



ISCAR

2008

San Diego

2nd ISCAR CONFERENCE: International Society for Cultural and Activity Research
SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR PAPER

Ecologies of Diversities: The developmental and historical interarticulation of human mediational forms



San Diego, California September 8-13 2008
Department of Communication

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The Aztec butterfly “papalotl”, symbolizes the many transformations and spatial movements of the self. Butterflies, like humans, metamorphosis into new beings through the processes of migrations across space, ecologies, languages, national and political borders; much like the theory and research celebrated by ISCAR.

Welcome

The Southern California Planning Committee is proud to announce the Second ISCAR Conference taking place at the University of California, San Diego in September, 2008. All those interested in theory and research on culture and activity are invited to attend. The conference is hosted by a coalition of six Southern California universities: CSUSM, SDSU, UCLA, UCSD, UCSB, USD. We look forward to your visit.

Meeting Place

University of California, San Diego
University of San Diego

Date

Sept. 8, 2008 Pre-conference (USD) and Welcome Reception (UCSD)
Sept. 9-13 Conference

Organizing ideas

We are born, inhabit and create multiple worlds reflecting our biological, sociocultural, linguistic and interpersonal roots. We are both the subjects and objects of the ecologies that constitute our existence and conscious capacities as humans. We create and are created by our social and cultural institutions as well as our surroundings; mundane representations of our everyday world of discourses, actions and experiences.

ISCAR 2008 is a celebration of our cultural and historical roots and the potential for understanding the human condition and for mediating the challenges we face in creating the conditions for a peaceful and prosperous global community. Thus, we select the butterfly as the conference logo as it symbolizes the magnificence and fragility of the world we seek to balance with our needs for respect, dignity, and harmony within and across social identities, cultures, languages, and national boundaries. ISCAR resists orthodoxy and celebrates variations of opinion, the old and the new, and what's yet to come. In particular, it creates the space for theorists, researchers and practitioners, whose work is rooted in Cultural Historical and Activity Theory tradition and other resonant traditions, to explore the limits and the potentials of human understanding.

ISCAR achieves its mission through the interarticulation of the questions members ask, the methods they employ and the practice they design on both theoretical and empirical planes. Theory frames the meaning of data and data instantiates the meaning of theory in a constant dialectic cycle that links to the understanding of social and cultural practice. At all levels ISCAR represents diversities that are interoperative, interdependent, and deeply grounded in our historical roots and the ability to perceive and act, building and transforming from these roots. In line with this vision, ISCAR 2008 foregrounds 3 thematic areas that reach across these principles and their interrelationships.

One of the strands ISCAR 2008 highlights is our understanding of the ecologies we inhabit that require us to represent and analyze human practices, and their development and potential across the lifespan, and increasingly, across geographic and regional organi-

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zation of cultural activity affected by history and innovation. We live in an interconnected world where electronic media coupled with other forms of mediation creates instant interconnections and interdependencies between diverse peoples and forms of knowing, doing and identity. Inquiry into the multiple domains of reality, language, culture, education, age, disciplines, sexuality, ability, and human consciousness are among the great range of empirical and theoretical areas highlighted by ISCAR 2008

The second strand focuses on one of the most important tenets of cultural-historical and activity research as well as related approaches: the notion that human functioning is grounded in material ecologies and settings that both enable and constrain human activity at the same time that they are defined by it. Understanding the richness of contexts, complexities, challenges, and collaborations that take place within these ecologies and within the investigation itself is integral to the study of culture and activity. That is, attention to how the ecologies and properties of settings affect human activity and interaction requires attention to theoretical and empirical analyses of the particular practices and construction of meanings within and across the ecologies of the observer and the observed. The theories, research and practice of classrooms, community spaces, cultural practices, and the human mind itself form a second focus of ISCAR 2008's perspective on learning, identity, ability, communication, subjectivity and consciousness.

Our third strand focuses on the dialectical relationship between theory and method that captures human functioning as the object of ISCAR's theory, research and practice. Across developmental ecologies, the interplay between theory and method creates tensions and opportunities for formulating alternative visions of the human condition. This is especially true when we seek to capture how diversities among humans and approaches to understanding interact to represent views and resolutions to dilemmas and opportunities humans encounter. Extensions and elaborations of theories and methods to study human activity give rise to multiplicities in our perceptions and use of theory and method that transpose these critical elements as one or the other. ISCAR 2008 seeks to draw attention to the ways of elaborating, reformulating, and illuminating the relationship of theory to method. Of central concern is the application of theory in the service of diversity, new communication technologies, and imaginary worlds in the social worlds of people living 21st Century ecologies.

