Psychology. For instance, the first meeting on “Environmental Psychology and Vocational Psychology” is noteworthy. It was promoted by PSICAMB in 2019 and more than seventy people participated. Recently, an online meeting entitled “Jornada en verde: Psicología Ambiental en el mundo actual” (Days in Green: Environmental Psychology in today’s world) was held (February, 2021), and attracted almost 300 people.

Since 2014, PSICAMB has organized Summer Schools in different parts of Spain (Valsain-Segovia, 2014; Málaga, 2016, Granada, 2018). Notably, collaboration between PSICAMB and the Autonomous University of Madrid has led to the creation of a prize for young researchers in Environment Psychology that bears the name of Rocío Martín Herrero, a young professor of Environmental Psychology of the UAM who died prematurely in 2009. Almost two hundred studies have been submitted to qualify for this prize in the five editions of this competition.Highlighting this institutional activity of the PSICAMB underscores the importance of recognizing the work of new generations of researchers and professionals toward the development of Environmental Psychology.

The development of Environmental Psychology in Spain has been an academic and scientific adventure. There have been many occasions during which this journey has been a walk through the fog due to less than favorable conditions for academic activity and scientific research in our country. In addition to this, there were difficulties in recognition of professional activity and in the inclusion of Environmental Psychology.
Psychology within the intervention and environmental advisory schemes. However, despite these circumstances, the walk continues. Recently, the new board of PSICAMB has been formed, chaired by Mª Carmen Aguilar-Luzón (University of Granada). In fact, two of its members participated as students in the First Conference of 1986. The rest belong to generations that have subsequently joined Environmental Psychology. They are now the new protagonists. The generations of researchers and professionals that have been incorporated over the last few years are a guarantee of the continuity of Environmental Psychology in our region. New difficulties will arise and, perhaps, old ones will be rekindled. However, one thing in which we are confident is that the work in this field will continue to be a worthwhile adventure. The new protagonists will undoubtedly show as much enthusiasm as we, at other times, with successes and mistakes, have done.

We come to the end of this story – at least for now. What we have shared here is part of our biographical memory. Of course, we may have left aside events and anecdotes that have been passed on to us, at least for the moment. However, we invite and encourage our readers to expand on this story by adding their memories of the events and the anecdotes associated with them. Through this process we hope to more fully describe the breadth and scope of Environmental Psychology in our country.
References


In 2011 the chair for environmental psychology was established at the University of Magdeburg. At that time, it was the only one in Germany. Environmental Psychology at the Otto von Guericke University was established with the intention to further develop interdisciplinary research between social sciences and engineering, in particular with respect to sustainability technologies. Since then, several new chairs for Environmental Psychology have been installed, e.g. at the University of Applied Sciences in Darmstadt (Daniel Hanss), or at the University of Koblenz-Landau (Gerhard Reese). However, still unique is the offer of a master program in environmental psychology at our university (run together with my colleague Florian Kaiser). We started with about 20 applicants for the program, last year we had nearly 200.

The early team of our group consisted of three colleagues with roots in the environmental psychology group at the Ruhr-University Bochum (Ellen Matthies, Anke Blöbaum and Ingo Kastner) that was accomplished by a group of five PhD-students, all involved in a large research project on the German "Energiewende" (ENERGY-TRANS), a project that also allowed us to build up cooperation with international colleagues like Paul Stern, John Thøgersen and Christian Klöckner. Early research topics were in the domain of energy related behaviours and decisions (e.g. Bobeth & Matthies, 2018; Kastner & Stern, 2015; Nachreiner et al., 2015) and the framing of interventions in the energy sector (Steinhorst et al. 2015). Further international cooperation and activities – e.g. the EU funded GLAMOURS project or the collaboration within the PERSON network (Steg et al., 2021) enriched and advanced our development.
Over the last ten years we have developed a research program that covers the whole spectrum of environmental psychology, and in particular the manifold activities of the individual relevant for the Great Transformation towards sustainable societies. We differentiate between three lines of research projects focusing on different aspects of the role of the individual in the transformation process.

- **Active participation in change processes:** In this cluster we develop and carry out research on active acceptance of new technologies, an example is the current project AuRa (“Autonomes Rad”, in English: Autonomous Bicycle), in which we investigate potentials for a future cargo bike service, that uses autonomously driving bikes (Krause et al., 2020). Another example is a multidisciplinary project Build4People with colleagues from human geography, urban planning and others which aims at the initiation of new sustainable everyday behaviours and sustainable building practices in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. This project will be described in more detail in the next section.

- **Support of political instruments and climate policies:** Here we are learning how measures like a carbon tax or restrictive regulations affect quality of life and perceived social justice. In the project KlimaHand (Matthies et al., 2020) we investigated the subjective evaluation of the German carbon pricing system, in particular the public understanding of the use of revenues for compensatory measures. In another project we focused on psychological aspects of political activism, e.g. the motivation for engaging in the Fridays for Future Movement (Wallis & Loy, 2021). A rather new project focuses on the possible gains we have, when we engage in sufficiency behaviours for a good cause, and we coined the concept of a “solidarity-based quality of life” for this (Wallis et al., 2021).

- **Informed design and evaluation of instruments:** In a line of several projects we have critically evaluated political instruments and their interaction with everyday consumption patterns with the aim to reveal and limit unintended side effects; e.g. we could show more promising entry points for food waste reduction (Schmidt 2016) or analysed how PV-owners use their self-generated electricity (Wittenberg et al., 2018; Wittenberg & Matthies, 2016). Our expertise is in demand in interdisciplinary advisory boards (e.g. ESY, a long-term initiative of the German Academies of Sciences to evaluate the German energy transition), in governmental advisory councils, and we also work with local initiatives and collaborate with the Scientists for Future.

We do not want to present all our collaborations and research projects here, nor do we want to refer to all international cooperation. Instead, we would like to take a closer look at an international, transdisciplinary project that, in our view, particularly represents the fusion of environmental psychology research and transformation science.

### BUILD4PEOPLE – A LONG-TERM PROJECT AT THE INTERFACE OF TRANSFORMATION SCIENCE AND CLASSIC ENVIRONMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

The transdisciplinary Build4people Project (https://build4people.org) aims at enhancing quality of life through sustainable urban transformation in the capital of Cambodia, Phnom Penh. The research consortium consists of representatives from four German universities (Hamburg University: Human Geography; University of Stuttgart: Building Energetics, Thermotechnology and Energy Storage; University of Sustainable Development Eberswalde: Department of GIS and Remote Sensing; Magdeburg University: Environmental Psychology) and two German companies with their respective research (Institute for Climate and Energy Concepts, INKE; Urban Planning and Design Office, EMP Architects), as well as implementation and dissemination partners in the Kingdom of Cambodia. The local research partners of the psychological team are working in the social science department (psychology, sociology) of the Royal University of Phnom Penh. Funding agency of Build4People is the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) who has supported a 20-month Definition phase from 2019-2021. This set the ground for the current 4-year Research and Development phase (2021-2025). If the project is successful there is the chance to receive funding for another two years in the context of a so-called Implementation phase (2025-2027).

The project intends not only to work in a multidisciplinary scientific way, but also – in line with the theoretical and methodological concept of environmental psychology – to work solution-oriented and transdisciplinary, using a variety of methodological approaches such as action research concepts. The specific challenge lies in the claim to promote the normative framework of a transformative urban change towards more sustainability, and at the same time to shape the transformative change processes together with the people living in...
Phnom Penh in order to meet the demands of the sociocultural context of Cambodia (Waibel et al., 2020). When it comes to promoting change towards sustainability in Cambodia, the first questions are: how to (1) identify the biggest environmental issues on the ground and how to (2) figure out the high-impact domains that should be addressed. In this regard, the Build4People team aims at accounting for the context specific parameters that shape and influence the constraints and windows of opportunity of a sustainable urban transition.

Countries like the Kingdom of Cambodia are currently confronted with enormous construction activities in their biggest cities like Phnom Penh, Sihanoukville and Siem Reap. As the building and construction sector is responsible for about 38% of energy- and process-related emissions worldwide, it appears to be a highly significant domain when it comes to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, especially in fast growing big cities (OECD and IEA, 2013; UNEP and Global ABC, 2016).

For example, the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) anticipates a doubling of the urban population in Cambodia by 2030 and warns of housing shortages and an under-supply of infrastructure in this context (GGGI, 2019). The Build4People project therefore focuses on the situation in Cambodia’s capital Phnom Penh. To reduce building-related carbon emissions and energy systems effectively and ecologically, the multidisciplinary team focuses not only on sustainable construction materials and climate-adaptive buildings but pursues a comprehensive approach also including issues of sustainable urban planning, the impact of urban green infrastructure, the general acceptability of “green buildings”, and local energy consumption patterns. All this is guided by a people-centred approach associated to several environmental psychological concepts and research questions, considering the experiences, perceptions and behaviours of urban citizens of Phnom Penh. The focus of the environmental psychology group at the University of Magdeburg on people-environment interactions hereby becomes an essential issue in the pursuit of Build4People’s objective to enhance both the living environment of people and the ecosystem of the urban environment.

