The social and spatial perception of Granada (Spain)

by Andrés Rodríguez, Ricardo García-Mira, Victoria Zarco, José M. González and Isabel Belda

Reflections on place attachment and favourite places

Patrick Devine-Wright

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PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS by Gabriel Moser

Now IAPS is a French non profit association.

Approximately one third of IAPS members responded to the e-mail census about the opportunity to transform the IAPS charity under UK law into an association under the French law (loi de 1901). We received 96 responses, all but one were in favour of the proposal to transform IAPS into an association. Thanks to all those who showed their interest by giving their approval for this transfer and thanks to the former and present Board members who actively participated in accomplishing all the bureaucratic work that this transfer required. Beside the legal aspects this massive approval reinforced our view that it was the right thing to do.

Now IAPS is more than ever an international association.

As a non profit association under French law, there are no more restrictions concerning the nationality of those serving the association. In other words, our President, Secretary, Treasurer and the other Board members do not have to be French; they can be any nationality. This gives us much more freedom and guarantees a better representation of our community. The distinction between Strategic Committee and Board of Trustees which was devised in order for us to ensure international representation under British law no more exists. Under the new constitution, decisions are taken by the Board comprising a President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and at least 12 members, elected by the IAPS members.

Toward an IAPS Board which better represents the diversity of our members.

In 2008, we will have elections. The new Board, who will take its function after the Rome conference in 2008, will be composed by those former members still on the Board, and the new members you will elect. Some of the present members of the Strategic Committee and the Board of Trustees will be at the end of their term of office; others will be re-eligible for election. There are a growing number of tasks to be accomplished in order to attract new members not only from the former Eastern Europe countries that are now part of the EU, but also from other countries round the world. Consequently, we decided to extend the Board in order to get a better representation of IAPS. In other words, the next Board must be even more interdisciplinary and international. So please stand for the Board and contribute to the pluridisciplinarity, heterogeneity and internationality of IAPS. The call for Board members will be issued soon.

Towards more communication within IAPS.

Information and communication reinforces our community. Recently a discussion forum has been created within IAPS (see the IAPS homepage for details). With growing globalisation and an increased use of electronic means of communication, this forum and the IAPS listserv should be much more used than they are at present time. The listserv is not only a mean of announcing news, but can be also used as an information gathering device. IAPS is a worldwide community of researchers and experts in the field of people-environment studies. Please post any announcements of a new book you have written or to which you have contributed, any job or post-doc opportunity in the field of people-environment studies, any proposition of collaboration, any question you have concerning our field. There will always be an IAPS member interested or ready to help, to suggest and to respond. The IAPS listserv and the forum is an invaluable asset and should be widely used means of communication for all IAPS members.

Looking forward to see you all at our next exciting conference in Rome, 28 July – 1 August, 2008

EDITORIAL ADDRESS by Ricardo García Mira

Finally, we have another issue on the street. There have been some changes in the institutions that are partly funding this Bulletin with their advertisements, and this has been the cause of this delay. As you know, we are fighting to provide you with high-quality contents on a high-quality support, as we have been doing so far, and we hope to have been able to meet your demands.

We have selected a few contributions for this new issue. One of them, by Patrick Devine-Wright, invites reflection on some theoretical aspects of place attachment and of the role played by individual factors in the emotional experience of this psychological phenomenon, beyond the home, the neighbourhood or the city, and beyond local geographic boundaries. Devine-Wright analyzes the various factors that theoretically condition the study of place attachment and the definition and preference for certain places, emphasizing cultural and social diversity and the individual/group perception of favourite places. The second contribution, signed by Andrés Rodríguez et al., presents a summary of the investigation we have done in the beautiful and historic city of Granada, Spain. This work is a socio-environmental evaluation of the city from the perspective of its inhabitants and a reflection on the importance of social networks in socially structuring a community. The study stresses the importance of taking citizens’ perceptions into account, because of their importance in the psycho-social processes of identity formation. The study also includes reflections on the shared meanings and the transmission of values and norms through the various transactions taking place in the urban environment.

This issue also includes news on several events in which our members have participated, some initiated by members of IAPS, such as the 2006 Meeting of the Swedish Area Group in Environmental Psychology; the First Romanian Conference on Environmental Psychology; and others taking place at the Interamerican Congress of Psychology, in Mexico this summer. Two symposia in Environmental Psychology are included here; the first coordinated by Dr. Patricia Ortega and the second by Dr. Juan I. Aragonés. We maintain our traditional sections of Bibliography, coordinated by Florian Kaiser and of the abstracts of four doctoral theses of María Carreiro Otero (University of Corunna), María Haak (Lund University), Aïmée Casal (Paris Descartes University) and Oscar Navarro-Carrascal (University of Antioquia), on relevant themes of architecture, territory, public participation or the well-known “NIMBY” phenomenon. We hope you will find it interesting.
Ligados ás nosas raíces
Along its life-span, a community establishes important and basic social structuring systems that allow its members to establish social networks. These networks make a community cohesive and establish patterned ways of acquiring resources and services. During the last decades, we have witnessed the creation of settings that can make these general goals either easy or difficult to reach. Some of these settings are related to processes of urbanization and to planning patterns of the cities, usually out of the control of the community, and subsumed to external interests and benefits. These urban planning teams do not always take into account the public’s perception of the urban settings in their decision making process. On the contrary, they, more often than not, only take into account the perception of experts and other professional groups that do not represent the collective interest. It is well known that these perceptions are quite different from the lay-people’s perceptions of the urban settings.

Adequate policymaking, oriented toward improving the quality of life and social wellbeing of urban dwellers, should promote long-term thinking while, at the same time, acting in the present. In other words, it should be focused on the improvement of current wellbeing, without compromising the wellbeing of future generations; and it should provide a good standard of quality of life in the short term, without jeopardizing the future. This is exactly the definition of the concept of “sustainability” – which contribute to the formation of our mental image of a city–, also play an important role in our identification with the neighborhood or with the city as a whole, and with their symbolic universes (Tajfel, 1981; Tajfel and Turner, 1986). These aspects, according to Pol (2002), should facilitate social cohesion and social satisfaction.

The psychosocial processes involved in identity formation operate through transactions with the physical environment, and they are also related to the residential environment (see Twigger-Ross and Uzzell, 1996), which makes possible the sharing of meanings and the transmission of values and behavioral norms.

The perception of the urban environment of the city of Granada, in the South of Spain, and the evaluation of the city in its different aspects is not done objectively by its inhabitants but rather subjectively, mediated by its subjective value, acquired through personal experience and social interaction and related to the way in which the city satisfies the needs and interests of the people living in it.

The existence of this “imagined” city makes the integration of objective and subjective aspects very important. This should constitute the starting point of any municipal decision oriented toward the wellbeing and the enhancement of the quality of life of the citizens of Granada.

Objectives
As a general objective of this study, we will try to provide an analysis of the city, by proposing a social representation model for the city of Granada, from their residents’ point of view. Such a model, as we will argue in this article, improves our knowledge on the social perception of the cultural, urban, social and environmental management of the city, and will facilitate the creation of more adequate state social policies to the citizens’ demands and needs. Such attention to the citizens’ demands and needs will make possible a more sustainable management of the city.

The paths, districts, landmarks, edges, and nodes, identified by Lynch (1960) –which contribute to the formation of our mental image of a city–, also play an important role in our identification with the neighborhood or with the city as a whole, and with their symbolic universes (Tajfel, 1981; Tajfel and Turner, 1986). These aspects, according to Pol (2002), should facilitate social cohesion and social satisfaction.

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Adequate policymaking, oriented toward improving the quality of life and social wellbeing of urban dwellers, should promote long-term thinking while, at the same time, acting in the present. In other words, it should be focused on the improvement of current wellbeing, without compromising the wellbeing of future generations; and it should provide a good standard of quality of life in the short term, without jeopardizing the future. This is exactly the definition of the concept of “sustainability” – which is at the basis of this research– and which has inspired so many programs aimed at improving our quality of life and our environment.

Environmental problems, urban problems, do not have their origin in the natural environment or in the urban setting itself, but rather, they reflect societal problems. This means that if we want to ensure sustainability, a sustainable urban environment, we have to start from our societies (Ludevid, 1997). This is why many social psychologists have investigated the relationships between identity, participation, social cohesion, and identification with the city, on the one hand, and sustainable behavior in the urban context, on the other (see Pol, 1999; 2002; Guardia y Pol, 2002).

This relationship between social aspects and sustainable environmental behavior leads us to analyze the symbolism of the space, socially constructed, and its relevance in the configuration of a city’s identity.
This study’s specific objectives were:

- Analyzing the perception that citizens of Granada have of the urban space, identifying the relevant dimensions that explain and provide variability to their social representations.
- Studying the urban identity and its correlations with behaviours oriented toward the conservation and improvement of Granada.
- Analyzing the preoccupations, opinions and needs people have, with regard to the future development of the city.

Categories of analysis

Taking into account the literature on this subject, some categories and variables for the analysis will be described, in order to achieve the proposed objectives.

In order to map out the subjective representation that citizens hold on the urban space, with its perceptual-cognitive and affective dimensions, the following categories were used:

1) Citizens’ perception of the facility of orientation in the city

2) The urban elements they identify mostly with, that they find most representative for the city of Granada.

