



ISCAR Congress 2017

A total of 512 participants from 35 countries shared research questions and results. Keynote presenters made greatly appreciated and substantive remarks regarding the foundations, practices, and Insights pertaining to CHAT or CHAR. Interaction formats differed: symposia, paper sessions, poster and interactive poste sessions, a special tribute to those who left us, and open discussions of shared problems. New meanings, questions, and actions emerged as well as new research partnerships.



The Book of Abstracts will be soon available on ISCAR website, along with the videos of the keynote presentations. Some abstracts will link to full papers. Such papers may stay on an author's website or [sent to Thérèse](mailto:sent.to.Thérèse) for deposit on <http://www.iscar17.ulaval.ca>.

The Local Organizing Committee thanks all those who helped with the review process, offered advice, or came to ISCAR 2017 in Quebec City. Of the 512 attending, 226 are new members. Members who weren't able to attend can use [#QC_ISCAR2017](https://twitter.com/QC_ISCAR2017) to track comments and pictures that tweeted by delegates.

ISCAR Congress PhD Day

Prior to the Congress, a day dedicated to emerging scholars was held. Many doctoral students participated, showing the creativity and high quality of postgraduate work in our field. Prizes for best oral presentation were awarded to Spark van Beurden (Utrecht University,) for Learning in diversity: redefining parenting in a context of polarization, and Victoria Minson (Monash University, Australia) for Rethinking assessments: creating a new tool using the zone of proximal development within a cultural-historical framework.

Best poster prizes were awarded to Ade Dwi Utami (Monash University, Australia/Universitas Negeri Jakarta, Indonesia) for Indonesian children's play and learning in the context of a project approach, and Dominique Salaün (Centre de Recherche sur le Travail et le Développement, CNAM, France) for The relationship of a workplace with its computer tools as psychological phenomenon: a case study in the automotive industry.

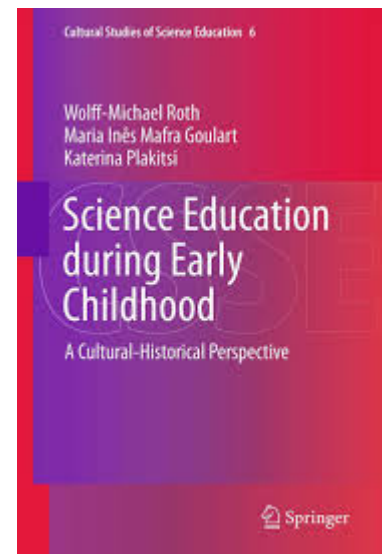
The day was chaired by André Machado Rodrigues (Brazil) and Nikolai Veresov (Australia). The organising team comprised the co-chairs alongside Gloria Quinones (Australia), Laure Kloetzer (Switzerland), Emmanouil Dafermos (Greece), Mohammed Elhammoumi (UAE) and Fabiana Marques Barbose Nasciutti (Brazil). Congratulations to all student participants and hearty thanks to those involved in organising the day.

From the Executive Committee

A new Executive Committee was formed at the 2017 Congress. Details of its members, their positions, and regional affiliations are available on the [ISCAR website](http://www.iscar.org). Our President 2017-2020 is Katerina Plakitsi. [Katerina](#) is a full professor of Science Education at the University of Ioannina. She is the Head of the Department of Early Childhood Education within the School of Education. Her main researching interests are Science Education in Early Childhood, Formal and Informal Science Education and, especially, Cultural Historical Activity Theory (CHAT) in/for STEAM Education.



Katerina has authored school environmental science textbooks and she coordinated the national science curriculum reform in Greece for the compulsory Education. Katerina is co-author of Science Education During Early Childhood (Springer, with W-M Roth, M Goulart & M Ines) and editor of Activity Theory in Formal and Informal Science Education (Sense). Katerina is a scientific coordinator in many [European](#) and [International](#) projects, and established an international researching group named [Activity Theory in Formal and Informal Science Education](#).



The new Committee would like to acknowledge the significant contribution of all outgoing Committee members. In particular, we wish Malcolm Reed all the best in his retirement, and thank Martijn van Schaik for his incredible work on the ISCAR website and membership system.

Special mention must also be made of Thérèse Laferrière and the entire Congress 2017 organising team. The event was an incredible success, and we thank them on behalf of all delegates.

Message from the President

It's my pleasure to welcome you to the beginning of the ISCAR 2017-2020 period. I am much honored to lead the community and look forward to continuing our good work. Moreover, I am happy to meet those of you who are new to our community. Even as I look forward to our shared object, I would not be honest if I didn't say that we must rise to meet some serious challenges we face. Consequently, we shall work to:

- maintain ISCAR's size and strength
- promote multiple voices and traditions
- enhance regions and thematic sections
- affiliate with other communities sharing similar objects
- preserve our fruitful space for discussion on shared problems.