In recent years, Phnom Penh has seen the construction of many high-rise condominium buildings, urban and suburban housing developments, and gated communities for the urban upper and middle classes (the so-called “new consumers”). However, these developments do neither improve the urban quality of life for the majority nor the sustainability of the city. It is precisely the promotion of the Urban Quality of Life (UQoL) in Phnom Penh, that is the overall research-guiding aim of the Build4People Project, that is considered as an essential people-orientated multi-dimensional component of a sustainable urban transformation. In accordance with this, the project addresses Urban Quality of Life in two ways: an analytic research approach that asks for the relative impact of different objective and subjective factors on Urban Quality of Life, and a more normative approach, that understands sustainable transformation as an essential prerequisite for Urban Quality of Life, especially regarding the comprehensive Sustainable Development Goals.

The concept of Urban Quality of Life has a long multidisciplinary research tradition and brings together social sciences as human geography, sociology and environmental psychology (Bonaiuto et al., 2015). With this in mind, the conceptual framework of the research activities of the Build4People project integrates sociological, psychological and geographical aspects.

The right to a certain quality of life has to be qualified with respect to solidarity, in order to prevent the restriction of others – this is especially the case for high density urban areas. The realization of a desired individual quality of life may happen at the expense of others (e.g. gentrification or living in gated communities). At that point, Urban Quality of Life is not only an individual project. Moreover, UQoL has to be considered as a social project.
and a process of negotiation (Jaeger-Erben & Matthies, 2014). Fostering conditions that are considered through the concept of resistance resources might be one relevant goal in the domain of sustainability strategies. From the perspective of Environmental Psychology, psychological and social resistance resources play an important role when it comes to the entire resilience of the eco-social system of urban spaces. Figure 3 depicts the framework for Build4People’s integration of different factors that affect Urban Quality of Life and reflects the interplay of subjective factors (people sphere) and objective factors (sphere of environment). WP1 to WP6 reflect the different sub-projects and their main research domains concerning UQoL within the multidisciplinary consortium.

The project is very much interested in the interaction of people and their urban environments, considering the assessment of objective factors as the climate, the built environment and the socioeconomic sphere based on the cooperation with the other disciplines. This leads to a transdisciplinary process of conceptualizing the interplay of the facets that determine people’s urban quality of life. One of the relevant environmental features is the public urban green (e.g. public playgrounds, parks, road side trees). In close cooperation with the Build4People team, a Citizen Science input app is developed, that will allow to link GPS data from the field (objective data) with the assessment of these environmental features, based on people’s assessments using the app.

As the project also looks for starting points to foster sustainable behaviours and sustainable living in accordance with the overall aim to enhance Urban Quality of Life (UQoL), the methodological portfolio is supplemented by a representative household survey and focus groups, asking for the main drivers and barriers for sustainable behaviours of the urban middle-class in Phnom Penh.

This procedure is intended to illuminate possible contradictions between individual lifestyle preferences and sustainable lifestyles, and aims at the development of theory-based and data-driven intervention techniques in order to foster sustainable behaviours of the new consumers in Phnom Penh. Following the concept of a people-centred approach, and considering the inhabitants of Phnom Penh as everyday experts, all intervention methods have to be fine-tuned via participatory processes.

Besides, the action research-oriented activities of the Build4People project intend to apply participation strategies and integrate local stakeholders into the development of transition pathways that shall be initiated during the project (e.g. the so-called the “Build4People EcoCity Transition Lab”, an urban living lab consisting of several joint activities with academic and governmental institutions, mainly organized by the urban planners of the Build4people project).
According to the experiences gained from the first EcoCity Transition Lab process that took place during the Definition phase of the project funding, the impression arose that participation concepts are rather unknown in the statutory urban planning practice and political context of Cambodia. Practiced participation does not seem to work in a comparable way to the processes one might experience within Western cultural contexts.

Planning in urban Cambodia is not understood as a process but as a publication of master plan documents in a top-down manner. Those planning documents are usually already outdated upon publication given the high urban development dynamics. Correspondingly, architecture and urban planning does not seem to be much people-orientated but with a strong focus on design only. The psychological team will therefore investigate cultural, social, and psychological factors in that regard, and will thereby support the other disciplines in their action research-based activities and participation processes.

We feel that our research within the interdisciplinary Build4People project best illustrates our development as researchers in the field of Environmental Psychology. We hopefully could give a fruitful insight into our work and in particular, how we at the University of Magdeburg make use of our expertise as environmental psychologists in order to contribute to a global sustainable development.
Footnotes

1 WP1= Environmental Psychology work package.

References

Cities and regions in Europe face urgent and complex environmental, social and economic challenges for which innovative, evidence-based solutions are needed. Against the background of the climate change emergency and the COVID-19 pandemic, issues such as the importance of public space design, of access to nature, of citizen engagement in decision-making processes, as well as of social cohesion, justice and inclusiveness have come to the forefront. The aftermath of the pandemic has also revealed the importance of an energy transition shaped by citizens. Designing policy that can transform lifestyles, places and communities and make them vibrant, healthy, prosperous and resilient needs to rely on both scientific evidence as well as processes that facilitate meaningful citizen engagement and empowerment.

With these objectives in mind, at the Sustainability Specialization Campus and the Development and Learning Research Group of the Department of Psychology, at the University of A Coruña (UDC), we are engaging in cutting edge research and policy transference to advance knowledge and inform core European policy strategies such as the European Green Deal, the EU 2030 Biodiversity Strategy and the new EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change.
DEVELOPING A EUROPEAN FRAMEWORK FOR IMPACT EVALUATION OF NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

Under the coordination of myself, Dr. Adina Dumitru, and Dr. Laura Wendling from the VTT Institute in Finland, the European Commission’s Taskforce on Impact Assessment has recently published a comprehensive handbook on “Evaluating the impact of nature-based solutions- A handbook for practitioners” (Dumitru & Wendling (eds), 2021). The result of the joint effort of over 170 European researchers involved in 20 large scale European projects, the handbook is intended as the ultimate guide to state-of-the-art, scientifically validated indicators for nature-based solutions (NBS) impacts. The accompanying Appendix of Methods provides a brief description of each indicator and recommends appropriate methods to measure specific impacts, along with guidance for end-users about the appropriateness, advantages and drawbacks of each method in different local contexts, to provide decision-makers with a robust set of indicators and methodologies to assess impacts of nature-based solutions across 12 societal challenge areas. More recently, we added a Summary for Policy-makers (Cardinali, Dumitru, Vandewoestijne & Wendling, 2021), a short guide to the essentials of NBS impact evaluation, which also provides examples of how four cities and regions have used robust evidence on nature-based solutions impacts to inform policy. All these documents can be consulted on the European Commission Publications webpage here.

FOSTERING ENERGY CITIZENSHIP IN EUROPE

Dr. Adina Dumitru is the UDC lead for the new H2020 EnergyPROSPECTS project, which focuses on conceptualizing and researching the manifestations of energy citizenship in Europe, as well as its role in transitions to a sustainable, clean energy system. During the course of 3 years (2021-2024), the project will analyse different manifestations of energy citizenship (e.g. through energy communities, virtual power plants and ICT enabled smart systems, energy poverty initiatives, sustainable consumption, and sufficiency projects, energy justice movements, prosumer initiatives, renewable energy cooperatives, etc.) to better understand how to foster desirable forms of active, empowered and committed energy citizenship. These insights will bright to light how the clean-energy transition rests on a much broader range of innovations and actors than is immediately evident and articulate how transformative impacts extend beyond the primary energy system objectives of secure, environmentally sustainable, competitive, and affordable energy for Europe’s citizens.

Our research group will focus on bringing psychological perspectives to the understanding of active and passive, empowered and disempowered, and shallow and deep forms of involvement with the energy transformation. This will build on previous work undertaken in the SMARTERES project, coordinated by IAPS member Dr. Christian Klöckner, in which together with experts in social simulations, we looked at how evidence-based design of engagement and communication strategies can lead to higher rates of endorsement and acceptability of energy-related social innovations. Two of the important findings we build on from this project are that meaningful and intensive engagement processes, together with the specific targeting of experiential and social needs of particular groups of citizens lead to higher acceptability rates for policies that start out with a divided public opinion, such as radical urban transformations towards sustainable mobility or ambitious policies to achieve 100% renewable communities. We presented some of this work at the SMARTERES final (virtual) conference, and at the ICEP 2021 Siracusa conference.
Another exciting adventure we have embarked upon is the research of lifestyle options that can contribute to reaching the 1.5°C target. The IPCC concludes in their Special Report on Global Warming that limiting global temperature increase needs demand-side actions and lifestyle changes. The four-year H2020 EU project 1.5°C Lifestyles aims at fostering the mainstreaming of lifestyles in accordance with this 1.5°C aspirational climate target. The project aims to develop practical guidance for policy makers, intermediary actors, and individuals, based on scientific evidence on how lifestyle choices affect carbon footprints, and how political, economic, and social contexts enable or constrain sustainable lifestyle options and their adoption on a wide scale. The UDC team, coordinated by Dr. Adina Dumitru as lead researcher, will work on the role of health-related and environmental motivations in adopting sustainable lifestyle options and will also test different communication strategies to foster deeper commitments and behavioral adoption of such options, in different European countries.

