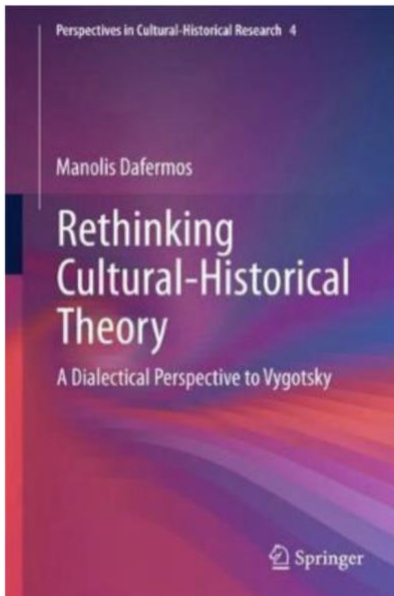




## New books

### *Rethinking Cultural-Historical Theory: A Dialectical Perspective to Vygotsky*

Manolis Dafermos (Springer).



This book is an exploration of science in the making. It offers readers the opportunity to critically reflect on the process of development of Vygotsky's research program from the perspective of dialectics, focusing on the dramatic process of building and rebuilding cultural historical theory. Vygotsky's creative and dramatic journey is no less important than the concrete results of his research. An epistemological and historical investigation of the formulation of cultural historical theory sheds light on the process of knowledge production and reveals hidden dimensions of creativity in science.

### *Leituras de Vygotski – Debates Interdisciplinares*

Márcia Amador Mascia, Daniela Dias dos Anjos, and Ana Luiza Smolka (eds) (Mercado de Letras).

This volume is the result of discussions developed in academic exchange between Brazil and Greece, during the visit of Manolis Dafermos, University of Crete, to three Brazilian institutions, Universidade São Francisco, Unicamp and USP. The volume aims to gather texts that contemplate the cultural-historical theoretical perspective, with specific focus on the repercussions for teacher education.



The texts bring together themes and problems that deal with issues related to the concepts of mediation and conceptual elaboration, illustrating ways of appropriating Vygotsky's ideas, as pointed out in Manolis' studies and exposition. The theoretical reflections and the empirical research presented here attest to Vygotsky's pertinence and contemporaneity, an inexhaustible locus of interlocution.

### *Children, Childhood and Everyday Life: Children's Perspectives*

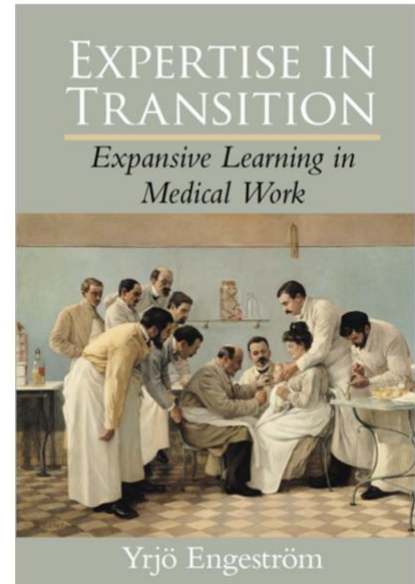
Mariane Hedegaard, Karin Aronsson, Charlotte Højholt and Oddbjørg Skjær Ulvik (eds) (Information Age Publishing).



Traditional work on child development is often based on notions of an individual and decontextualized child. This volume presents a number of situated studies where children's perspectives are documented through their interaction with others in situated practices, in family life and school and across social contexts.

### *Expertise in Transition: Expansive Learning in Medical Work*

Yrjö Engeström (Cambridge University Press)



This book challenges standard notions of expertise. In today's world, truly effective expertise is built on fluid collaboration between practitioners from multiple backgrounds. Such collaborative expertise must also be transformative, must be able to tackle emerging new problems and changes in its organizational framework. Engeström argues that the transition toward collaborative and transformative expertise is based on three pillars: expertise needs to be understood and cultivated as a collective activity; expertise needs to be built on flexible knot-working among diverse practitioners; and expertise needs to be fostered as the expansive learning of models and patterns of activity that are in progress. In this book, Engeström recasts expertise as fluid collaboration on complex tasks that requires envisioning the future and mastering change.

### President represents ISCAR

ISCAR President Katerina Plakitsi will be representing ISCAR at the [Yakutia International Science Games](#) in Yakutsk (Russia) in July. She will also be representing the Society at the [II Congress in Mental Health](#) in Moscow in October.