3) Space distribution related to activities being developed in the city, as well as to their liking and disliking of different areas of the city.

4) Elements and/or places which, according to the residents, better represent the identity of Granada and those which have a higher affective value.

For the study of the social representations held by citizens of Granada, and with the aim of evaluating aspects of their city, some information was gathered on the following dimensions and categories:

1. Degree of satisfaction of the citizens with various aspects of Granada (environment, urban planning, mobility, society, economy).

2. Citizens’ perception of the type of social relations existing in the city (social cohesion).

3) Feelings of attachment, belonging and rootedness were also investigated.

Furthermore, we used the following categories to tap behaviours of citizens aimed towards maintaining and/or improving the city:

1. The degree of participation and involvement of citizens in civic, cultural or neighbourhood activities.

2. The kind of activities carried out by the citizens in order to maintain or improve the city’s cleanliness and health.

Finally, with the aim of offering some suggestions for action that would result from the subjective experiences of citizens, we added a dimension regarding perception of the conditions citizens of Granada believe their city should be in, in order to better fit their interests and needs.

Techniques of gathering the information

Several techniques were used for gathering information. A Focus Group and a Survey were combined in order to obtain qualitative information, as well as getting quantitative data related to the objectives of this study. Also, we used a mapping technique, in order to tap the representation citizens hold of the urban space.

The unit chosen for sampling the citizens of the Focus Group was the district. Eight groups were formed, corresponding to the districts of Albayzín, Beiro, Centro, Chana, Genil, Norte, Ronda and Zaidín.

Once the sessions with the Focus Group finished, participants were asked to draw a map of the city. The personal drawings of the city evidenced the cognitive, affective and social resources of citizens.

In a second phase of this research, a survey was carried out, that had two objectives: On the one hand, to provide quantitative data that would complement and corroborate the information obtained in the Focus Group. On the other hand, we wanted to obtain information on the relevant subjective dimensions of the city. This idea was based on the evidence obtained in the qualitative research which showed that the social representations of the city are strongly modulated or influenced by the neighbourhood of residence.

Technical information of the survey

Universe: population of Granada, aged over 18.
N=4pq/e2 - N = 375 individuals.
Male: 30.9% Female: 69.1%
Time period for data gathering: 1-5-06 to 30-5-06.
Method: Random routes.
Sampling reliability: 95%
Sampling error: 5.1

According to these criteria, the survey had two, clearly differentiated, parts: questions referring to the subjective representation of the city; and questions referring to the subjective representation of the different neighbourhoods of Granada.

The neighborhood as a structuring element of the city image

In the study we conducted on the “Social and Spatial Perception of Granada, we found that the neighborhood where one lives acts as a structuring element of the perception held by the inhabitants of their city. People are attached to their neighborhoods, they identify with them and see the “center” as a different city or, at least, a different entity.

When they go to the center, people say they are going to Granada, as if their neighborhood was not a part of the city. Paradoxically, this perception exists even in the central neighborhoods, as it is the case in Realejo, for example.

Also, we observed that the city is divided into different spaces related to the different activities performed in them and to the way in which the citizens perceive the deficit and the resources of the neighborhood they live in.
For example, as a general norm, when people go shopping they look for an equilibrium among the price level, variety and comfort. They take advantage of the resources that are close to their place of residence. The shopping of gifts, clothes and other such items is only done in the neighborhood’s specialized stores when these exist.

In the more populated and wealthy neighborhoods like Chana, Zaidin, Ronda and Beiro, one can find everything one needs, from food to other items. Yet in neighborhoods with little commercial activity like Zona Norte or Albayzin, people have to “go downtown” to the most famous district for specialized items.

It is also interesting to observe some maps in which the territorial representation of the city is determined by the social, economic and work attributions that people make for its neighborhoods. These attributions determine perceptions of the quality of life of the inhabitants (for example, the historic center is perceived as the privilege of Granada; Zona Norte is synonymous to periphery and Chana is perceived as an ancient and quiet neighborhood.

**How do the citizens of Granada evaluate their city?**

**Elements of positive evaluation**

Generally speaking, the citizens of Granada perceive their quality of life as high, both in the city and in its neighborhoods. The most valued attributes of the city are the monuments, the people, the University and the type of city. We also found a high level of place attachment of the inhabitants to their respective neighborhoods and to the city as a whole, because the majority of them would not want to leave their neighborhood or the city. Finally, we found a high level of pride regarding the elements that compose the city’s identity.

We found that the citizens of Granada coincide in establishing the elements that define the identity of the city. Monuments: La Alhambra, el Generalife, la Catedral, la Capilla Real y el Monasterio de la Cartuja.

Typical neighborhoods: Albayzin and Realejo.

Places: La Carrera de las Angustias, Plaza Bibrrambla, Plaza Nueva, Puerta Real, etc.

Geographic environment: Sierra Nevada, la Costa and las Alpujarras

The environmental issue with which the inhabitants of Granada are most satisfied is the quality and provision of water, although the majority of the citizens think that it is not used rationally.

Furthermore, citizens coincide in signalling the urban and aesthetic beauty of the city as one of its main identity marks, although they also note that some buildings are inadequate and that there is little planning and control of the city.

**Elements of negative evaluation**

Among the negative elements, the citizens of Granada coincide in identifying problems such as: dirt, traffic, insecurity, drugs, noise and juvenile unemployment and partying.

More specifically, there is a high level of agreement in identifying the traffic, the noise and the lack of cleanliness as the main environmental problems of the city. The inhabitants are also dissatisfied with the problems of accessibility and mobility in circulating through the city, due to traffic and to natural, historic and urban obstacles of many neighborhoods.

From a social perspective, the main sources of dissatisfaction for the citizens of Granada are the situation of today’s youth, the lack of economic and employment opportunities, the growing presence of certain social groups in the city, such as immigrants and urban gangs (“okupas”, “pies negros” etc.), which are associated with problems of insecurity, drugs and non-civic behaviors.

Furthermore, the inhabitants are worried about everything related to street drinking behavior, juvenile vandalism and the lack of ethical and moral values of today’s youth.

More specifically, the citizens think that they live in a relatively safe city, but that there is a lot of petty crime and that things are changing for the worse due to the growth of the city and the changing composition of the population. Consequently, there is a generalized demand for a higher police presence in all the city’s districts.

They also hold a generalized negative view of the economic development and employment situation of Granada. They observe that the level of industrial activity is very low and that economic activities are concentrated in the service sector, particularly tourism, the University and construction works. The unemployment, the rise in the costs of living and housing are the main complaints of the citizens in this area.

In the areas of municipal policy of cleanliness, safety, noise, mobility, cultural resources, sidewalks, infrastructure, road maintenance, green areas etc., the people of Granada perceive the attention given to the streets and squares of the center and to the touristic routes of the city to be exaggerated, compared to the limited attention received by Granada’s neighborhoods. This perception also applies to the different neighborhoods and districts, as they are not seen to receive equal treatment.

The degree of citizen participation, through Associations of neighbors, is practically inexistent. Only the members of the Executive Boards participate, and the rest of the citizens feel cut off from them and limit their participation to very specific activities or urgent problems.

Consequently, we believe that the social perception of the city of Granada could be significantly improved if an effective mechanism of social participation is put into place. This should be designed to make the citizen feel involved and committed to the city’s policies and to the process through which they are managed by the democratically elected government.

In conclusion, it is necessary to make the city seem closer to the citizen and we consider the neighborhood to be an effective planning instrument for making the city more balanced, more cohesive and more responsive to the needs of its inhabitants. Through the neighborhood, we could channel and promote the participation and involvement of citizens in the process of elaboration and implementation of public policy.

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Place is a tantalising idea. Beguilingly simple, yet formidable, it is a conceptual cornerstone not just of the discipline of environmental psychology (Bonnes and Secchiarioli, 1995) but also of the field of environment-behaviour studies (Sommer, 2000). Whilst there is consensus as to its importance, there is no unifying paradigm to study place in the environment-behaviour field. Rather a plurality of approaches exist (Patterson and Williams, 2005), which is manifest both by the range of place-related terms used in the literature (e.g. sense of place, rootedness, topophilia, placelessness, place attachment, place de pendence, displacement, place identity) and by the variety of definitions and interpretations of terms such as place attachment or place identity employed in different studies. Here, I take place attachment to refer to the typically positive emotional bond between people and valued locations or places (Altman and Low, 1992). Research has shown how attachment becomes particularly salient at moments of disruption or displacement, leading to feelings of loss and grief (Fried, 2000); that attachment is not at always positive, but can be ambivalent or even negative (Manzo, 2003) and that attachment varies with scale, for example between the level of house, neighbourhood and city (Hidalgo and Hernandez, 2001).