Finally, we want to bring our expertise and knowledge to regional transformations right here where we live, in Galicia. To foster sustainable transformations here, the Campus is building strategic partnerships with various actors of the Galician health ecosystem and the Galician Healthcare Service (SERGAS). On 28 May 2021, the New European Bauhaus Galicia project “The health sector as the backbone of cultural transformation based on sustainability, inclusion and aesthetics” was launched. The Sustainability Campus is a member of this strategic alliance led by the Galician Health Service, an official partner from the New European Bauhaus.

The project, supported by the Galician regional government, brings together different actors and institutions from different regional sectors to make the health sector the driver of a “Bauhaus” type transformation of the region, through a series of innovative and ambitious pilot projects of sustainable nature-based and inclusive transformations involving scientists, the health system, key sectors such as forestry and biodiversity, as well as governmental agencies in charge of sustainability transitions, innovation and health.

Dr. Adina Dumitru and the Sustainability Specialization Campus research groups will bring their expertise on the best strategies to promote sustainable and healthy lifestyles, on nature-based solutions, sustainable architecture, social innovation, circular economy, and health and wellbeing.

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IAPS 2021 – International Symposium

“Sustainability in the Post-Covid era: Challenges and Opportunities in the face of Climate Change and the Energy Transition”
A Coruña, September 29th to October 1st

IAPS International Symposium on:

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FIRST IAPS SUSTAINABILITY NETWORK MEETING IN HYBRID FORMAT

On September 29 to October 1, 2021, the annual meeting of the members of the IAPS Sustainability Research Network took place in A Coruña. The meeting adopted the format of a Symposium with a hybrid format of presentation of works and was chaired by its current conveners Professor Petra Schweizer-Ries (Sustainable Development Laboratory of the Bochum University of Applied Sciences, Germany) and Professor Ricardo García-Mira (People-environment Research Group of the University of A Coruña, Spain), who were assisted by Professor Cristina García-Fontán (School of Architecture of the University of A Coruña, Spain), who led the coordination of the organizing committee.

PRESENCE OF THE IAPS BOARD

The symposium was attended in its inaugural session by Professor Adriana Portella, who delivered a speech on behalf of President Tony Craig and also introduced the IAPS scientific society to the attendees. The Vice-chancellor for Research and Innovation of the University of A Coruña, as well as the Director of the Tourism Agency of the Regional Government of Galicia also participated in the Opening session, and addressed their speeches of welcome to the participants.

The general theme of the symposium was about “Sustainability in the Post-Covid era: Challenges and Opportunities in the face of Climate Change and the Energy Transition”. The aim was to bring together participants from various disciplines in order to create a shared and reflective space for knowledge and debate on issues relevant to people - environmental studies and, more specifically, creative solutions to acute problems in times and contexts after a pandemic.

AN IAPS TRADITION AND A COMMITMENT WITH THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

These network events are part of an established tradition of the IAPS community, a tradition that combines presentations of research studies with discussions of theory and applications for the practice of architects, environmental psychologists, urban designers and planners, sociologists, but also all those interested in the interdisciplinary analysis on the uncertainty caused by the pandemic and the effects it is having on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), and how this is causing alarm to fall on the future of sustainability. Uncertainty is an invariable factor in all research scenarios and IAPS opened a debate about the pathways to reinforce the commitments to sustainable development. The analysis of how to face the new challenges to meet the 2030 Agenda was an important part of the context of this meeting. The organisers led the debate by way of building on and enhancing the IAPS tradition, contributing to have a presence in
the international debate of the sustainability in a so relevant moment like this for the whole planet.

GLOBAL PROBLEMS AND THE CRISIS OF COVID19
Discussions were focused on the globality of the problems and on the need for changes in the global context from both the social and ecological point of view. The analysis of the Covid19 crisis and the climate change with which it is related were a point of interest which placed the participants in a very exciting debate. The changing global context has also important implications on the ways human beings organize their settings for everyday life - their residential environments and communal services, in particular - and on the relevance of the objectives related to sustainability in our societies.

The symposium of Corunna (Spain) analyzed the complex challenges posed by the structural changes in our global context and explored a number of policy measures, as ways and instruments to transform existing urban and rural environments according to the ecological, social and economic principles of sustainability. This includes poverty alleviation and the promotion of equity, in line with the fulfilment of the United Nations sustainable development goals.

KEYNOTE-SPEAKERS AND OTHER PARTICIPANTS
We counted with more than 30 contributions, and 4 of them were our keynote speakers:

Marino Bonaiuto
Professor at the Faculty of Medicine and Psychology, Sapienza Università di Roma, Italy.

Terry Hartig
Ph.D., M.P.H. Professor of Environmental Psychology, Institute for Housing and Urban Research and Department of Psychology. Uppsala University, Sweden.

Graciela Tonello
Professor at the Faculty of Psychology, National University of Tucuman, Argentina.

Contributions on evaluation methods, data analysis, environmental indicators, community participation, energy transitions, urban transformations, human rights and the new challenge of Anthropocene, took part in the symposium, coming from countries from different parts of the world: Spain, Brazil, China, Germany, USA, Japan, Turkey, The Netherlands, Austria, South Korea, France, and Italy. All of them were part of intensive discussions with participants from various disciplines and created an exciting space for debate on issues relevant to people - environmental studies and, more specifically, creative solutions to acute problems in times and contexts after a pandemic.

THANKS TO THE NETWORK MEMBERS AND TO THE MEMBERS OF THE STEERING, SCIENTIFIC AND ORGANISING COMMITTEES
Thanks to all of you for your efforts in making this challenging and trendsetting symposium possible. We have been doing a hard work. Orzan Congress have demonstrated once again that they are at a very high level of professionalism in organising this kind of scientific events, and they have the specialized staff that we need at the Academy. I find it very clear that this company is really very recommendable for future events.

Once said this, congratulations to those who from the Steering and Organization committees have done the scientific part. Thanks also to the other members of the organising committee and scientific committee who reviewed abstracts and allowed a good quality and interesting programme. Thanks to Adriana for her support on behalf of the Presidency of the IAPS board, and for being alert and participative from the board of IAPS all the time.
REDUCING CO₂ EMISSIONS
We have received congratulations from a lot of members of our People-Environment Studies whatsapp lists (80 members from different parts of the world), underlining that this is the first time that a hybrid conference is organised within IAPS and it was a complete success. It allowed the connection of IAPS members from the five continents in this new digital space around our IAPS sustainability network meeting, with a 90% of reduction of CO₂ emissions with regard to other similar conferences organised in the past.

Regarding the number of participants, these are the results:

MAXIMUM CONNECTED
Wednesday 29-Sept. = 97 people
Thursday 30-Sept. = 54 people
Friday 1-Oct. = 30 people

TOTAL (it includes all the people connected at different times along the day)
Wednesday 29-Sept. = 531 people
Thursday 30-Sept. = 157 people
Friday 1-Oct. = 132 people

Congratulations to all for your efforts!

IMPRESSIONS ON THE FIRST HYBRID IAPS SYMPOSIUM
Adriana Portella, University of Pelotas

This year I was able to participate in the 2021 IAPS International Symposium “Sustainability in the Post-Covid era: Challenges and Opportunities in the face of Climate Change and the Energy Transition” organized in La Coruna, Spain, by Professor Ricardo Garcia Mira, former IAPS president and professor at University of A Coruña in Spain, together with Professor Petra Schweizer-Ries, former IAPS board member and professor at Bochum University of Applied Sciences in Germany. This was the first IAPS event in a hybrid format with digital open public sessions to all: yes, to all! Even the ones that could not afford to register themselves were able to participate. To me, this was the most important characteristic of the Symposium – the democratization of knowledge. With the Covid-19 pandemic, many countries are facing a huge economic recession, exchange rates and inflation have affected the income of many academics and students mainly from middle- and low-income countries. The Symposium, including the keynotes speeches and sessions of oral papers presentations were made accessible to everybody, and online participants were able to interact with in-person attendees through the public chat site. No one was left behind.