## CHACDOC 2017 and 2019

Cultural-Historical Approaches to Children's Development and Childhood (CHACDOC) held a pre-Congress workshop *The practice-theory landscape of play, learning and creativity*. Presentations by Mariane Hedegaard, Barbara Rogoff, Louise Bøttcher, Jennifer Vadeboncoeur, were discussed by Elene Bodrova, Anne Edwards and Marilyn Fleer.



ISCAR members from Western Norway University of Applied Sciences invite their colleagues to the next [CHACDOC section conference in Bergen](#), Norway, 22-24 May 2019, themed: *Exploration in Early Childhood Education*. Confirmed speakers include Marilyn Fleer, Lasse Lipponen, and Elin Eriksen Ødegaard. For information see the [website](#), or contact [hvs@hvl.no](mailto:hvs@hvl.no). The CHACDOC-Bergen 2019 Working Committee are: Mariane Hedegaard, Hanne Værum Sørensen, Åsta Birkeland, Aihua Hu and Elin Eriksen Ødegaard.

## Vygotsky in Poland

ISCAR members contributed to the first day symposium in the series *Socio-historical-cultural approach to development and education: reconstruction and historical-methodological tropes*. [Developmental approach to education to Lev S. Vygotsky: from theory to changes in practice](#) was organised by Ewa Filipiak and Ewa Lemanska-Lewandowska at Kazimierz Wielki University in Bydgoszcz (19-20 March 2018). ISCAR offered patronage to the event.



It was attended by 10 overseas guests from Norway, Finland, Lithuania and Russia as well as many delegates from significant academic centres in Poland. Three problem teams discussed Vygotsky and other theories, questions of defectology, and language as a medium between learning and development. A Vygotsky Café included roundtables exploring perezhivanie, scaffolding and reflectiveness.

## IRECE Conference 2018

ISCAR Asia-Pacific members Marilyn Fleer and Liang Li have been working with Northeast Normal University in Changchun, China to hold the [International Research in Early Childhood Education conference](#) (14-16 September 2018). There will be quite a few cultural-historical researchers attending. They'd love to see you there!

## UK/Ireland Summer School

*Questions of Methodologies for CHAT and Sociocultural Research* (25-26 June 2018), Oxford University Department of Education, England.

This Summer School will focus on methodological issues and dilemmas when designing research from CHAT or sociocultural theoretical perspectives. We are particularly interested in short presentations by current or recent PhD/DPhil candidates. Enquiries to [Gill Boag-Monroe](mailto:Gill.Boag-Monroe@ox.ac.uk).

## BERA Conference SC-CHAT SIG

The *Socio-cultural and Cultural-historical Activity Theory SIG* at the British Educational Research Association Conference (11-13 September 2018, Newcastle, UK) has two sessions:

- Following Vygotsky: Using intervention methods to develop pedagogies in mathematics and language instruction
- Under-recognised aspects of teaching and learning identified using socio-cultural and cultural-historical theories and methodologies: risk, spontaneity and context.

ISCAR members are invited to join and are welcome to the SIG meeting where we would like to have a discussion around topics discussed at ISCAR 2017. If you attended the Congress and will be attending BERA, please come to the SIG meeting and share your experience and reflections on current issues being discussed by the community. For more information see [BERA's website](#).

## Brazil Colloquium

*International Colloquium in the Cultural-Historical Field* will be held in Brazil (November, 2018, dates to be confirmed). The focus is on educational dialogues, bringing together research groups across the region. Program foci will include psychology and human development, design and education, and science education. [Email Adolfo](mailto:Adolfo@bera.org) for further information.

## Asia-Pacific Summer School

A five-day retreat is being planned for PhD students and early career researchers to work together with academic mentors to develop their theoretical understandings, writing, and collaboration.

The [Summer School](#) will be held from 6-11 December 2018, near Sydney, Australia, immediately following Australian Association for Research in Education conference. There are no registration fees but participants must cover their own costs.

There will be places for 20 PhD students and early career researcher and six professors. Anyone interested should contact [John Cripps Clark](mailto:John.Cripps.Clark@unsw.edu.au) and [Jenny Martin](mailto:Jenny.Martin@unsw.edu.au)

## Future events in Scandinavia

The next Nordic Conference will be in Trondheim, Norway (18-20 June 2019). The [regional ISCAR webpage](#) will be updated with details when they are announced. The theme is *Research and practices within and around boundaries*, and the conference is arranged by the [national activity theory group](#) led by ISCAR Executive member May Britt Postholm.