One strand of place attachment research has focused upon people’s favourite places, and several empirical studies have sought to connect typically separated domains of research on place attachment and restorative environments (e.g. Korpela and Hartig, 1996; Korpela, Hartig, Kaiser and Fuhrer, 2001). These studies reveal that favourite places were often associated with low states of emotional arousal, evoking feelings of being relaxed, calm and comfortable; that favourite places were more restorative than unpleasant places, and offered a location where individuals can go to forget their worries, restore attention capacity and reflect upon personal circumstances. Whilst the existing literature has succeeded in affirming the restorative benefits of places that are favourite to people, it is somewhat less informative about the physical or material qualities of the places themselves. Presumably they were all local to the study context, but this is not explicitly addressed. In the literature, favourite places tend to be described only in terms of generic types, using category labels such as ‘natural’, ‘residential’, ‘geographic’ and ‘leisure’ (e.g. Korpela et al., p582). This is a useful approach to reduce complexity, but in doing so serves to overlook the uniqueness of each location as a place and the variety of its physical attributes, which is particularly unfortunate given that previous researchers have asserted ‘we still do not know to what kind of places people mainly develop attachment’ (Hidalgo and Hernandez, 2001, page 273).

This research note has been stimulated by my experiences teaching Architecture students at the University of Manchester, where nearly 200 first year undergraduate students take my ‘People and Places’ module each year. The class is diverse in terms of gender, ethnicity and national background and our discussions of ‘favourite places’ have proved a fascinating experience. Unlike existing empirical research, I have not explicitly prompted students about any potentially restorative qualities of favourite places, instead allowing such issues to emerge organically from a discussion guided by Canter’s (1977) visual metaphor of place comprising physical attributes, activities and meanings.

1. From local to global:

Existing literature on favourite places does not report where the places were, suggesting that they are immediately local to the study contexts in Finland and the US. In contrast, favourite places identified by my students have crossed continents, with locations across the globe from China to the United States, from Canada to Kenya, from Uganda to the Maldives and several European countries from Spain to Serbia to Scotland. Whilst it is true that perhaps a majority of places are in the UK and Ireland, it is also the case that perhaps about one third of all favourite places mentioned by my students are outside of this regional context, and certainly not local to Manchester. Such geographical diversity reflects an aspect of place stressed by geographers more than environmental psychologists in recent years: the impact of globalisation upon our experience of place (e.g. Massey 1995).

One aspect of this is how the University of Manchester, like the city itself, has actively sought to become a ‘global’ place of higher education, which attracts young people not just from the UK or Ireland to study, but from all over the world. It is also about the mobile lifestyles (and virtual world experiences) of today’s students, who now routinely travel across countries and continents in a way that has never occurred before, providing the potential for a sense of place and of place attachments to distant locations now far removed from the immediate locality of their everyday lives.

2. The variety of favourite places

Although contributions to Low and Altman’s (1992) seminal book on place attachment capture the variety of manifestations of our relationships with places, subsequent empirical research has tended to focus upon place attachment towards relatively well-defined urban areas, particularly at house, neighbourhood and city levels (e.g. Hidalgo and Hernandez, 2001; Brown, Perkins and Brown, 2003). Whilst the most typical favourite place mentioned by my students was their family home, the variety of ways in which ‘home’ was revealed in my students’ experiences suggests that the scope of the ways in which place is measured in many quantitative studies of place attachment is quite narrow. For example, home as favourite place was for many individuals their family home – a place they love to return to, where they feel safe and secure. But the spatial scale of the home varied

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markedly, from the more micro-scales of single rooms such as the kitchen or bedroom (each with different connotations of social or personal space) to a particular bench in the garden, to encompass the home village, neighbourhood or even entire ‘home city’.

Beyond the idea of the family home, students noted a variety of ‘homes away from home’, which suggested ways of ensuring continuity of place identity (Proshansky, Fabian and Kaminoff, 1983) in the midst of changes to family houses (e.g. resulting from moving house) or within family homes (e.g. resulting from parental separation). This led to examples of favourite places, from a grandparents’ farm in Northern Ireland to holiday homes in far flung locations such as Spain or Kenya, which exemplified strong temporal and emotional attributes, associated with numerous happy memories of childhood experiences, as well as sometimes a sense of loss. Beyond home as a locus for family experience, the transition from school to university led some students to select their new homes as their favourite places, with a mix of spatial scales from their student room to the entire student residence. For many students, the degree of personal control, independence and privacy associated with such places was both highly novel and positively valued.

3. Both home and away

The urban context of university life was manifest in another highly popular category of favourite place: the urban park or public space. Whether a city open space such as Piccadilly gardens in Manchester, or previously experienced places such as Hampstead Heath in London, a ferry pier in Hong Kong or Times Square in New York, urban parks and public spaces were locations many students regarded as their favourite places to be. For some, their reasons followed attention restoration theory (Kaplan and Kaplan, 1989) in offering a context suitable to hang out and be ‘away’ from the experiences of hard work or study, and perhaps friends or family too on occasion. The urban quality of many favourite places went beyond parks however, to encompass particular favourite streets, neighbourhoods or entire cities. Particular buildings were also favourites, but as diverse as an aquarium in Beijing to a shopping mall in Seoul, from an equestrian centre in Yorkshire to the stadium of Derby County Football Club. But it was not at all the case that urban locations were more prevalent than rural ones – a wide variety of rural locations were also classed as favourite places, from beaches visited year after year on fondly remembered family holidays, to particular riverside walks, to hills or mountain tops where the view, scenic beauty, sense of solitude and the prospect of escape led to valuable experiences. Such favourite places suggest that we return to some kinds of places not just to feel at home but also to get away from home, to seek out exceptional environments that offer most potential for self-regulation (Korpela, 1989).

4. The personal and the social

Although some definitions of place attachment make explicit both personal and social aspects (e.g. Brown and Perkins, 1992), generally, environmental psychological research tends to neglect more cultural or collective aspects of place attachment, for example when certain places are valued by groups as well as by individuals (e.g. Devine-Wright and Lyons, 1997), not just as locations for social relations (e.g. Hidalgo and Hernandez, 2001). The social aspects of place attachment are manifest in different ways in relation to favourite places. For locations such as ‘Times Square, New York’, this place is as much a cultural as a personal phenomenon, implicating widely known, shared beliefs about the place that will shape expectations and personal experiences in that place. Another social aspect of place attachment is implicated by religious places, where a place may be personally experienced as part of a collective ritual of formalised behaviour, and where that place holds a special significance for those who subscribe to that belief system. This was most notably the case for the students who cited Mekkah in Saudi Arabia as their favourite place and their discussions challenged the notion of what ‘my’ favourite place, as opposed to ‘ours’, is supposed to mean. This suggested that when group membership is as significant or more significant to the person in comparison to more personal or idiosyncratic aspects of the self, the very idea of ‘my’ favourite place may be meaningless and irrelevant.

In conclusion, for over a decade the concept of place attachment has proved popular in the field of environment-behaviour studies to describe the emotional bonds that people
associate with particular locations. The value that studying favourite places holds for our understanding of place attachment is to remind us not only of the diverse ways in which places matter for people, but also for the diverse kinds of places which matter, their increasingly global context and the continuum of personal and social aspects that infuse our experiences of place. Researchers need to be open not just to ‘conventional’ kinds of favourite places such as the home or neighbourhood, but also to more idiosyncratic favourite places, such as a hospital roof, a garden bench or a boat, and the use of open-ended, qualitative methods in future research studies is one means to enable this (Mazumdar, 2005).

Finally, reflection on university students’ favourite places is informative as much about place as about the worldview of individuals at a particular life-stage, making a transition between adolescence at home, and adulthood away. It suggests the value of paying particular attention to the dynamics of attachment to favourite places at other transition points resulting from different forms of change: personal, socio-economic, political and environmental.

References:


TRANSFER OF IAPS TO A FRENCH ASSOCIATION

Background

IAPS became registered as an unincorporated association with the Charity Commission for England and Wales in 2003. The main reason for doing this is that under UK charity regulations, it is required that at least three members of the Board of Trustees of IAPS are British (or live in Britain). However, since IAPS is an international association, this becomes difficult, and is also unequal concerning the representation of its members.

The transfer to a French Association does not imply any rules concerning the nationality of the board members. It therefore permits a board with members from all countries without any restriction. The positions of President, Secretary, Treasurer, for instance, can be held by anybody provided that they are elected by the members of the organisation. This transfer will not affect the role or functioning of IAPS or its members.

Proposal

In June 2007, a proposal was made by The Board of Trustees of IAPS to dissolve the association as a UK-based charity and transfer all assets a French-based charity (Association sans but lucratif, loi 1901).

To allow for this transfer of IAPS, the proposal had to be confirmed by a two-thirds majority of members that voted. So, an e-mail was sent to all IAPS members, outlining the reasons for this proposal along with a request asking them to vote on the proposal.

Putting the proposal to the vote

In total, 94 members voted on the Board’s proposal with 91 voting in favour of the proposal (96.8%) and 3 voting against it (3.2%). This exceeded the required two-thirds majority. The Board have now begun the transfer process and members will be informed when the transfer has been completed.

The board is grateful to members for both the high response rate and the overwhelming support for the proposal. Once the transfer is completed, it will allow The Board of Trustees of IAPS to have members from all countries without any restrictions.
The Swedish Area Group in Environmental Psychology is a gathering point for researchers from a range of fields with a common interest in psychological aspects of human-environment relations. The group was established in 1985, starting from the recognition that the applied and interdisciplinary research approach taken by environmental psychologists must also be grounded in the traditions and current developments within the discipline.

The Area Group meets every academic year to support the discussion of theoretical and methodological innovations within environmental psychology as well as the training of new researchers within the field. The 2-day meetings, which include a communal dinner, allow for a friendly atmosphere and informal exchange between researchers with different degrees of seniority and experience. The meetings are held at different Swedish universities where environmental psychologists are active. The 2006 event had two venues: the Department of Landscape Planning of the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences in Alnarp, and the Department of Architecture and Built Environment of Lund University.