Inclusivity was also reflected in the different sessions. Of special interest to me was the presentation by Professor Sigrun Kabisch from the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research in Leipzig, Germany. She brought a very important discussion about green gentrification and how it has been potentialized by the pandemic, making cities more exclusionary. Her talk about ‘Resilient cities, resilient neighbourhoods: Challenges, conflicts, crises, and dilemmas’ brought the discussion about the importance of promoting public policies to control gentrification, otherwise, we are just creating spaces for upper classes, leaving the most vulnerable at the peripheries. This reflection brings the discussion to the global level, showing that rich and poor countries are now facing similar issues with the difference that in the Global South most of the income is in the hands of 1% that dominates the world, while 99% is living in poverty.

The platform and everything else worked fantastically well in the first IAPS event in a hybrid format. We must thank so much Ricardo and Petra for being the first network convenors to think about the democratization of knowledge, inclusion, and connection between all. All IAPS events from now on should follow their example!
The 3rd International Conference of Environmental Psychology
ICEP 2021. Siracusa Italy, October 5th-8th

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The 3rd International Conference of Environmental Psychology – ICEP 2021 took place from the 5th to the 8th October 2021 in the beautiful city of Siracusa, Sicily. Held under the auspices of the Division of Environmental Psychology of the International Association of Applied Psychology (IAAP Division 4), this was the first ICEP to take place in Italy.

The conference was chaired by Prof. Giuseppe Carrus, from the Department of Education of the Roma Tre University, and co-chaired by Prof. Luigi Alini, from the School of Architecture of Siracusa of the Catania University. It had the active support of the Siracusa Municipal Administration (Comune di Siracusa) and many local stakeholders and members of the civil society. It was also supported by important external partners, such as Frontiers in Psychology and the Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW).

The organizing partner was Symposia S.R.L., a professional conference organizer based in Italy, with a long-time experience in the organization of international scientific events (Symposia has also been in the past the organizer of the 25th IAPS Conference held in Rome in 2018). The Steering Committee included the members of the IAAP Division 4 Executive Committee, Past President Wes Schultz, President Terry Hartig, and President-Elect Sabine Pahl as well as Mathew White, who with Sabine Pahl had organized the 2019 ICEP in Plymouth.

Getting ready for the opening ceremony.
The aim of the conference was to promote the scientific debate over the most recent empirical findings and theoretical advances in environmental psychology, and to stimulate peer-to-peer discussions in qualified networks on the relationship between humans and their environments. The ICEP 2021 Conference, like the 2019 and 2017 (A Coruna) editions in Plymouth, has been an international benchmark for experienced scholars, junior researchers and professionals working in the field of environmental psychology, across the world. Of vital importance this year, the ICEP offered a chance for the environmental psychological community to get back together in person after the limited interpersonal interactions caused by the Covid-19 emergency in the past two years.

The magnificent surrounding, the seascape, the warm weather and the historical heritage of Siracusa offered an extraordinary scenario for the attendees, coming from 32 different countries around the world. A total of 269 participants attended onsite, plus 62 virtual participants that followed the main conference sessions from remote locations. The virtual option was an important chance to participate for those who could not or did not want to travel (for example, because of the Covid emergency or a desire to reduce their travel-related carbon footprint).

Several different themes have been at the centre of the discussion during the 3 days of the conference, focusing on issues such as restorative environments and human wellbeing.
nature-based solutions and humans relations to nature, climate change perceptions and adaptation, ecological behaviour, environmental education, citizen participation and environmental policies, people-environment relations and the Covid-19 pandemic emergency, place identity and place attachment, plastic pollution, sustainable energy transition, and many others.

Three keynote addresses were held, respectively, by Linda Steg, Chiara Tonelli and Florian Kaiser, all of them stimulating a rich debate and discussion among the audience on major theoretical and empirical issues.

In terms of gender participation and equal opportunities, it is important to outline that 2 out of 3 keynote speakers were women. Also, among those who responded to a non-mandatory gender indication question in the registration form, 93 participants choose the “she/her” option, 38 participants choose the “he/him” option, and 59 participants did not want to choose any of these options.

ICEP 2021 was an environmentally-friendly event in many respects, and not only because of the virtual participation option: it was a car-free “walkable” conference, because no motorized transport was necessary for attendees during all the period of the conference to move across the different conference venues and the main city places of Siracusa. An environmentally-friendly and ethical approach was also applied when choosing the catering services (with only zero-km food and beverages products used) as well as to the choice of all equipment, materials, and gadgets. Also, thanks to the Food for Good project endorsement, no food waste was produced by the conference, as any food not consumed during lunches and other social events was recovered and redistributed to charitable organizations at the end of each conference day.

Further, with regard to content, the program included a panel session on conference travel in a time of climate change, during which many participants offered comments and opinions on the challenges faced when trying to meet in real life in the different places represented by the members of an international organization like the IAAP. That conversation will surely continue in the coming years.

In sum, the 3rd ICEP in Siracusa was an important learning experience for the attendees and for the organizers and will contribute to the advancement of our knowledge in environmental psychology and in the study of people-environment relations.
Impressions on ICEP 2021

The 3rd International Conference on Environmental Psychology held in the marvellous municipality of Syracuse was my first occasion to meet colleagues, experts in behavioural, social, and environmental science coming from all over the world, and have peer-to-peer discussions with them. This was my first on site international meeting since the pandemic started and I had been waiting for this meeting for months. I had the privilege to be part of the organizing Committee of the Conference and in doing so I realized the complexity behind the organisation of such huge events during a difficult time of unprecedented uncertainties like the pandemic-syndemic times we are still facing. The context and the atmosphere of the Conference were charming: we commuted on foot between the ancient Municipality Theatre and a Baroque monumental building, located in the central square of the town. This allowed us to exercise and to admire the beauty of the place. The wonderful environment gave me the opportunity to recharge my energies, drained from the intense period of prolonged pandemic and I had the chance to have a practical experience of one of the research topics, restorative environments, I am deepening from both a theoretical and pragmatic point of view.

In the beginning of 2021, I specialized in Health Psychology discussing a thesis focused on the healing effects of both mindfulness training and exposure to nature, a research line looking to an intersection area between environmental psychology and meditation searching for possible cumulative or synergistic effects which may exist in promoting health and well-being. Authors whose research has been the basis for my own work in the last years have materialised in front of my keen eyes and excited heart, and welcomed my ideas with kindness, encouraging me for my future as a researcher. I felt as I was momentarily living in a community, in a family, oriented together to find solutions for a more sustainable lifestyle. I felt to be part of this community and I perceived a shared sense of well-being and shared responsibility in different fields of human development.

Senior researchers welcomed and encouraged junior researchers to create new research and cooperation networks and strengthen existing ones, and in so doing the bridge between tradition and innovation was built. I believe that across disciplines, harmonious integration and interconnectedness can be considered one of the basics for the optimal functioning of all systems. More than one month has passed since we came back to our routine and I must confess that I have a big nostalgia for the time spent together both during the formal meetings and during the socialization occasions organized with a care for every detail. I look forward for ICEP 2023 in Denmark and meanwhile I hope to have the occasion to link with the wonderful people I met, looking for interesting collaborations.

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Terry Hartig carefully listening to the scientific debates.

Stefano Mastandrea actively participating in the scientific debates.
Reflections on EDRA52 DETROIT JUST ENVIRONMENTS: How we all came together in “Virtual Detroit”

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In the fall of 2019, the EDRA Board of Directors welcomed proposals for the 2021 annual meeting, and it seemed to me that the University of Detroit Mercy could take this on. After discussing the idea with the administrators and faculty in the School of Architecture and Community Development, I began to invite a team of committed and inspired people to help envision, plan, and organize this event. We formed a collaboration with Wayne State University which brought interdisciplinary interests and backgrounds to the Conference Organizing Committee. We wanted the EDRA52 conference to be grounded in Detroit and to speak about issues at the core of our city. We thought of the conference as a place for people to make time and space for relevant discussions and sharing of ideas, and we began to envision this event in November 2019 as an in-person event in the city of Detroit.

As we discussed our potential focus, a search for justice emerged as the one issue to which all questions led and
in which all problems converged. Our location in Detroit called for discourses that confronted tensions related to physical borders, urban fragmentation, marginalization, and all types of exclusionary divides.

The final conference theme, JUST ENVIRONMENTS, aligns with EDRA’s critical mission of social justice, sustainability, and the improvement of the quality of life for all people. The subtitle, Transdisciplinary Border Crossings, highlights research and practice and supports the intentional questioning of disciplinary borders, inclusiveness, and sensitive collaborative approaches. Seven conference themes were crafted to invite submissions from a range of disciplinary, interdisciplinary, and transdisciplinary perspectives and methods: framing just worlds | building just communities | sharing just resources | creating just societies | supporting just movements | designing just places | accessing just technologies. In addition, submitters had to identify one or two tags we used to organize transdisciplinary tracks: #techdata, #politicsplace, #researchpractice, and #futureimaginings.