I would like to personally thank the old executive and the organizing committee for the excellent organization of the ISCAR 2017 Congress. Special thanks go to the former ISCAR president Dr Malcom Reed and the ISCAR 2017 Congress president Thérèse Laferrière for their rigorousness. In Quebec, the ISCAR Community enjoyed a high level scientific program, so special thanks go to Dr Sylvie Barma as well as keynote speakers, David Bakhurst, Yrjö Engeström, and Cris Gutiérrez, formed the spectrum of ISCAR endeavors.

December is the membership renewal time. I strongly encourage active members to renew and non- or lapsed members to sign up. It is important to me to get members' inputs on events, resources or seminars that will make the ISCAR even better. I wish you all the best, sending my warmest season's greetings for many transformative activities, towards global peace, education and solidarity in the times of crisis.

Katerina Plakitsi
ISCAR President

Fiodor Vasiliuk

It is with deep sadness that we note the passing of Fiodor Efimovich Vasiliuk. The following is an excerpt from a tribute written by Katerina Plakitsi on behalf of the ISCAR Executive:

He was passionate about his effort to integrate Western ideas with the psychological principles developed in Vygotsky's school. He was a transformative leader and change agent who had a highly original approach to the

phenomenon of coping with critical psychological situations. He had a gift of innovative thinking, a visionary spirit, and tenacious patience. Fiodor always found time for the young generation supporting the ISCAR Summer Universities in Moscow. It was a privilege for ISCAR to have shared parts of Fiodor's life. He will be sorely missed as a colleague, scholar, and friend. ISCAR will be poorer without him, but is richer for the legacy he has left behind.

Upcoming events

The next ISCAR Congress will be in Natal (Brazil) in 2020. The announcement in Quebec was welcomed with much enthusiasm from delegates, who were clearly hungry to be immersed in South American cultural-historical work.

Future ISCAR Newsletters will provide details of upcoming events like Vygotsky's seminars, ISCAR Summer schools, ISCAR regional and thematic sections activities.

Any members attending other conferences are encouraged to [email the Newsletter Editor](#) and their regional coordinator (details on the ISCAR website). Members can propose symposia that bring ISCAR members together, invite colleagues to join events they are organising, or arrange social events such as breakfast meetings.

Special issue

ISCAR members Sylvie Barma and Viktor Zaretskii have edited a [special issue](#) of the open access journal CRI_SAS International Journal / Revue Internationale du CRIRES: To Innovate in Vygotsky's Heritage. Marking the 25th anniversary of CRI_SAS – the Centre of Research and Intervention for Student and School Success – the issue is entitled 'Contemporary Russian Contributions to Vygotsky's Heritage'. It reflects the 360° theme of the 2017 Congress, reflecting on past, present and future of scholarship in our field.

The special issue has 22 articles fuelled by the insights of 24 Russian authors. The titles below give a flavour of the rich and diverse contributions on offer.

- Old age as a cultural and historical phenomenon and its transformation in modern times (MV Ermolaeva)
- The perception of art as a higher mental function (DV Lubovsky)
- Effectiveness Analysis of the 12 Step Recovery Program from the Standpoint of the Cultural-historical Approach (MS Radionova)

- The sense and the meaning of cultural-historical theory of LS Vygotsky (E Kravtsova).
- Lev Vygotsky's Principle "One Step in Learning Represents a Hundred Steps in Development": From Idea to Practice (VK Zaretskii).

Spotlight on: Iran

Every week at the Shahid Rajaei Teacher Training University in Tehran, there is a CHAT-related 'Change corner' facilitated by ISCAR member Farhad Ghorbandordinejad. Farhad is one of several scholars who are cultivating and nurturing cultural-historical work in Iran. Farhad is eager to hear from ISCAR members, who may [email him directly](#). The picture shows the flyer for a recent meeting focused on the ZPD and scaffolding.



Future newsletters

We welcome contributions from all ISCAR members, including:

- Highlighting recently completed doctoral studies
- Details of upcoming events
- Announcements or reviews of relevant books
- Questions that we can put to the Committee or ask other members about troublesome concepts, methodological queries etc..

If you'd like these or something else to be featured on the ISCAR website, please [email the Newsletter Editor](#).

ISCAR Membership

The new [online membership system](#) is now up and running. All delegates of the ISCAR 2017 Congress are by default members until the end of 2017 unless they have an ongoing 3-year membership.

Please [sign up for the 3-year option](#) – prices have been kept as low as possible – to ensure you receive all ISCAR news, and to secure the discounted registration for ISCAR 2020 in Natal.

Editor
Nick Hopwood
Associate Professor
University of Technology Sydney