The meeting drew 33 researchers from universities all over the country. The participants included some of the founders of the Area Group – Professor Tommy Gärling (Göteborg University), Professor Rikard Küller (Lund University) and Professor Staffan Hygge (University of Gävle) – as well as Masters and PhD-students attending for the first time. Central themes represented in the participants’ presentations included environmental concern and risk judgements in relation to climate change, social barriers to wind power development, consequences of road traffic and traffic noise for children, the design of school environments and urban residential areas, restorative qualities of indoor as well as outdoor environments, indoor lighting conditions, and EEG responses to environmental objects.

In addition to its ordinary objectives, the 2006 meeting had two additional aims: to discuss how to more tightly and explicitly link environmental psychology in Sweden to the pursuit of sustainability, and to discuss how, given the sustainability link, group members can better articulate for a broader range of actors the practical importance of their research. To support these aims, each day of the meeting concluded with a discussion of the role of Swedish environmental psychology in the pursuit of sustainability. To broaden the discussion and provide an outside perspective on sustainability issues in Swedish environmental psychology, four international guests were invited: Professor David Uzzell (University of Surrey, UK), who in a sustainability framework discussed conflict on bicycle routes; Professor Byron Mikellides (Oxford Brookes University, UK), who gave an applied perspective on the development of sustainability aspects of architectural psychology; Associate Professor Ellen Matthies (Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany), who referred to travel mode choice in discussing how to foster sustainable life styles; and Dr. Graciela Tonello (University of Tucuman, Argentina) gave a picture of the development of environmental psychology in Latin America. The sustainability link will surely be a focus of further discussion in the Area Group at its next meeting, which will take place in Gävle on November 13-14. Requests for information about that meeting and about the Area Group more generally can be sent to terry.hartig@ibf.uu.se.
The first National Conference of Environmental Psychology was held in Romania, between 12 and 15th of April 2007, organized by the West University of Timisoara and the “Al. I. Cuza” University of Iasi, with the official endorsement of IAPS. The conference was held in Ocna Sibiului, a beautiful balneary just outside of the city of Sibiu, the cultural capital of Europe in 2007. The conference followed six years of research led by the People-Environment Research Unit of The Center for Psychological Studies and Research of Timisoara, coordinated by dr. Corina Ilin, Senior Lecturer of the Department of Psychology of The West University of Timisoara.

The conferences featured a series of lectures, workshops and paper presentations in a stimulating and interdisciplinary environment that pulled together architects, psychologists, geographers and students from four different Romanian universities, to analyze and share the research, the environmental problems confronting Romania today and the directions for future development of the field. Dr. Ricardo Garcia Mira (University of A Coruña) and Dr. Eulogio Real Deus (University of Santiago de Compostela) shared their experience and insights regarding the development of the field in Spain and gave lectures on The Impact of Human Behavior on the Environment and Methodological Issues in Environmental Psychology, respectively. The themes of the conference included the history and impact of people-environment studies in Europe and Romania; the urban environment; methodology; education and the environmental future. Thematic lectures were given by Dr. Stefan Boncu (“Al. I. Cuza” University of Iasi), Dr. Sorina Voiculescu (West University of Timisoara) and Dr. Radu Radoslav (Politechnic Institute of Timisoara). Participants analyzed the impact of communism on the environment and on attitudes and behaviors toward the environment and discussed the possibilities for research partnerships, both national and international. The conference was characterized by an intense working atmosphere and a high quality of research and debate.
EVENTS

SYMPOSIA ON ENVIRONMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY IN THE 21ST INTERAMERICAN CONGRESS OF PSYCHOLOGY
Mexico DF, July 2007

ADVANCES IN ENVIRONMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

Co-ordinator: Prof. Dr Patricia Ortega-Andeane

Among the events at the 21st Interamerican Psychology Congress held in Mexico City on July 1 – 5, 2007, and sponsored by the Interamerican Psychology Society, Dr. Patricia Ortega-Andeane coordinated a symposium by invitation on the subject of environmental psychology.

Participants included: Dr. Anne Reid of the Autonomous Metropolitan University (UAM), with a lecture entitled “The changing landscapes of contemporary childhood,” exploring how children’s geography, combined with studies of children’s participation in environmental projects, deal with the spatial dimension and everyday living environments of children in Mexico’s coastal and rural areas; Dr. Robert Gifford, from the University of Victoria, Canada, spoke about Psychology and the Science of Sustainability, presenting a model of sustainability that postulates relations among key influences and helps to represent complex systems in understandable forms, stimulate investigation of system properties, suggest predictions of future outcomes, and serve as the basis for discussions with policy-makers.

Dr. Emilio Moyano Díaz, of Talca University in Chile, discussed the role of the environmental psychologist evaluating the National System of Environmental Certification for educational institutions in Chile and its impact on high school students’ attitude and behavior.

Dr. David Stea of Texas State University & Dr. Dennis Kerkman of Park University in the USA presented a paper entitled “Mexico is in South America and the River Bravo measures 1,500 kilometers,” with spatial estimates in cognitive maps showing the location of major cities in the USA, Canada, and Mexico, analyzing the relationships between spatial distortions and social distortions (the role of prejudice), geographic knowledge across the lifespan, and perceptions of spatial positions in geographic scale.

M. in Sc. Javier Urbina from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) School of Psychology presented “Human behavior and environmental quality: from risk perception to psychological dimensions of global environmental change,” analyzing the principal findings of his research on environmental qualities in relation to the perception of hydrometeorological, geological, physicochemical, socio-organizational, sanitary, and urban-architectural elements.

Dr. Ricardo García-Mira of the University of Coruna, Spain analyzed the central lines of research that European experts in environmental psychology have concentrated on, ordering their priorities in function of both social needs and political relevance and which receive the best funding for research.

Finally, Dr. Patricia Ortega-Andeane from the UNAM School of Psychology presented an explanatory model of the creation of environmental stressors in healthcare settings related to physical and spatial comfort, orientation and signage, symbolic meaning of institutions, and quality of healthcare. The symposium was characterized by the outstanding quality of the research projects presented and the diversity of topics discussed, and despite its length (three hours) the attendees expressed their enthusiasm and satisfaction.

APPROACHES IN THE STUDY OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

Co-ordinator: Prof. Dr Juan I. Aragonés

More activities counted also with the participation of other IAPS members. It was the case of the Symposium on “Approaches in the study of Environmental Concern”, co-ordinated by Dr Juan Ignacio Aragonés, from the University of Madrid.

María Amérgio (Univ. de Castilla-la Mancha, España); Juan Ignacio Aragonés (Univ. Complutense de Madrid; España); Víctor Corral-Verdugo (Univ. de Sonora, México); Bernardo Hernández (Univ. de La Laguna, España); and Taziano L. Milfont (Univ. of Auckland, New Zealand), were participants in this Symposium.
The Symposium focused on Environmental Concern, which is an area in Environmental Psychology that has received considerable attention in the last years, enjoying the greatest number of empirical contributions. The papers presented took different approaches on this subject, which resulted in an increasingly complex scientific production and, at times, led to difficulties in following the connecting themes across the contributions. In some cases, it seemed that the researchers used a trial and error methodology in order to find a model that would fit their data and solve the complicated problem; in other cases, there was emphasis on not very productive models which only add distinctions of little relevance to the already existing body of research. Even though this description may seem discouraging, we should mention that there are contributions to this field of research that have fortunately become part of the mainstream in the study of environmental concern.

This was the spirit of the Symposium. There were general presentations on the level of development in this area of research; there were also presentations of some empirical investigations illustrating different theoretical and methodological approaches to facilitate the debate between diverse positions. Both Professors Aragonés and Milfont presented their contributions. The former tackled methodological and conceptual questions, while the latter presented an integrative perspective on ways of studying environmental attitudes. Professor Corral-Verdugo presented a study which related sustainable conduct to affinity by diversity, part of his recent work on this subject. Professor Hernández offered the Symposium a paper analysing the structure of environmental beliefs in different cultures. Finally, Professor Amérigo presented a study on the attitudes toward the biosphere as opposed to anthropocentric attitudes. She also talked about different ways of understanding the relationship between human beings and nature.

**INTERAMERICAN ENVIRONMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY AWARD 2006-2007**

**Interamerican Society of Psychology (SIP)**

The Interamerican Society of Psychology (SIP) and the Network of Latinamerican Environmental Psychology (REPALA) awarded the Interamerican Environmental Psychology Award 2006-2007 to Dr Esther Wiesenfeld and Dr Euclides Sánchez, for their contribution to the development, research and dissemination of environmental psychology in the American countries. The Award was presented by Dr Victor Corral, responsible of the Environmental Psychology Commission of the SIP.