SHIFTING FROM IN-PERSON TO HYBRID TO FULLY VIRTUAL

Although our proposal for an in-person event was submitted to the EDRA board and approved in early 2020, early on we strategized the shift to a hybrid program due to Covid-19, and our Call for Proposals was launched in mid-August, with enough built-in flexibility to be open to either a hybrid or fully virtual format. By mid-fall, it was clear that we had to shift the event to a virtual conference. The venues at Wayne State, including the beautiful McGregor building and the Detroit Mercy School of Law historic building would no longer host conference attendees from different countries, and hotel contracts and food vendors became irrelevant. But we were still excited to hold this event in what we call “virtual Detroit”! Our priority was to continue to ground the conversations in Detroit via the selection of exciting invited speakers, the shaping of conference themes through concurrent sessions, and virtual “mobile sessions,” typically held at EDRA conferences as out-of-venue trips to local destinations and organizations.

BUILDING THE CONFERENCE PROGRAM

The EDRA52 program featured 213 sessions, including Opening and Closing Keynote sessions and two Plenary events, several EDRA events (such as the CORE and Great Places Awards Ceremony, Opening and Closing Ceremonies, the EDRA members meeting, and EDRA Knowledge Network meetings), and Concurrent Sessions with close to 500 interdisciplinary presentations by presenters from 32 countries. These sessions included accepted proposals at the individual level (Paper and Abstract), group level (Workshops, Symposia, Practitioner-Researcher Collaborations), and visual presentations (Posters, and Digital Media Shorts). Twelve Virtual Mobile Sessions explored grounded work by Detroit groups and communities. The documentary film Baggage was featured on the last day and tackled questions of immigration, identity, and diversity. In addition to sessions, the conference also included themed lounges, an exhibit hall with posters and digital media shorts, and 1:1 networking breaks.
Among the many conference sessions listed above, two were particularly important for centering the conference on its theme and in Detroit: mobile sessions and invited speakers. First, 25 local organizations from Detroit, many non-profits, collaborated to hold mobile sessions showcasing their on-the-ground justice-building work in the city. Second, because of the all-virtual format, we felt that it was important to include a major keynote or plenary event each day. Ten invited speakers were highlighted at the conference and included (in order of appearance): Sharon Egretta Sutton, Lauren Hood, Toni Griffin, Marc Norman, Dan Kinkead, Julian Agyeman, James Rojas, Jeff Hou, Setha Low, and Justin Garrett Moore. Their perspectives and the work they shared at the conference and included (in order of appearance): Sharon Egretta Sutton, Lauren Hood, Toni Griffin, Marc Norman, Dan Kinkead, Julian Agyeman, James Rojas, Jeff Hou, Setha Low, and Justin Garrett Moore. Their perspectives and the work they shared at the conference were truly inspiring and provided a sense of hope and justice which served as a point of unity for the myriad of focused and concentrated presentations happening at the conference.

CONSIDERING THE VIRTUAL EVENT AND THE PLATFORM: PROS AND CONS

Because of the virtual format, we had to consider various global time zones. We decided we would attempt to compress the duration of each day and extend the conference for one more day (for a total of five days). We received an extremely large number of submissions to the conference (close to 800), and began to understand this would likely be a large conference. In particular, while the majority of the other virtual platforms have a limit of 8 on camera, Accelevents allowed up to 25 on-camera participants which we felt may help promote discussion. Using a single platform helped us to organize the entire content, and having only one link to the platform site allowed all presenters and attendees to participate in all sessions; however, we received a dozen enquiries by presenters asking for the link to their presentation/s. Because of a steep learning curve when attendees shifted from Zoom to an unfamiliar platform, we put together various handouts throughout the conference as we discovered attendees’ questions, such as “How to make this full screen?” “Can I upload a handout?” “What do I do if my microphone is not working?”

VOICING ATTENDEES’ PERSPECTIVES

A total of 736 people navigated the EDRA52 hub, presenting and attending presentations, chatting and leaving comments, meeting with other researchers and practitioners, downloading materials, and viewing recorded content. Three findings emerged from the attendees’ perspective: First, a thorough appreciation for the conference theme, the subthemes, and sessions, in essence the quality of the conference content. Attendees complimented both the invited keynote and plenary speakers’ presentations, and the diversity and transdisciplinary nature of concurrent sessions. Second, some critiques related to the number of concurrent sessions and scheduling. We attempted to distribute sessions to limit overlaps within the same conference theme. Nevertheless, the large number of concurrent sessions became a limitation in the virtual settings, as it would have at an in-person event, with attendees having to decide which presentation to attend and which to miss out on. Third, most critiques related to technical difficulties. Many such problems will likely be avoided as virtual platforms evolve and software programmers improve the user interface. For example, I just learned that Accelevents now has breakout rooms (whereas we had to manually create separate rooms for those requesting breakouts!).

SHARING MY FINAL THOUGHTS

The sheer number of presentations determined a very packed program in which we built short breaks for 1:1 networking and a final hour for visiting the lounges and the exhibit area of the conference, or attending mobile sessions. We were happy to see that sessions were well attended, that a great number of attendees visited the poster exhibit and the lounges, and that a fair number participated in 1:1 networking (a sort of blind-date short meetings).

As Conference Chair I am extremely thankful to all the Co-Chairs serving on the Conference Organizing Committee, the EDRA52 Conference Manager and Conference Assistant, and to the students and staff at Detroit Mercy for their dedication, time, and hard work. I also want to acknowledge the support and assistance I received from the Executive Director and Board of Directors of EDRA, who were responsible for advising many key decisions, and approving all budget-related items. Finally, I would like to thank all attendees and presenters for the energy and hope you brought to EDRA52 Detroit, joining from different countries to share work and learn from each other. Let’s continue to work together to make the future more just!
End of conference toast at SACD.

Central tech hub at SACD Detroit Mercy 4.
I have recently attended the ‘EDRA52 Detroit Just Environments: Transdisciplinary Border Crossing’ event, and I must admit that this was one of the most fantastic Conferences that I had ever attended. The event focused on how research, design, and relationships between people and environments contribute to the creation of social justice. The Conference began on May 19th, 2021, with the amazing Dr Sharon Egretta Sutton, the first African American woman to become a full professor in an architecture degree program in the USA, and an activist for inclusion and diversity in architecture and urbanism. As I watched her keynote lecture, I was stunned by the reflections that she was presenting: her critical views on the white supremacy still so present in our Architecture schools; the reflections about teaching students to continuously produce the commodities of a consumerist society that exclude most of the global population because they are poor. As an architect, academic and researcher from the Global South, I believe that Sharon’s fight and arguments should be of all of us. The pandemic has shown that we are not on the same boat. Many academics, researchers, students are now swimming alone, trying to reach the academic productions of those in rich economies, but the inequalities are so extreme that even participating in an international conference can feel like a utopian wish. I must admit that watching Sharon’s talk for a mostly white audience, in a conference with registration fees not accessible to many, made me reflect on whether we are perpetuating inequalities and exclusion inside academic events as well. We should aim for social registration fees to all from low and middle-income countries (LMIC), and search for recovering the knowledge from local populations, community leaders and representatives of the most excluded. I realised I am part of a system that I fight against, and that I want to change. I think that listening to Sharon has made many of us reflect about what we are teaching in the classroom and how we are doing research. The low-income local communities cannot only be our case studies. They must also be our base, the foundation of our teaching and our research development process as academics. For me, the EDRA52 Conference was a watershed, a reference point on what we should all consider for our next events, meetings, work, and life. The Conference was online, but the keynotes and presentations were so vivid that I felt that I was physically present there, together with them in a room. The technical support and online platform were excellent, and Claudia Bernasconi did a fantastic job. Congratulations to all organizers for promoting this fantastic event.

Adriana Portella
Professor
University of Pelotas
Member of IAPS Board
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The European Green Deal has one goal: to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by more than 50% by 2030. It focuses its strategy on cities, which consume 65% of the world’s energy and are responsible for more than 70% of global energy attributable to human action. Reaching climate neutrality by 2050 is a priority and requires more integration of knowledge and the social and digital research that generates it.

The development of telematic digital skills (ICT) to face this challenge will mean consolidating this positive relationship between digitization and socio-economic progress. It will optimize effort and results. We will get more for less, reducing waiting or repetitive tasks and facilitating access to information and a greater number of services. At the same time, cities will improve their operation and the responsible administration of their energy, waste management, water and transport needs, in a much more efficient way.
This inclusive ambition counted last April 14 and 21 with the presentation of the #SustainableWednesdays, a series of e-Conferences on "Climate Neutral Cities", which developed a digital platform of ecosystems working around Climate Neutrality. The aim was to contribute to the discussion on the reduction of emissions with an inclusive and collaborative approach to citizen participation and social innovation.