Call for Proposals

The program committee invites researchers to send proposals that correspond to one of the conference themes. A proposal may be submitted for:

- a paper that corresponds to one of the congress themes or subthemes
- a symposium that corresponds to one of the congress (sub)themes
- a poster that corresponds to one of the congress (sub)themes

All papers accepted will be grouped in coordinated paper sessions and assigned a chair and a discussant selected by the program committee.

A symposium is allotted one hour and a half and contains 3-4 paper presentations followed by 45 minutes of plenary discussion.

Proposals must be submitted electronically on the conference webpage: iscar2008.com (**see submission page for details**)

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Registration Fees

Postmarked on	before May 15 08	after May 15 08
ISCAR Members	\$350	\$400
Non-Members	\$400	\$450
ISCAR Students	\$175	\$225
Non-Member Students	\$225	\$275
4-Day Lunch Package (Off-Campus Participants only)	51.60	

For more information about registration and lodging, see website: www.iscar2008.com

Program

Opening Keynote Address	
Vladimir P. Zinchenko	The Earliest Stages of the Cultural Development of the Child
Vera John-Steiner	Collaboration in Teaching, Learning and Creating
Michael Cole	Culture and Development in the Age of Hyper-globalization

Keynote Panes: Cross-National Explorations of CHAT	
Keynote Regional Panel #1	Keynote Regional Panel #2
Presider /Discussant: Ana Luiza Smolka	Presider /Discussant: Jim Wertsch
Panelists	
Antonia Candela	David Bakhurst
Mohamed Elhammoumi	Mary VanDer Riet
Hiroaki Ishiguro	Boris Mescheryakov
Mariane Hedegaard	TBA

Midcourse Keynote Address	
Yrjö Engeström	The Future of Activity Theory: A Rough Draft

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Digital Ethnography Panel

Bonnie Nardi	
Victor Kaptelinin	
Digital Ethnography Course Participants TBA	

Closing Keynote Address

Barbara Rogoff	Learning by Observing and Pitching In to Community Endeavors
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Invited Symposia

Norma Gonzalez	Ethnography, Discourse, and CHAT
Eugene Matusov	Technology and Diversity
Luis Moll	Extending and Reformulating Theory and Practice by LCHC collaborators
Betsy Brenner	Math and Theoretical Diversity
Cathrene Connery	Leave me a space for the title
Robert Rueda	Diversities in Child Development
Seth Chaiklin	Practice in the Center: Starting Points in Cultural-Historical Science.
Kathleen Collins Alexander	Unequal Educational Opportunity: Exploring Cultural and Social Influences on Students' Identification as 'Disabled'
Manuel L. de la Mata / Beatriz Macías Gómez-Estern	Developing historical cultural approach in Spain: theoretical and methodological perspectives

Dates to Remember

- a. Submissions for symposium, paper, poster proposals: February 15, 2008
- b. Notification of acceptance/rejections: March 31, 2008
- c. Final digital version of summaries: April 7, 2008
- d. Deadline for early registration: May 16, 2008
- e. Final day for cancellation w/refund (minus handling charges for both registration & hotel reservations): July 2008
- f. Conference days:

Welcoming Reception: September 8, 2008. 4:00 to 10:00 pm

Conference: September 9-13, 2008.

ISCAR Pre-conferences: Limited capacity

Monday, September 8, 2008

- a. Intent Participation Pre-conference Workshop:
“Organization of learning in Communities where schooling has not been prevalent (with a focus on the Americas)” 10:a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Convened by Barbara Rogoff, Rebeca Mejía Arauz, Ruth Paradise, Pablo Chavajay, and Maricela Correa-Chávez .
- b. CHACDOC (Cultural-historical approaches to children’s development and Childhood)
“Conceptions and research from cultural-historical approaches”,
10:a.m. to 4:00 p.m
Convened by Mariane Hedegaard
- c. Collaborations Between Teachers and Artists (CoTA):
Examining the influences of a sociocultural approach to [dis]ability through the voices of k-5 classroom teachers
1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Convened by Kathleen Collins-Alexander and Sally Yard

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Southern California Planning Committee

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Katheen Collins Alexander	USD
Beth Ferholt	UCSD
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Contact Us:

For more detailed information about the Congress visit our website: www.iscar2008.com

If you would like to enroll in the Digital Ethnography Course taking place before and during the conference, please contact: Antonieta Mercado at: amercado@ucsd.edu

If you need to find out more about visas, please see conference website: www.iscar2008.com. If you have further questions, please contact: Carmina Osuna at: Caosuna@gmail.com

If you want to find out more about what to do in San Diego, please see conference website, if you have any further questions, please contact Tiffany lee at: Pollee@UCSD.edu

We recommend immediate action on Visas given the heightened security and passport bureaucracy at U.S. Customs.

Olga A. Vásquez

ISCAR 2008 Organizing Committee

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