Well known psychologists coming from the United States, Mexico, Venezuela, and Spain, accompanied to both honoured, as it can be seen in the picture.
Residential settings are particularly important to most people. Thus, there has been a great deal of research interest in fundamental questions about people and their homes as well as in residential design and its improvement. In the first three of the twelve chapters, basic models and concepts are introduced, such as different paradigms of person-environment-relationships, the difference between house and home, attachment to place, place identity, privacy, appropriation, user needs and satisfaction with the residential environment. In the following section special issues are represented. One chapter is dedicated to the relationship between being fixed at a location and mobility both in everyday life and moving. Another chapter deals with the topic of other nearby residents touching on issues of neighborhood and different forms of co-housing. The point of improving the residential design emerges in two chapters, which are concerned with stressors such as noise, air pollution, crowding and unsafety and with the analysis of residential settings with regard to different groups such as children, families, men, women and the elderly. The other chapter makes a distinction between renters, owners and homeless individuals. The psychological and social effects of home ownership are described on the one side as well as the effects of homelessness. A separate chapter raises the question of the relationship between the built and the natural environment. There exist many benefits of nature in residential settings. In the final three chapters the view broadens. The reader learns something of residential design in other cultures, in former times and about subjects of current interest such as sustainable forms of building and dwelling and finally about regulations and legal norms which are decisive factors in the area of planning, production and use of residential environments. On the whole the trade literature has been processed comprehensively. This means that the book provides much information from the environment psychological research perspective about a topic which is of basic interest for users and builders.


Land public transport continues to gain greater attention in transport policy and economics, given its importance in assisting social cohesion and its contribution to reducing congestion and emissions. The chapters in this book are a refereed selection of the best papers initially presented at the 9th International Conference of Competition and Ownership of Land Passenger Transport (The Thredbo Series) in Lisbon, Portugal in 2005. This was the ninth in a series of Thredbo conferences on the same general topic, gathering some of the world’s best specialists in the field, from academia and from practice from all continents. The range of current issues and depth of their treatment makes this a very valuable book for scientists and practitioners alike who desire to keep abreast of the very latest developments in institutional reform in land passenger transport.


This book in third edition is a course in how to write scientific articles, especially those which are done while studying. Students will find info on how to quote correctly, what
terms are appropriate to communicate statistical results, how to do tables and figures correctly. As the rules are completely in line with the standards given by the German Association of Psychology (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Psychologie, DGPs) and the American Psychological Association (APA) students learn at the beginning of their study to write correctly on international level.


**CONTENT**

There are many ways of knowing nature, and many ways of being an environmentalist. Is nature a thing to be cared for, exploited or left alone? Should we save nature for aesthetic reasons, for humanity, or for its own sake? In this intelligent, passionate, beautifully written book, Bruce Hull digs into the complexities and prejudices in our attitudes to the natural world. His message? What nature can teach us depends on what we want to learn from it. Environmental fundamentalists are as damaging as their religious counterparts. It is time to accept and deal with the plurality of perspectives.


**CONTENT**

Advances the argument that young children incorporate into their emerging sense of self the animals in their available mixed-species community. The argument is based on an in-depth ethnographic / grounded theory analysis of child-animal interaction and a comprehensive survey of early social abilities (pre-linguistic, intersubjective, linguistic). Discusses implications for cognitive, social and moral development and environmental identity. Includes a critical exploration of the history of the study of children and animals in western thought and modern developmental psychology. This revised edition maintains the 1998 edition’s ethnographic flow, while updating portions of the argument and references to most recent literature.


**CONTENT**

The ability of a building’s occupants to contribute to the design and beautification of its environment, such as to achieve a sense of ownership of the place, is a significant factor in establishing the optimal atmosphere for the life in those spaces. It is especially challenging to offer this possibility in the context of public buildings such as schools, where many different people should feel “at home”. But this, precisely, is the goal. Schools need to be designed for a sense of well being in order to provide children and teachers with the best environment that supports their performance.

This book juxtaposes the (now widely accepted but not always realized) position that architect-guided user participation helps buildings meet user needs, with an approach that aims at generating architectural conditions for communication and use of information technology, seeing use of computers, the internet, and modern media as means for achieving open individual work and learning “in touch with the world”. The various authors’ contributions discuss how school buildings can work together with users’ own creative response, so as to result in educational environments that are “alive”. The book emphasizes the give-and-take relationship between the architecture and participation by students, teachers, parents, and the community, from the point of view of architectural psychology and emerging considerations such as information technology. The “schools for the future” vision is: to create places where we would want to relive our school days again, any time.

Criteria for the assessment of schools are derived from a two-pronged approach. The first is the call for a common language to be used by designers and educators, exemplified by a number of patterns that have been found to be salient in school design. Their common underlying premise is that learning environments should be learner-centered, appropriate to age and development stage of children, safe, comfortable, accessible, flexible, and equitable, in addition to being cost effective. The second approach presents instruments for the systematic assessment of school buildings according to facet theory, a tool that helps structuring the large number of possible influences and subjective indicators like learning performance, expressions of well-being, and social
behavior. Based on descriptions of 23 innovative schools in eleven countries on five continents, a system is developed to judge school quality. Arranged in table format, it applies the criteria of functional, aesthetic, social-physical, ecological, organizational, and economical aspects, to the following zones in the overall school complex: Outside, school building proper, entrance, classrooms, specialty rooms, interior and corridors, courtyard and special areas.

On the whole, the book takes the position that for schools of the future, user design and control of stress factors (such as climate control, window shades) as well as communication (interaction, crowding and opportunity for privacy) should be allowed to modify the original architectural design so as to accommodate future changing requirements. The goal is to create a synergy of creative interaction between initial design provisions and the participatory contributions by children, parents, and teachers. Future user adaptations and modifications, beautification, personalization and addition of messages (appropriations) will generate a sense of ownership and responsibility for the architecture as a “mirror of self in design”.


CONTENT

This book is about people’s access to outdoor environments – streets and squares, gardens and parks, woodlands, and the wider countryside. It reviews recent evidence about the nature and value of people’s experience of such open space, and analyses what is important in good design to meet people’s needs and desires in the 21st century. Led by researchers from OPENspace research centre in Edinburgh, other leading international contributors, include Terry Hartig, John Zeisel, Jan Gehl, Nilda Cosco, Robin Moore, and Ken Worpole. The book covers policy, planning, design and research on inclusive outdoor places. It looks to the future and suggests new ways to develop an understanding of how the landscape, urban or rural, can contribute to health and quality of life.


CONTENT

Cvetkovich and Winter examined people’s perceptions of the cooperative risk management of US national forests. The authors offer some substantiated suggestions on how to overcome a recognized lack of consensus on definitions of key concepts regarding social reliance and trust. After having defined the key terms, the authors discuss the nature of trust and its underlying social psychological processes. Finally, the circumstances determining the importance of trust to judgments about cooperative risk management are identified.


CONTENT

People commonly go to parks and other open spaces for respite from the demands of everyday life. Many societies try to ensure that their citizens have open spaces readily available for their respite, on the assumption that respite in parks will promote
health. Available evidence allows confidence in that assumption, but many questions remain about just how open spaces make a difference for people’s mental and physical health. Research on restorative environments provides some answers to such questions. In this chapter I discuss some of the tasks that researchers have taken on in the effort to understand restorative environments as health resources. I organise these different tasks under three steps in a sequence, proceeding from the study of discrete restorative experiences, to the study of cumulative effects of repeated restorative experiences, to the study of social ecological influences on access to and the use of places for restoration.


Höge, H. (2007). Time orientation: implications for museum visitors. In A. Fusco & R. Tomassoni (Eds.), I processi creativi, artistici e lettereri (pp. 57-64). Milano, Italy: Franco Angeli. (Publisher’s website: http://www.francoangeli.it/ – For more information contact Holger Höge <holger.hoege@uni-oldenburg.de>)


CONTENT

Studies of the “human dimension” of landscapes have become increasingly important in landscape research because of the roles that humans play either as causes of ecological alterations or as legitimate users of the landscape. One important use of
landscape is as a physical “space” for living but also as a “place” with its meanings and contributions to social identity. In this chapter, we present some of the key theories of landscape experience and some of the empirical research related to those theories. They are grouped around three concepts. First, we survey theories dealing with landscape perceived as a physical space, covering topics such as environmental preference and the evolutionary basis of the psychological processes through which preferences arise. Secondly, we summarize some of the theories dealing with landscape perceived as place. Here we discuss concepts such as “sense of place” and “place identity”. We emphasize that place identity is a particular element contributing to sense of place. Thirdly, we discuss theory and research concerning the role of landscapes for psychological restoration, which bridges the approaches that treat landscape as space and those which treat it as place. In the conclusion, we provide some suggestions for further integrative work.


**CONTENT**

Human ecology refers to the study of the interrelations between people, their habitat and the environment beyond their immediate surroundings. Human ecology is explicitly anthropocentric. In contrast to all non-human ecosystems, the “anthropos” of human ecosystems is their distinguishing characteristic. Thus, humans are not just biological organisms but individuals with a genetic code as well as social and cultural characteristics that distinguishes them from other species. The first principle of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development states that human health and well-being are the primary goal of sustainable development. Therefore both human ecology and sustainable development are anthropocentric. This chapter considers the pertinence of human ecology for research about economic, ecological and social sustainability. The concepts and principles discussed in this chapter are illustrated by positive and negative outcomes of food production and consumption.