#SustainableWednesdays was supported by a psychosocial and digital proposal, led by Barak Can, Maastricht University, which together with other 56 partners from 20 countries, and the collaboration of our People-Environment Research Group at the University of A Coruña has been involved in a digital one-stop-shop for climate neutral cities, aiming at bringing cities, public institutions, businesses, innovators, entrepreneurs, knowledge centres, citizens, financial investors together to collaborate on creating multiple value for future generations as well to achieve EU Green Deal ambitions. A proposal of unified systemic repository of climate action plans, an open-source framework for deploying Climate Data Hubs with digital enablers such as AI and Internet of Things, customizable and co-created climate city contracts were part of the work presented at the series of e-conferences. We took an Action Now! approach and roll out existing European R&I and social innovations, supported with thousands of sustainability experts.

Our vision for the digital platform was to bring together ecosystems of knowledge institutes, NGOs, and sustainability experts, through a neutral, incentive-compatible and multi-sided digital market and brokerage service (a one-stop-shop) for end-users. This vision entailed three important components: 1) a dynamic living repository of indicators, technologies, climate action plans and behavioural tools for individuals, cities and businesses, built upon existing good practices; 2) an open-source IT infrastructure and ICT building blocks to implement Climate Data Hubs (CDHs) which will be empowered by citizens and citizen scientists and leveraged via existing city networks and supported by Regional/National Statistical Institutes to enable systemic implementation across Europe, and 3) frameworks and blueprints for customizable climate city contracts to be co-created with citizens, companies and knowledge institutes in cities that take into account the legal and governance context of the city. In the implementation of all these core components, citizen engagement and empowerment are cross-cutting philosophies for this perspective.
Emotional responses to climate change
- mental health and climate action

On June 17 2021, a Polish-Norwegian team of researchers hosted the webinar Emotional responses to climate change - mental health and climate action. The webinar was a kick-off event of the international project “Climate Change Emotions” funded by the Norway Grants of the National Science Center Poland. The project aims at understanding the patterns of emotional responses to climate change in relation to people's engagement in climate issues and their mental health.

The webinar started with a concise presentation on the fundamental aspects of the psychology of climate change given by a specialist in environmental psychology, professor Christian Klöckner from NTNU - Norwegian University of Science and Technology. In his presentation, professor Klöckner gave an overview of the individual, social and contextual drivers of people's attitudes and behaviour in the context of climate change.

After this informative prelude, professor Artur Marchewka, the leader of the project from the Nencki Institute of Experimental Biology and a specialist in affective neuroscience, introduced the aims and methods of the team's research on Climate Change Emotions. He spoke briefly about the aims of the project - developing a psychometric tool for assessing emotions related to climate change, identifying the determinants and effects of different patterns of emotions experienced in this context, and investigating neural signatures of emotionally charged stimuli about climate change.

In the next part of the webinar, the team presented the work they have accomplished so far. Michalina Marczak, PhD candidate at NTNU, presented her exploratory study.
of the emotional landscape of climate change concern conducted in Norway among people who self-identified as very worried about climate issues. In her presentation, based on over 30 in-depth interviews, she spoke about the context and psychological impacts of experiencing a complex palette of strong emotions - predominantly different shades of sadness and anger, as well as the feelings of apprehension, insecurity, hopelessness, confusion, powerlessness, guilt, and isolation.

PhD candidate Dominika Zaremba and postdoctoral researcher Małgorzata Wierzba from the Nencki Institute gave a presentation on their qualitative exploration of climate change emotions in Poland with a focus on positive emotions and sources of hope. Although the participants of 40-in-depth interviews experienced mostly negative emotions, in the presentation the researchers focused on interviewees' positive emotional experience - respect and admiration for climate activists, pleasure and satisfaction from one's own pro-environmental engagement as well as hope and sense of empowerment derived from collective climate action.

Aleksandra Herman, postdoctoral researcher from the Nencki Institute presented a different approach to measuring emotions people experience in relation to climate change. She used a topographical self-report method, whereby participants were shown two silhouettes of bodies alongside emotional states (e.g. happiness, sadness) and phenomena (including climate change) and were asked to color the bodily regions whose activity they felt increasing or decreasing while viewing each stimulus. In the talk, bodily sensations associated with different emotions and climate change were presented.

The audience had a chance to inquire more about these first studies conducted by the Climate Emotions Team during a lively Q&A session chaired by professor Jarosław Michałowski, a specialist in clinical psychology from SWPS University. To engage the audience even more, during the break before the research presentations, the participants were invited to take part in the experimental procedure used in the study of body maps of climate change emotions.

In the final part of the webinar, the team's collaborator, doctor Magdalena Budziszewska, a psychologist from the University of Warsaw, presented the work of her alma mater’s Climate...
Initiative, a network of scientists and students sharing knowledge on climate change, which she co-founded.

The last part of the webinar was a vigorous panel discussion between scientists and activists on bridging the gap between research and practice. Scientists were represented by professor Klöckner and professor Marchewka. On the side of activists were Magalie Pissoneau, the leader of the Trondheim branch of the Norwegian environmental and development organisation Spire, Kacper Lubiewski, the leader of the Youth Climate Strike in Opole, Poland, doctor Agnieszka Kluba, a representative of the Extinction Rebellion movement and a researcher in the Institute of Literary Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences and Magdalena Budziszewska, the above-mentioned academic and co-founder of the University of Warsaw Climate Initiative. The opinions of the panelists corroborated the relevance of emotions in the climate change debate and action, and thus the importance of studying them in a systematic way.

You can find more about the Climate Change Emotions project here: https://climate-change-emotions.org

You can watch the talks from the webinar on the project’s youtube channel: https://bit.ly/37440Zm
Dear colleagues and friends of IAPS,

The XVI PSICAMB Environmental Psychology Conference scheduled for June 2021 did not take place. For the Organizing Committee and for PSICAMB, this event is usually characterized by an environment of social proximity and an affective experience that is stimulating and pleasant, so it was decided to postpone it to take place face to face.

Thus, we renew our invitation to participate in the XVI PSICAMB Environmental Psychology Conference: “People and places in a changing world: Socio-spatial behaviour for sustainability”, from April 11th to 14th 2022. The conference, organized by the University of Algarve under the auspices of PSICAMB, will take place in the beautiful and welcoming region of the Algarve, in the city of Faro, Portugal. We are confident that we will repeat the success of previous editions.

As in previous editions, the conference is characterized by being multidisciplinary, aimed at academics, researchers and professionals in the psychological sciences and other disciplines, such as architecture, urbanism, geography, tourism, natural sciences, etc. working in the field of Environmental Psychology. The deadline for abstracts is October 18th, 2021. All slide shows will be in English, and the presentation language can be Portuguese, Spanish or English.

We hope to meet you in Faro,

Ana Loureiro, on behalf of PSICAMB, and Gabriela Gonçalves, on behalf of the Organizing Committee

congressopsicamb2021@ualg.pt

www.congressopsicamb2022.pt

And the former

www.congressopsicamb2021.pt
IAPS conference is a biannual international meeting, whose next edition, the 27th, will take place the 4th to the 8th July of 2022 at Iscte-University Institute of Lisbon (Lisbon, Portugal).

IAPS 2022 retakes climate change, its challenges and impacts as a major issue to current societies. It assumes that the increasingly visible and unavoidable impacts of a changing climate are already recasting several dimensions of our way of living and that additional knowledge is needed of in-motion transitions as well as innovative arrangements to tackle this central issue. Portugal is at the forefront of sustainable interventions and innovations in several domains, such as renewable energy generation, nature-based solutions, and biodiversity conservation. The environmental conflicts reveal that we need greater reflection, discussion and solutions in three interrelated areas: governance, sustainability and consumption. However, both Portuguese urban and rural environments are producing some of the most important and heated current debates concerning people-environment studies, namely regarding gentrification and touristification; the low carbon transition; and adaptation to climate change (e.g., sea level rise; loss of biodiversity). IAPS 2022 will address the challenges of these three themes.

The website containing all the relevant information about IAPS 2022 Lisbon is already online at https://www.iaps2022.com/

The call for submissions will open soon. The deadline for abstracts submission will be the 23rd of January 2022.

We look forward to receiving your submissions and to welcoming you in Lisbon next summer!

The Organizing Committee.
The Environmental Design Research Association (EDRA) invites practitioners, researchers, and educators to submit their proposals and join the 53rd annual conference on the theme Health in All Design. The conference will focus on the role of the built environment in promoting health, equity, sustainability and resilience as we move beyond the pandemic.