ISCAR members may also be interested to attend the second [UARctic Congress](#) (3-7 September 2018), which is being held by the University of Oulu and University of Helsinki.

## South Europe ISCAR

This will be 19-24 March 2019 in Ioannina, Greece. Jointly hosted by the University of Ioannina Department of Early Childhood Education, and the University of Crete Department of Psychology.

Abstracts are due on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018. There will be a dedicated PhD day. See the [conference website](#) for more information, including about the conference's dedicated thematic axes.



## Update from ISCAR 2020

The Scientific Committee has been working hard on developing a dedicated website, which is scheduled for launch in July. Details will be emailed and posted on the main ISCAR website as soon as they are available.

## Award-winning videos on conveying research findings

ISCAR member Barbara Rogoff has been developing short videos as a way to convey cultural-historical research findings to colleagues and broader communities.

Her focus has been on strengths for learning among Indigenous and Mexican-heritage children. The [latest video](#), for the NSF, concerns Mexican-heritage children whose families don't have much schooling. It won 3<sup>rd</sup> place out of over 200 in the NSF's Public Choice, was the 2<sup>nd</sup> most discussed video, and has over 22,000 views so far.



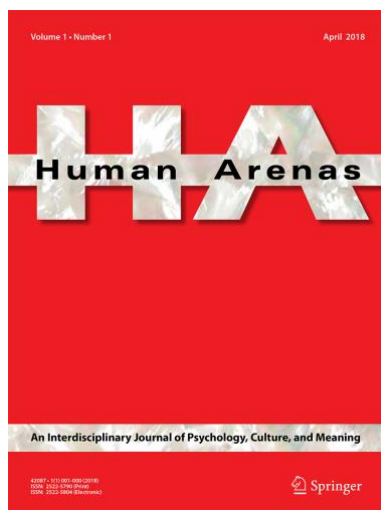
Two prior videos focused on [sophisticated collaboration of Mexican-heritage and Indigenous American children](#), and [learning by observing](#). Both won NSF awards and have exceeded 12,000 views.

Barbara edited the videos on iMovie.

## New Journal: Human Arenas

[Human Arenas: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Psychology, Culture and Meaning](#) is now live! It is edited by Pina Marsico and Luca Tateo, who are supported by a team of Associate Editor. The journal aims to promote the interdisciplinary study of higher psychological functions in human goal-oriented liminal phenomena, in ordinary and extraordinary life conditions. In the words of the editors: *"The construction of generalized knowledge about human culture can be developed only through a pluralistic, polyphonic, syncretic, innovative, passionate and collective contribution."*

The June 2018 issue includes a special "arena of auto ethnography", including five articles that explore methodologies centered on the first person experience from very different perspectives. The articles by Tateo et al. and by Rodhes et al. present collective forms of auto ethnography in the context of experiencing for the first time new cultural contexts. The articles of Rodhes and Mey present a more personal version of auto ethnography, with the common feature of focusing on the "body of the researcher". Then, Burkart renovates the methodology of introspection by introducing a dialogical dimension.



## New Ideas for Basic Education International Research Network

The Centre for Excellence *Ideas for the Basic Education of the Future* on innovative learning, teaching environments and practices opened in February 2018 at East China Normal University in Shanghai.

Through the perspective of cultural psychology, the Centre aims to explore future trends in basic education worldwide, at identifying the most innovative ideas, at valorizing the unconventional developmental practices and studying how to implement them on the long-term.



It is coordinated by an international scientific board: Xiao-Wen Li, He Min, Jaan Valsiner, Pina Marsico and Luca Tateo.

Further information is available on the [Asia-Pacific ISCAR regional page](#). For enquiries or scientific collaboration visit the [Centre's own site](#) or email [Luca Tateo](#), [Pina Marsico](#) or [He Min](#).

## Regional webpages

Adolfo Tanzi Neto (ISCAR Secretary) has worked with the regional coordinators to create new pages on the ISCAR website dedicated to each region. Visit the [Regional Sections Communities Page](#).

## Future newsletters

We welcome contributions from all ISCAR members, including:

- Highlighting recently completed doctoral studies
- Details of upcoming events
- Reports and pictures from recent events
- Information about research networks, resources, engagement activities
- Announcements or reviews of relevant books.

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

The deadline for submitting information for the November issue will be 15<sup>th</sup> October 2018. Content received after this date will be included in the first issue of 2019.

## ISCAR 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  
University of Technology Sydney