**CONTENT**

Vernacular buildings are human constructs that result from the interrelations between ecological, economic, material, political and social factors. Human habitats in the Alpine region of Switzerland are interesting examples of the intersection between these sets of factors, which have been modified over at least a thousand years. Given the changing nature of these factors, and the interrelations between them, it is unrealistic to consider an optimal sustainable state or condition of vernacular buildings, or any larger human settlement. Instead, it is more appropriate to discuss ways and means of sustaining this heritage in constantly changing human ecosystems.


**CONTENT**

This chapter argues that it is necessary to reconsider the construction of cities and urban development in a broad environmental, economic, social and political context that explicitly accounts for health and well-being. It begins with a presentation of some key concepts, definitions and interpretations of health and cities. Then it presents the eleven key principles that the World Health Organization has presented as being the main constituents of healthy cities. It also discusses those prerequisites that are necessary in order to apply these principles in practice in order to achieve the goal of constructing healthy cities. A review of common approaches during the 20th century clearly shows that it is not an easy feat to apply the eleven principles in practice. Prior to the conclusion, this chapter suggests and illustrates a few innovative approaches that have been applied successfully. Hopefully, these kinds of contributions will serve as a catalyst for many more innovative projects in the near future.

CONTENT

Housing is meant to provide shelter and security by ensuring protection against climatic conditions - excessive heat and cold - and unwanted intrusions from insects, rodents, and environmental nuisances, such as noise and air pollution, that may be harmful for health and quality of life. Housing contains household activities and material possessions. Housing is also an economic good that can be rented and exchanged in housing markets. Beyond functional and monetary values, housing also has aesthetic, symbolic and cultural values. Therefore housing is attributed social representations according to the varied viewpoints of individuals and social groups. Studies show that housing is also an indicator of cultural identity, a sign of social status and a catalyst for the expression of individual preferences.


CONTENT

Nisbet, Zelenski, and Murphy analyze the manner in which psychology can contribute to our understanding of why people behave in either sustainable or unsustainable ways, and how we might promote environmental behavior by examining individual differences in human-nature relationships. They argue that in order to achieve sustainable development we need to understand individual differences in the emotional and cognitive bases of environmental actions, as well as the attitude and value systems that motivate or inhibit sustainable behavior. The authors contend that many people may have lost their connection to nature, and that this may partly explain destructive environmental behavior, as well as human unhappiness and they discuss how the benefits of a strong bond with the natural world can help promote sustainable development, particularly in regards to motivating individual behavior change. The chapter introduces the construct of nature relatedness and discusses the benefits of being connected to nature, in terms of motivating sustainable behavior at the individual and organizational level. They contrast the federal One-Tonne Challenge program with the Suzuki Foundations Nature Challenge to illustrate the importance of incorporating nature relatedness into sustainability initiatives. The chapter concludes with suggestions on how nature relatedness principles might guide future sustainable development policy.


As societies currently develop into knowledge-based communities museums receive more attention with respect to their educational role, especially when considering life-long learning (e.g., Scher, 1998). But they also offer entertainment, social and aesthetic pleasure, especially if the definition of ‘museums’ includes quite a number of different institutions (museums, zoos, science parks, places of historic interest etc.). As the condition of museum goers when leaving a museum has been described as ‘cognitive restoration’ (Höge, 2002a, 2002c, 2003b, 2003; Höge & Müller-Dohm, 2005) and as studies on museum fatigue could not show any severe effects of fatigue (Müller-Dohm, 2004) museums might be seen as ‘cognitive fitness studios’.


Content

Identity and museum is a rather new combination, which is to be found in the discourses of roughly the last two decades. Much has been written on the concept but mostly from a perspective of philosophy, anthropology or the museum sciences. Clearly, this article will not contribute to that part of the debate. However, it will be shown that there are relations of museum and identity with respect to the psychological implications of the concept of identity. Hence, we first go to the concept of identity, then to the relation of identity and museum. Generally, the thesis of this paper is that all efforts of museums to contribute to the feeling of identity are useful and successful if – and only if – they become valid for the individual consciousness of the visitors.


Architectural concepts which are timeless in essence are not a reaction to contemporary architecture or a threat to the spirit of the time. By definition, timeless architecture reflects the spirit of all times.

In this book Nili Portugali presents in a unique way her particular interpretation in theory and in practice of the holistic-phenomenological worldview which stands in recent years at the forefront of the scientific discourse, and is tightly related to Buddhist teachings and philosophy.

The purpose of architecture is first and foremost to create a human environment for human beings. The real challenge of current architectural practice is to make the best use of the potential inherent in our modern technological age.

Yet, modern society has lost the value of man and thus created a feeling of alienation between man and the environment. Contemporary architecture sought to dissociate itself from the world of emotions and connect the design process to the world of ideas, thus creating a rational relation between building and man, devoid of any emotion.

Portugali argues that in order to change the feeling of the environment and create places and buildings we really feel at home and want to live in, what is needed is not a change of style or fashion, but a transformation of the mechanistic worldview underlying current thought and approaches.

Based on Christopher Alexander’s basic assumption that behind human architecture there are universal and eternal codes common to all as human beings, and that there is absolute truth underlying beauty and comfort, Portugali demonstrates how this approach, as well as her unique planning process stemming from it (based on the way things actually exist already on site), generates in her buildings and projects that common spiritual experience people undergo, no matter where or from what culture they come from.

That she demonstrates through over 500 stunning colored images, text and illustrations of selected projects (Public buildings, Residential and mixed developments, Private houses and Master plans), in relation to the physical, cultural and social reality of the place they were planned and built on, an Israeli reality which reflects a unique interface between the Orient and the West, a cultural interface she personally represents.

R.I.B.A BOOK of the WEEK

‘There is no other book quite like this one, it really is singular and worthy of your close attention’

R.I.B.A BOOKSHOPS, UK

‘It is not every day that a book is published which describes the world view of an Israeli architect with a fascinating body of work and a structured thesis about how architecture should be practiced here, Such is Nili Portugali’s book’

Books Supplement, Ha’aretz December 13, 2006

Nili Portugali is a lecturer at the Faculty of Architecture and Town Planning, Technion, Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa, and a practicing architect working in Israel for the last 32 years. Her work has focused on both practice and theory, and is tightly connected to the holistic-phenomenological school of thought.

She is a graduate of the Architectural Association School of Architecture (A.A.), London (Diploma, 1973). She studied architecture and Buddhism at the University of California, Berkeley, U.S.A. (1979-1981), and worked and participated in research with Prof. Christopher Alexander at the Center for Environmental Structure, Berkeley, California.

Portugali has won prizes in competitions, she lectures in international conferences and participated in various exhibitions in Israel and abroad. She has published many articles on architecture and her work is documented in professional magazines, in the press and on television.

Her firm is involved in a variety of projects in unique areas of historic or environmental sensibility, in urban design, architecture, landscape design and interior design, disciplines she regards as one continuous system.
Nisbet, Zelenski, and Murphy analyze the manner in which psychology can contribute to our understanding of why people behave in either sustainable or unsustainable ways, and how we might promote environmental behavior by examining individual differences in human-nature relationships. They argue that in order to achieve sustainable development we need to understand individual differences in the emotional and cognitive bases of environmental actions, as well as the attitude and value systems that motivate or inhibit sustainable behavior.

The authors contend that many people may have lost their connection to nature, and that this may partly explain destructive environmental behavior, as well as human unhappiness and they discuss how the benefits of a strong bond with the natural world can help promote sustainable development, particularly in regards to motivating individual behavior change. The chapter introduces the construct of nature relatedness and discusses the benefits of being connected to nature, in terms of motivating sustainable behavior at the individual and organizational level.

They contrast the federal One-Tonne Challenge program with the Suzuki Foundations Nature Challenge to illustrate the importance of incorporating nature relatedness into sustainability initiatives. The chapter concludes with suggestions on how nature relatedness principles might guide future sustainable development policy.

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- Chapter 14: Sustainability: Managing Limited Resources
- Chapter 15: Designing More Fitting Environments
- Epilog: Utopia versus Entopia
- Appendix: Publications, Graduate, Schools, Websites, and Organizations
- Name Index
- Subject Index

**Robert Gifford**

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THE STAIRCASE AND THE HOUSE: ARCHITECTURE OF MOVEMENT

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The staircase, because of its position, can generate architectural types that apply to the house as a whole. These types are autonomous and independent of the geometry of the staircase, linked rather to the model of staircase, which brings to life the staircase of treatises and manuals, examples of which we can observe over the course of the 20th century.

But what is the staircase? Dictionary attempts to define it are too aseptic to appreciate its true essence.

The staircase is intimately linked with the person, with those who move on it. We define it as a rolling corridor, which folds are known as stairs, which must be adapted to the human step, in order that the foot be supported and the rhythm and pace of the stair-arrangement be constant.

We study the shape and geometry of the staircase, paying particular attention to the stair, comprising a tread and elevation, as the generator of the whole structure. We talk about the history of the staircase, of the flow and superimposition of periods.

Why have a staircase in the house? A house needs several floors, making the staircase a natural element.

The staircase finds its way into the house and looks for its place. Each place takes an adjective. Each attributive use of the staircase corresponds to a category of house, a type.

The adjective for the staircase located at the axis of symmetry is symmetrised, because the staircase is an axis of symmetry.

The staircase found at the other axes is known as axial, taking axis as the significant element.

The interior staircase that continues outside is called juxtaposed: the stairwell is positioned at the side of the house served by it.