As we experience a global pandemic, it has become imperative that environmental designers and researchers consider health – a state of complete physical, social and mental wellbeing over time – as a critical goal for all design projects. The pandemic has highlighted the importance of the built environment in promoting safe and healthy lifestyles by providing access to outdoors and green spaces for physical activity; good air quality and building layouts that support hygienic practices indoors; and ergonomic design that promotes wellness in workplaces. The pandemic has also highlighted stark inequalities – black, indigenous, and other people of color (BIPOC) communities have been disproportionately impacted in terms of mortality, illness and unemployment. Providing access to safe and affordable housing, healthcare and health-promoting resources has never been more critical for these communities. Greenhouse gas emissions resulting from human activity, including transportation, building construction, and operation, contribute to climate change, and the destruction of ecosystems. Designs should not only improve individual and community health, but also help preserve planetary health. Inclusive of sustainability, cities should help nurture diverse environments, cultures, and economies locally and globally. Design should also support resiliency so communities can anticipate and recover from the unknown challenges that lie ahead. This is needed now more than ever before.

This conference invites papers that focus on the theories, research methods, histories, practices, and design solutions related to promoting health, equity, sustainability and resilience through the design of the natural and built environment.

More information here: https://www.edra.org/page/edra53cfp

We hope to see you in Greenville!

Sincerely yours,
The EDRA 53 Conference Committee
My Favorite Book
or Paper
FAVOURITE BOOK: ADVANCED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

If I reflect on inspiring contributions for who I am now professionally, I owe much to a handbook of Environmental Psychology that I studied for an University module, named “Advanced Social Psychology” during the 3rd year of my 5-year Degree Course in Psychology at the Sapienza University of Rome. I had chosen the path of Work and Organizational Psychology, which included also modules on Social Psychology topics, but the “Advanced Social Psychology” module, all focused on people-environment relationships, was actually different from the others (including the ones I attended afterwards) and indeed quite new and exciting for me. The main book to study for the module exam was exactly this handbook, titled “Psicologia Ambientale. Introduzione alla Psicologia Sociale dell’Ambiente” (“Environmental Psychology. Introduction to the Social Psychology of the Environment”), written by Mirilia Bonnes (who was the module teacher) and Gianfranco Secchiaroli, and published by the Italian publisher “La Nuova Italia Scientifica” in the 1992. An English translation of this volume was published later by Sage in 1995. The attention put on the spatial-physical features and on how people feel about, think of and use the places they cross, and the focus on which attributes are behind our environmental preferences as well as our wellbeing or discomfort related to our place experience were distinctive aspects of this volume not addressed in all the other modules (and studied books) of my Degree Course. The handbook addressed the main theories, constructs, and topics of Environmental Psychology through an “historical” view, highlighting the multidisciplinary underpinnings of this domain, the forgetfulness of the physical space in the other psychology domains, and the importance of theoretical perspectives which represented the fertile ground of development for people-environment studies. The study of this book oriented remarkably my subsequent choices, from the Degree Thesis (in Environmental Psychology) on.

Ferdinando Fornara
University of Cagliari

FAVOURITE BOOK: CHANGE OF HEART. WHAT PSYCHOLOGY CAN TEACH US ABOUT SPREADING SOCIAL CHANGE

Change of heart is a book that connects two topics that I am passionate about in research: social change and environmental psychology. With a divulgation character, but based on scientific publications of the last 60 years, Nick Cooney talks about the influence of social norms, the benefits of social networking, and many different techniques that activists can use to achieve social change. This book is a good starter for all those curious to discover how to achieve those social changes to get a more sustainable society. For me, it has become a “must” that I recommend to my students because it puts into real context the theories that we handle in class, allowing them to connect theory and practice and empowering them to get the change they are looking for.

Cristina Gómez
Santiago de Compostela University

FAVOURITE BOOK: ENVIRONMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

About 20 years ago, when I started my career in this field, environmental psychology was not well known in Japanese psychological society (unfortunately, it still is not that well known), and there were not many textbooks written in Japanese. So I bought this book, one of the standard textbooks in English-speaking countries, and then translated the entire book into Japanese for my study. This became known to other researchers in Japan, and led me

Seiji Shibata
Sagami Women’s University
to meet with many researchers in people-environment studies in Japan. Unfortunately, the manuscript of the Japanese translation was not published, but later, when I had the opportunity to publish the book on environmental psychology that was not a translation, this experience helped me a lot to cover a wide range of topics in this broad and exciting field of environmental psychology. Subsequently, I have held important positions such as president and vice president of academic societies in people-environmental studies and environmental psychology in Japan, and have been in a central position in these fields. It all started with this book. In this sense, this book is one of my favorites, or rather, one that I have deep feelings for.

FAVORITE BOOK: THE ENIGMA OF OEDIPUS

Florian Kaiser
Otto-von-Guericke University

Placed at the crossroads of evolutionary biology, ethology, sociology, cybernetics, philosophy, and psychology, Bischof uses Freud's Oedipal stage in people's psychosocial development as a phenomenon that he demystifies with his alternative model of human motivation. Not only is Bischof an academic of charismatic proportions able to bring you to deeper insights into the human mind and into thinking about the human mind, but he is also a gifted writer who entangles you in the fabric of his storytelling. Bischof is an exemplary scholar who has had a lasting impression on me. Many of the notions portrayed in this book have accompanied me throughout my own academic life. Whereas its core message (the motivation model) became part of my doctoral dissertation about place attachment (see Kaiser & Fuhrer, 1996), the Huxley allegory, mentioned on page 291, inspired one of my most recent pieces (see Kaiser, 2021). Kaiser, F. G. (2021). Climate change mitigation within the Campbell paradigm: Doing the right thing for a reason and against all odds. *Current Opinion in Behavioral Sciences, 42*, 70-75. Kaiser, F. G., & Fuhrer, U. (1996). Dwelling: Speaking of an unnoticed universal language. *New Ideas in Psychology, 14*, 225-236.

FAVORITE BOOK: ENVIRONMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

William Sierra Barón
University Surcolombiana

The book Environmental Psychology, a general approach by Charles Holahan, is one of my favorite books, because it was the first approach I had with environmental psychology when I was pursuing the Master’s Degree in Education at the Surcolombiana University. For my Master’s thesis I developed research that included an analysis of pro-environmental behaviors associated with water consumption in university students, among others aspects. In this book I found an overview about the object of study of Environmental Psychology and some of its related topics, which piqued my interest in this exciting field. After this process, both in my subsequent postgraduate training and the research that I have been developing integrate issues associated with Environmental Psychology. It’s in this way that this book motivated my interest in Environmental Psychology.

FAVOURITE BOOK: SNOOP: WHAT YOUR STUFF SAYS ABOUT YOU

Raquel Pérez-López
Universidad Complutense de Madrid

Snoop: ‘What your stuff says about you’ is the perfect book if you like gossiping. I’d guess Sam Gosling did not write this piece thinking about this idea, but you can apply it when you visit your friends’ houses. The book is perfect for exploring the relations between Personality, Social and Environmental Psychologies. If you are interested in knowing the
importance of the traces you or your relatives leave behind, I encourage you to read it. The author follows a clear line that drives the reader from the key elements of personality, the Big Five, to their reflection on the settings that surround the person. In the course of this path he precisely explains how social conceptions influence daily impressions and assumptions. Illustrating all the book with relevant research, the reader gets a perfect picture of the clues that are needed to be used in order to become a great snooper, or those that s/he should display when intending to show the best image of her or himself.
The study of connection with nature (CWN) comes from approaches focused on different aspects of the phenomenon, making the concept somewhat diffuse, and generating great conceptual debates (affective vs. cognitive; biophilic vs. socio-constructed; attitudinal vs. identitarian). Despite this, existing evidence agrees about the existence of a central psychological construct (Tam, 2013). The main objective of my PhD Thesis was to establish a framework for CWN that helps to define the construct by encompassing its various qualities and setting a solid position for its study. The definitions given for CWN and the scales used to register the construct focus on the relation between nature, Self and identity (e.g., Clayton, 2012; Schultz, 2001). Given this, in my PhD thesis we considered the CWN qualities and aspects as part of the building processes of self-knowledge and their manifestations. We propose a model in which CWN is seen as a significant personal bond with nature, based on positive feelings towards nature that then lead to conscious and/or intuitive identifications with the natural environment.
These feelings arise from the positive emotional/affective experiences of nature contact. The capacity of some natural stimuli to generate these intrinsic rewards would place the development of CWN in the processes of eudaimonic construction of identity (e.g., Ryan et al., 2008), and hence satisfy some basic psychological needs and motivational properties of the Self. The studies developed investigate the basis of this model.

The first study shows how the two main dimensions of CWN (affective and cognitive) are positively related to contact with nature, and how this factor also explains the relation between CWN and socio-demographic characteristics (e.g., gender, cultural context and political identity). The second study investigates the relations of the cognitive and affective dimensions of CWN with the types of Self-constructions and well-being. We found that the affective dimension is linked to hedonic and eudaimonic (especially social) well-being, and this last is due to the metapersonal Self-constructs that this dimension would shape. The cognitive dimension could develop over the affective one, since it is also based on metapersonal structures but it does not relate to eudaimonia. On the contrary, it has a negative impact on well-being, which could point to the difficult coexistence of CWN with other identities and social environments that harm nature.

In the next study, we compared the effects of different natural experiences on CWN: visualization of diverse nature images vs. walks in natural spaces. Our results show that direct contact with nature awakens the affective and cognitive responses of CWN. The strongest effects were found in the environments that were more natural and further from cities. With effects according to the nature immersion provided by the walked environments. Open-ended reports were collected after these experiences, and the key elements for the eudaimonic construction of identity were identified and related to a greater CWN effect. These are intrinsic reinforcement (well-being effects), freedom and autonomy, and metapersonal reflections in relation to nature. The visualization of images had an effect just on the cognitive dimension, which related to ecological reflections freely reported.

We then moved on to analyzing the affective experiences produced by different natural stimuli and how these facilitate CWN. To do this, we exposed participants to simulated narratives scenarios in which different experiences in nature were created (experimental vignettes methodology). Our results showed that some natural environments (green fields and coastal) and environmental conditions (mild climates, abundant vegetation and fresh water) are optimal to produce CWN and well-being. In addition, the presence of harmless animals and other people in the scene bring playful enjoyment, which is a high-activation well-being response. Urban green environments offer safe experiences, but limited well-being (generally relaxation). Wild environments such as deserts and forests are ambivalent, enhancing awe and revitalization (also high-activation types of well-being) but also biophobia and excessive isolation. These are discomfort responses also produced by dangerous animals and adverse climates. The non-numerous company of others helps control discomfort effects without impairing well-being effects. The relation between exposure to nature and CWN was fully mediated by affective responses: well-being leads to connect with the environments, while discomfort discourages it. Interestingly, all types of high-activation well-being enhanced feelings of personal fulfillment, a second-order effect key to consider CWN as an eudaimonic construction of the Self.

In the last study, we exposed participants to visual natural stimuli and assessed whether nature exposure was linked to basic emotional responses according to axes of pleasure and activation (arousal). Eye-tracking was used to analyze eye movement while exposure to nature, so that automatic reactions patterns were considered. We found that the emotional effects of landscapes types rely entirely on their natural components, which produce responses similar to the ones described in the previous study. And similarly, the pleasure response is directly linked to an enhanced CWN, mediating this effect. Gaze patterns were agile, quick and broad, prioritizing threat search and control. This indicates that CWN requires ruling out danger in the natural space, which broadens its biophilic focus to take biophobia into account. All types of individual’s responses were not conditioned by participant’s characteristics, so they can be considered universal reactions.

Overall, the results of this thesis support that CWN is an eudaimonic construction of the Self, with its affective dimension and positive experience in nature as key aspects. The identification of the environmental and social conditions, as well as psychological mechanisms necessary to include nature in the Self can help the design of spaces with nature and planning of experiences that ultimately lead to well-being and develop CWN.
References


Each month, the network offers members a chance to present research they have found or worked on, in a forum for discussion and critique. These Paper Exchanges have served as community building events for the international array of attendees (sometimes at odd hours in various locations) and have showcased the inter/transdisciplinary nature of the people-environment field. Topics have included Human-Environment Studies in the Time of COVID-19, Spatial Justice, Learning Spaces and Institutional Environments, and the Use of VR in People-Environment Studies. The conveners have also put together an impressive speaker series, curated by all members through shared documents and brainstorming tools. This series has hosted iapsREN convener Ellie Ratcliffe, epidemiologist Rich Mitchell, social science research methods expert Alia Dietsch, and Edward Edgerton, environmental psychology researcher analyzing design in school settings. The network was also able to host events such as a social hour for members, which has been helpful for collaboration and networking.

Overall, there are over 30 members of the IAPS Early Career Researchers Network, meeting in various capacities once or twice a month. The network continues to be open to feedback from members through various channels. The conveners hope the network has a presence at the upcoming 2022 IAPS conference, and have started to plan future growth of the network in anticipation of this event.

If you would like to join the IAPS Early Career Researchers Network, please fill out this Google form (https://forms.gle/YA7MCZHECG9beM2Q8), or email Everly Jazi at jazi.1@osu.edu for more information.

Website:https://iaps-association.org/networks/early-career-researchers-network/
If they were asked to choose the topic of the year 2021, Japanese people would definitely choose the Olympic games held this summer. They prepared as much as they could do toward the Olympic games, and the Fukushima Futaba region, the region affected most by radiation brought from nuclear power station accident in 2011 earthquake, was not an exception. The Japanese Olympic Committee even called the games as the recovery and reconstruction games (see https://www.2020games.metro.tokyo.lg.jp/special/eng/enjoy/reconstruction/). In order to start thinking about risk perception and place attachment, the authors of this report planned a one-day outing to Fukushima Futaba region, to observe the consequences of 10 years’ hard work for the recovery of this region and to see whether once evacuated residents managed to return to their homes in the affected areas.

In 2015, in temporary housing districts in a big city next to the region, many evacuees were talking about returning to their evacuated home, while trying to create a temporal community with others, that differs according to the surrounding environment of the districts (Sakai, Yokoyama & Isagawa, 2019).

One of the research topics at the Laboratory of transdisciplinary studies of environmental psychology and architectural planning, led by Professor Yurika Yokoyama,
has to do with people-environmental aspects of risk. Part of this laboratory's interest is social perception of risk and how people build their own beliefs system about risk as part of the coping process. These beliefs are socially constructed and are influenced by the interaction of personal, social, cultural, political, and economic factors. We know it well because both in Japan and in Spain we have dealt with different kind of disasters.

The outing to Fukushima was led by Professor Shin Kajita, a geographer and Associate Professor of the Department of Human Geography of the University of Tokyo, and one of the most active researchers of the Fukushima catastrophe. He even knew the region before the catastrophe and studied the social and economic impact of the nuclear power station on local society before and after the catastrophe (Kajita, 2014; Kajita, 2016). We had the opportunity to learn about the history and detail of the process of social, economic and urban reconstruction of this part of Japan that in 2011 was devastated by the impact of the terrible nuclear accident. This catastrophe was caused by the 9° earthquake on the Richter scale that shook the east coast and caused the subsequent tsunami that damaged not only the towns and villages along the coast of Tohoku region but also the nuclear reactor in this area. The balance of the impact of this tsunami itself, according to police statistics, was 15,899 deaths plus 2,529 people who were not found, leading to a total of 18,428 deaths. To supplement this data, according to Kohoku Shinpo, the local newspaper in Tohoku region, deaths indirectly related to the disaster counted to 3,773 (as of 2020), 2,318 just in Fukushima. The main reasons for these indirect deaths are thought to be the cease of medical care at the time of disaster and the stress derived from migration after disaster.

10 years after the nuclear disaster we found an inhospitable landscape in some parts of our visit. What was once an inhabited province, today both the evacuated residential area, in which the houses were abandoned with all their belongings inside, and the area around the nuclear power plant are still closed off. For ten years, work has been done on

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Access to homes and businesses continues to be prohibited in some areas.

Bags of arable land still radioactive.

Homes on contaminated land.
decontaminating the land from North and South of the region, opening the land to the evacuees, and building sea walls along the coast against future tsunamis. The government meant to make people feel safer and to encourage people to come back to the areas were decontamination has already finished. Nevertheless, even after 10 years, the decontamination work has not reached the end yet.

For the areas decontaminated, the Government is working to ensure that most of the evacuated houses are now habitable and evacuees can return to their land. In fact, urban development was promoted by building new residential areas, museums, schools, a new fishing port, and other infrastructure. In spite of that, less than 10% of the evacuated population has returned to the area. People have looked for other places to live and started a life somewhere else, others continue to occupy the enabled makeshift dwellings. Divided and traumatized families, unemployment, loneliness, abandonment ..., many stories might exist behind their current lives.

The risk perception of the evacuees, whether due to the consequences of the tsunami or due to nuclear fear, seems to be still present in the population, and contributes to the fact that the rate of returnees is not as desired. People develop their own belief systems on risk as part of the coping process. Perceptions of distrust can emerge, as a consequence of the attributions made by people regarding the available information. Environmental risk perception is socially constructed and it is also subjective. This also happens with danger perception here, which is not limited to individual elaboration or construction, but emerges from social construction or from a combination of both (García-Mira & Lema, 2007; García-Mira et al., 2012).

Finally, we should learn from this kind of events. Nuclear energy, no matter how many safety measures are taken, is dangerous and, without a doubt, the dirtiest, because of the radioactive waste it generates. While recognizing that this is not a universal agreement, we believe that nuclear power is not necessary. The cases of Germany and Sweden show that, if there is political will, it is possible to abandon this type of energy. So shouldn’t we keep trying to reduce CO2 emissions in accordance with the Kyoto Protocol while reducing the use of nuclear energy?

Images of one of the nuclear power plants in the region.

References


PAPERS IN ACADEMIC JOURNALS