The staircase that forms a wall is said to be walled, being a sort of separating wall, however light the body of the structure.

The interior staircase preserves the same adjective, internal, as it is the most accurate word.

The continuous staircase is called complex because it is a single staircase with several sections, which may be spiral or straight. The staircase moves and cannot be defined as a single staircase, being rather one or several units, interlaced according to the levels served by it/them.

The multiple-level staircase is a plural staircase, in view of the fact that it is not a single staircase, but rather multiple staircases organising the whole domestic structure.

And the house. To each staircase, a house. The dialectal between the part and the whole leads us from the defined staircase to the defined house.

The symmetrised staircase generates the planned house; the axial staircase, the organised house; the juxtaposed staircase, the dissociative house; the walled staircase, the interiorised house; the internal staircase, the centrifugal house; the complex staircase, the staggered house; the plural staircase, the extended house.

Seven places, seven types: fourteen houses, two for each type. All falling within the frame of the 20th century, re-designed and synthesised to draw the design out from underneath the skin of an age.

And so, using the staircase as our theme, we have arrived at a definition of a typological system relative to the house.

We have demonstrated the autonomy of these types with respect to the geometry of the staircase, which shape and size do not affect the formulation of the type; both belong to the body and final image. The staircase has been brought to life: the conditions of the house, its surface, its size, the mark of the staircase, prevail over rules and regulations.
(Dr. Arce-esquema)
Arvesu house (A. de la Sota, 1953)
The walled staircase and the interiorised house

(Jacobsen-esquema)
Jacobsen house (A. Jacobsen, 1924)

(3.2.02) The first stairs

(Zimmermann-esquema)
Section and plan. Zimmermann house (W. Turnbull, 1974)
The complex staircase and the staggered house

Arvesu house (A. de la Sota, 1953)
The walled staircase and the interiorised house
PARTICIPATION AND INDEPENDENCE IN OLD AGE; ASPECTS OF HOME AND NEIGHBOURHOOD ENVIRONMENTS.

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The current trend in Sweden is to support older people to remain living in their own homes as long as possible. Older people spend much of their daily life within the home and neighbourhood environment. It is well known that participation and independence is important in experiencing well-being in old age. Thus, from a health promotion perspective it is of interest to uncover aspects within the home and neighbourhood environment that might relate to participation and independence in old age, in particular in very old age. The overarching aim of this thesis was to explore old and very old people’s participation and independence, focusing on aspects of home and neighbourhood environments. The public facility older people considered most important to visit was department stores, and the majority of environmental problems in the neighbourhood were perceived along walking routes. Home was experienced as the locus and origin for participation and a signification of independence. Two dimensions of participation - Performance-oriented participation and Togetherness-oriented participation - emerged and were statistically validated. Moreover, objective as well as perceived home and neighbourhood variables were related to the two dimensions of participation. The concept of independence was found to be a complex construct and there is a need of further explorations as regards the differentiation between independence and autonomy. The results of this thesis deepen our knowledge about very old people’s own experiences of participation and independence as well as their relationships to the home and neighbourhood environment. The results are useful for future research on interventions on individual and societal level, foremost in community-based occupational therapy.

Keywords: ENABLE-AGE, grounded theory, home, independence, neighbourhood environment, occupational therapy, participation, very old people
The Nimby or “Not In My Back Yard” phenomenon, is commonly observed in the vicinity of new facilities, that one recognizes as serving the public interest, but does not wish to see set up near one’s home. Establishing or enlarging a structure has an environmental and social impact. These impacts are negative as well as positive, but it is in fact the negative aspects that hold one’s attention. One encounters the Nimby phenomenon when setting up nuclear or waste management plants or when establishing psychiatric institutions or correctional facilities. In the case of waste water purification plants, there is also ambivalence between positively valued aspects (e.g., ensuring public health through water treatment) and negative aspects that are considered a nuisance (e.g. possible harmful effects). One can easily understand a population that does not wish to see a degradation of their living environment, fear medical risks, and are wary of environmental management and technologies. Moreover, the “Nimby” attitude is useful when considering the protection of living environments. From this point of view, the attitude is not negative, but the Nimby conflict is nevertheless a problem when one considers the question from a global point of view.

The present research consists in updating the environmental, social and individual conditions of the Nimby phenomenon with specific regard to waste water purification plants. Assuming that discomfort vis-à-vis the object in question (odour generated by the purification plant) could mask other conscious or unconscious reasons for discomfort related to other aspects of the living environment, the hypothesis is: The acceptability or the rejection of the plant is not always determined by “objective” criteria of perception, rather: “feelings of discomfort or annoyance vis-à-vis odours rejection of the plant”, is not systematic, and the action of other social, environmental and individual factors, can explain the reaction of the population.

Two purification plant sites, located in the eastern suburbs of Paris, served as fieldwork settings. The sites differ with regard to environmental and population characteristics, and to the state of advance of each project. Site 1 was undergoing enlargement work during this research, and site 2 was in planning to double its purification capacity. In total, 106 residents were questioned in situ, using a semi open-ended questionnaire and mental maps. The Nimby effect was operationalized through level of acceptability (level of olfactory annoyance and plant evaluation), and measured according to the following variables: environmental, social and individual. Moreover, the relation to the living environment and the source were studied as intermediate variables.

Main results show the effect of environmental variables (proximity and view on the plant), of social variables (impact of formal and informal communication), and of individual variables (personal stress factors and sociodemographic characteristics) on the acceptability or rejection of the plant. Specifically, the identification of a latent Nimby conflict among a part of the sample, allowed for consideration of the individualistic character of the population and the concept of “the general interest”.

Keywords: Nimby; waste water purification plant; olfactory annoyances.
THE CHALLENGE OF WATER-TERRITORY, IDENTITY AND CONFLICT OF USE*

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Water has always been a key issue due to both its central role in the organization of a territory and its importance in the well-being and economic development of societies. Consequently, the causes for conflict over water are foremost linked to its unequal distribution over time and space; however conflict is also linked to the (technical or geographic) possibility of accessing it as well as to its use and management. Water is the object of social debate it is worth addressing from its socio-cognitive aspect. Since water is an object of debate and conflict, it must lead to very distinct, if not opposite, views which consequently influence the way in which people envision how it is managed and concretely how it is used.

Our general hypothesis consists in the belief that different types of relations to water exist notably due to the influence of various socio-cultural frameworks of those who use the water as well as the environmental conditions that encompass this relation. The former refer to the arsenal of values, beliefs, norms and practices, which have been built and taken root over time, which determine how people relate to water, whereas the latter marks the “perceptive” relation with the source since it is physical as well as material. It is important to note that these two modes of relation to water must be addressed together since they are strongly linked both historically and socially.

The highest coastal mountain range in the world, the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, is located in northern Columbia and provides us with a concrete example of an on-going geographic and social conflict which can be used to address the socio-cognitive dynamics which shape the way water issues are dealt with in the world today. The economic and vital interests of the different user categories confront each other in the Sierra region: Indian populations, small and large farms, plantations linked to the manufacture of drugs, water supply for surrounding towns, mines, tourism, the seaport, etc.

The aim of our research was thus to highlight these different “visions” of water and their implications in the viewpoints and actions taken in relation to the source; these hypothetically being at the root of the conflicts linked to water.

In order to do this, we identified three main categories of water users in the Sierra region, i.e. the Indians, farmers and city-dwellers. We conducted a structured interview of 201 water users from the north side of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta: 76 city dwellers; 66 farmers from the region; 59 Indians from the three Sierra “families” (Kogis, Wiwas and Arhuacos) who live on different parts of the north side of the Sierra. The information collected has been analyzed referring to the structure of social representations (SR) with the aim of identifying different types of SR for water. We also conducted content, factor, frequency and correlation analyses in order to produce different response profiles according to user categories.

The exploration of the semantic field revealed by water, showed that the words “life” and “health” were the most important when referring to it. Hypothetically, these words are central in the social representation of water. However, despite the fact that elements common to all three groups are present in the SR (the collective or universal representation of water), we did observe the presence of different SR of water depending on the user category, which expressed different relations with regard to the source.
City dwellers defined water based on the set of words “life-health-thirst-cleanliness”. The last word is very prominent in this group and is found only in this group in the central zone of the prototype. The importance given by city dwellers to the meaning of the word cleanliness (and other words such as hygiene and pureness) is very interesting and characteristic of their representation of water. City dwellers therefore have a rather domestic vision of water. For the group of farmers, the words “life-health-well-being” constitute their SR. However, the significant number of words referring to the uses of water in the SR prototype leads the “well-being” category to be considered more as a functional and economic vision of the object. The SR of water is constructed around the words “life-well-being-balance” within the Indian group. Thus the “ecological values” category is very prominent and the “well-being” category is not marked here by the uses of water. Moreover, these words are completely lacking in the semantic field for this group, which leads to a rather ecological vision of water. These and other results reveal that there are at least two SR of water: A “utilitarian” SR which is highly marked by a functional and economic vision of water as well as by an instrumentalized perception of the water cycle (domestic water). An “ecological” SR which integrates water into the territory or into nature itself, marked by a non-instrumentalized perception of the source (natural water) and which expresses concern for its condition. Moreover, this difference in SR can be attributed to the living environment (rural or urban) as well as the socio-cultural framework (city dwellers, farmers or Indians), i.e. the ideological system of the group to which the users belong.

Furthermore, we were able to confirm that the living environment and the socio-cultural framework influence perceptions, assessment and attributions with regard to water. First of all, the quantitative dimension of water generates more concern than the qualitative dimension; this is all the more true of people living in urban areas. On the other hand, the physical proximity to water in its natural state significantly influences how people see its condition. The role of the “perceived control of the situation” (or the sense of control of the situation) variable needs to be stressed as well in order to understand how the subjects assess the condition of the source. The more they feel they have some kind of control over the situation, the better they assess the condition of the water. In the same manner, the sense of control of the situation is in relation to the perceived possibility for action, i.e. the more people feel they control the situation, the more impact actions taken to improve the quality of water have.

In conclusion, those people who live in rural areas are more involved in issues concerning water due to the impression that they have a role to play and that their actions have a positive impact on improving the situation. On the contrary, those people who live in urban areas do not have the impression that they can do something to improve the condition of the water even though they consider it as vital. Consequently, the living environment and the relation to water in its natural state rather than in a domestic framework, as well as the technical access conditions to it, will significantly influence the representation that we have of water and more broadly, influence the type of relation and the level of implication that subjects develop in regard to its source and management. The Indians express a higher level of implication since they believe they have more control of the situation than the farmers (with whom they share the rural living environment) or the city dwellers.


* Doctoral thesis presented at the Laboratory of Environmental Psychology, CNRS and Paris Descartes University, France
Maritime Incident Research and Innovation Network (MARINE)

Create and foster an Excellence Network to promote the development and transfer of knowledge and innovation in the field of maritime incidents within the context of maritime security and of the protection of marine habitats.

Demonstrate and transfer knowledge related to the application of emergent technologies in this domain.

Focus on systems based on:
- autonomous (air, surface, underwater) vehicles
- networked devices
- remote sensing
- bioremediation

FUNDING

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Objectives

The MARINE project aims at creating and fostering a Network of Excellence to promote the development and the transfer of knowledge and innovation in the field of maritime incidents within the context of maritime security and of protection of marine habitats.

This involves the setting up of a network of expert bodies in research and development of innovative activities as well as the establishment of links with users and technology transfer organisations.

The strategic objectives of the MARINE network are to:
1. Develop a model of organization excellence based on a network structure.
2. Stimulate the development and the creation of competitive economic activities.
3. Lead the development of new technologies, techniques, high added-value products and services addressed to the identified application fields.
4. Identify regional and industry strengths and weaknesses and promote solutions for the relevant social, technological and commercial challenges in the field of maritime incidents.
5. Contribute to the internationalization of the network as well as of the involved entities, profiting from the high international demand concerning the application domain.

Results

Contribute to maritime safety and to marine habitats protection by creating and fostering an Atlantic Area Maritime Research and Innovation Network to promote advanced technologies, the transfer of knowledge among partners of the project, and the trans-national cooperation and networking.

The results will encompass the following four dimensions:
1. Societal awareness.
2. Methodologies with emphasis on advanced technologies to address maritime incident problems.
3. Pilot projects to demonstrate new concepts with small scale infra-structures.
4. Creation of value in the context of the network and of society at large.

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A questionnaire has been sent to all conveners of the IAPS active networks asking about their current activities and their plan for IAPS 20 in Rome, July 2008. The number of networks addressed were 10 (including the new E-Learning network). The number of networks’ responses were only 6:

**Housing Network** founded in 1986:
- Has been actively involved since the IAPS 19 Conference in Alexandria in cosponsoring an international housing symposium about Housing and Environmental Conditions in Post-communist Countries. This Symposium will be held at the Faculty of Architecture Sielelsian University of Technology in Gliwice, Poland from 10th to 13th October 2007. About 35 people are expected to attend.
- The Network will organize a session at IAPS 20 in Rome to continue discussion from the previous meeting in Alexandria on Benchmarks in Housing Research.

**Education Network** founded in 1990:
- Has been actively involved since the IAPS 19 Conference in two important publications by the convenors in which several IAPS members (past and current) were important contributors. These were: Special Issue of Open House International – OHI (September 2006), guest edited by Ashraf Salama (11 papers were published 4 of which are by IAPS member; and, “Design Studio Pedagogy: Horizons for the Future” by Ashraf Salama and Nicholas Wilkinson (eds), in which several contributions of past and current IAPS members are included (Teymur, Salama, Fernando, Habraken, Sanoff, Elshehtiawy, Bose, etc).
- It is intended that Ashraf Salama will create a blog as part of Google services. The Blog will be titled: IAPS-Design Pedagogy, it will present the work of the convenors (Teymur, Salama, Pottof) of the network and those who are interested in presenting or announcing their works in the field.
- The Network will organize a session at IAPS 20 in Rome; the theme is tentatively under the area of “Promoting Research and Writing on Design Pedagogy”.

**Children, Youth and Environments Network** founded in 1996:
- Will organise a meeting for members of the network at IAPS 20 in Rome.

**Culture and Space in the Built Environment Network** founded in 1997:
- As members of IAPS are growing in Turkey, a student workshop was organised in Turkish and in Turkey: “Tirlye: continuity, change and transformation”,12-17 July 2007- Istanbul- Tirlye. This workshop took place in Tirlye (a traditional Turkish settlement) with 26 students from 13 different departments from Turkey. Lecturers and professors were mostly IAPS members.
- The Network is organizing IAPS-CSBE Network Culture and Space meetings, national symposium: “City, Culture & Home”, that will be held on 12-14 December 2007 in Istanbul. For info http://www.arkitera.com/etkinlik_1532_iaps---csbe-network-kultur-ve-mekan-toplantilari-ulusal-sempozyum-1-kent-kultur-ve-konut.html
- The most recent (a publication of the successful International Joint Symposium which took place as part of the IAPS 19 conference in Alexandria) is currently being re-published in a second edition “Appropriate Home” HBRC & CSBE, ISBN: 977-17-4798-3, DEP: 17822/2006,Editors: Dina Shehayeb - Hulya Turgut Yildiz - Peter Kellett
- CSBE will be organise a Symposium at IAPS 20 in Rome. The topic will be announced soon.

**Sustainability Network** founded in 2005:
- A double conference symposium took place at the Environmental Psychology conference in Bayreuth, September 2007.
- The proposed activity at IAPS 20 in Rome is to organise 2 symposia on specific subjects within the area of environmental sustainability and bring the members together, and to discuss further network opportunities and links at the network meeting.

**E-Learning and Virtual Teaching of Environmental Psychology Network** founded in 2006 with the aim to exchange information about e-learning and virtual teaching and to try to acquire funding for a joint project on virtual teaching.
- Liisa Horelli and Marketta Kytta are currently translating their teaching package into English and trying a virtual course with the so called EUNITE universities (5) after which they will try new applications.
- There will be an announcement soon about the proposed activity at IAPS 20

Being the networks coordinator, I thank all the conveners of the above networks for their efforts in the continuity and ascendance of their network activities. I also encourage all conveners and members of the other networks to announce their current and forthcoming intended activities.
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- Listserver for the housing network is available through the coordinators.

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- Network shared with EDRA

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- Go to the Culture and Space in the Built Environment webpage http://www.iaps-association.org/CultureCSBE.htm

Gender and the Built Environment
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- Listserver for the gender network is available through the coordinators.

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History and the Built Environment
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- A listserver is available for network members. To subscribe, contact the coordinator. Webpage: http://www.urban-research.net/iaps/history.html

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The Networks are interest and research groups formed by IAPS members. They carry out debates, discussion groups, publications, often possess their own website and organise symposia and conferences. Find below a complete list of those currently operating within IAPS, and get in touch with them for more information!
IAPS AIMS and OBJECTIVES

One of the priorities of the IAPS Board is to encourage more young researchers to join and be active within IAPS. Apart from special student rates for joining the Association (half the normal cost) and reduced rates for attending conferences, we have instituted a Young Researcher Award which recognises the best paper from a young researcher at the IAPS Conference. We also have a Doctoral Student Workshop linked to the Conference at which doctoral students can discuss their work with leading EB researchers and fellow students in a supportive environment.

We are also looking to further and facilitate international collaboration. This is best achieved by working with other EB organisations, but we are also currently looking to see how we can facilitate the setting up of a network of EB Research Units and Laboratories. This could potentially be highly beneficial for both international collaborative research funding and the teaching and training of young researchers.

In particular the Objectives of IAPS are

- To facilitate communication among those concerned with the relationships between people and their physical environment.
- To stimulate research and innovation for improving human well-being and the physical environment.
- To promote the integration of research, education, policy and practice.

To Achieve its Objectives the Association

- Facilitates contact and exchange of ideas between members all over the world.
- Holds regular conferences and specialised symposia and seminars in English and French.
- Publishes a newsletter, conference and seminar proceedings and a membership directory.
- Develops relationships with similar organisations (EDRA (N.America); MERA (Japan); PAPER (Australasia).
- Maintains study networks which regularly organise Network Symposia and publish Newsletters.

Benefits of Membership Include

- The right to vote and stand for membership of the Board and Strategy Committee.
- Reduced fees for attending conferences and seminars.
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- Reduced subscription rates for specified journals.
- The right to be listed in and receive a copy of the Directory of IAPS members.

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