March 2020, Issue #1

ESPLAT

European Society of Psychology Learning and Teaching

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

DEAR MEMBERS...

Welcome to the first ESPLAT newsletter! We hope that newsletters will be a way in which we can keep members updated about what is happening 'behind the scenes' of ESPLAT, with the activities of our committee members, and plans for upcoming events and developments. Since our inaugural conference in Utrecht, the committee have had two online meetings, and we are already moving forward with some of the ideas that were suggested at the General Assembly.

We're also building up an online presence for the Society through updates on our website, Twitter and our new Instagram account. If you're on social media, this is another way in which you can keep up-to-date on ESPLAT news and information about teaching and learning from other organisations.

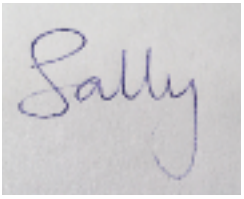
One way in which we think it is important to provide support and inspiration for our members is through collaboration with other organisations who have similar goals. We were delighted to have members from such organisations joining us at the 2019 conference and since then we are exploring avenues of collaboration with EFPA (www.efpa.eu), EFPTA (www.efpta.org/home/) and STP (teachpsych.org).

We'll keep ESPLAT members updated on anything that becomes official, though of course in the meantime we encourage people to check out

these organisations (see also the 'links' page on our website).

In this first newsletter, you'll find information on the 2019 conference special issue of PLAT, details of where committee members will be talking about ESPLAT at other conferences this year, membership fees, and a short survey to find out what you would like the committee to focus on in the coming year.

Best wishes,



MEMBER'S SURVEY

We would like to know what you would like from ESPLAT, in terms of what we provide on the website, how we disseminate information, and what future opportunities you would like to see. Please check on the members' area of the website to fill in a few short questions to help us focus our efforts and make sure that we can all work toward something that is of real benefit to members. Thank you!

MEET THE NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Follow us on social media to keep up to date with more of ESPLAT's movements:

Twitter: @esplatorg

Instagram: esplat_

Website: www.esplat.org

TO HELP YOU GET TO KNOW THE NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS A LITTLE BETTER, THEY HAVE EACH RESPONDED TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTION:

DESCRIBE ONE THING THAT YOU FIND MOST USEFUL WHEN TEACHING (OR THAT YOU ADMIRE IN OTHERS)

Dr. Sally Wiggins, President: "Taking a moment to ask students how they are doing, and to show that you're listening (as much you are talking), can make all the difference to a teaching session. Learning is as much a social interaction as it is an intellectual one."

Prof. Susanne Narciss, Vice President: "Letting students share the conceptual, methodological and practical insights they have gained during a course in terms of take home messages is very valuable to evaluate the learning environment we have created together: It helps the students to reflect on their own understanding and to discover what their peers have learned, and it helps me to identify and reflect their level of understanding."

Dr. Gillian Hendry, Secretary General: "Immediate feedback is good: asking students to complete a poll at the end of the lesson to see what they have understood (or not) to help highlight to me where I need to direct teaching to fill knowledge gaps."

ESPLAT ON TOUR

Members of the ESPLAT executive committee will be presenting at a number of places across Europe in 2020 and we hope to see some of you there - be sure to introduce yourself if you see us.

EFPTA conference, Bratislava, 16th-19th April 2020

ICP conference, Prague, 19th-24th July 2020

PLAT SPECIAL ISSUE

...is on the way!

Guest editors Dr Jörg Zumbach and Dr Gillian Hendry are in the process of receiving submissions, based on the presentations given at last year's ESPLAT conference.

All articles will be focused on the topic of learning and teaching in Psychology, from various international perspectives.

The Special Issue aims to be out by July 2021 but will be published online in advance, so keep an eye out for it!

Dr. Paul Wilson, Treasurer: "For me, interaction with students during a class is key. Even for large classes, interaction is possible using personal response systems or 'think, pair, share' activities. Interaction helps maintain engagement and focus, while also building a sense of academic community."

Abigail Jones, Student Representative: "I admire lecturers that can incorporate appropriate humour into their teaching. I aim to find a balance within my teaching between engaging students and providing joy in lectures."

Prof. Birgit Spinath: "To keep my teaching up-to-date, I always look for popular media reports on issues I cover in my classes. I raise students' attention to the timeliness and societal relevance of what we talk about in class as well as to mistakes that the press makes when reporting scientific findings."

We want to hear from you!

Would you like to write a short blog for our website, or report back on some work you've been doing? What discussions have you been having to do with Psychology learning and teaching? Send anything of interest to Gillian Hendry, our Secretary General, at: **gillian.hendry@uws.ac.uk**

European Society for Psychology Learning and Teaching

Address:

ESPLAT c/o EFPA,

EFPA Head office,

Grasmarkt 105/39,

B-1000 Brussels,
Belgium

Email:
gillian.hendry@uws.ac.uk

Our aim is to advance the learning and teaching of psychology at all educational levels, and to provide a forum to engage researchers and teachers of psychology in communication and exchange.

Spotlight on...

Conference review

PHD RESEARCHER ABIGAIL JONES FROM BIRMINGHAM CITY UNIVERSITY (UK) REPORTS BACK ON THE 2019 INAUGURAL ESPLAT CONFERENCE

The inaugural European Society for Psychology Learning and Teaching (ESPLAT) biennial conference was set in the vibrant Utrecht. As a postgraduate student from Birmingham City University, I was privileged to attend.

The conference had three jam-packed days of exciting and inspiring talks and discussions around research and best practice, on an international platform. Information was dynamic and enthusiastically presented seamlessly in a non-native language (English) for many, and the social events showed us some of the best Utrecht has to offer. The parallel talks were very much in line with my research areas and others I had not previously considered. There was definitely something for everyone!

As an aspiring lecturer, attending this conference helped me to consolidate my thoughts on teaching, and I am privileged to be part of the ESPLAT committee and wider network.

I would highly recommend the ESPLAT conference to students, teachers and researchers in psychology interested in education, at any level of their career.

We look forward to welcoming new and remaining members at the ESPLAT 2021 Heidelberg conference. A special thank you for the organisers of the conference.

MEMBERSHIP

We are currently investigating a method to allow members to make online membership payments for ESPLAT using a credit/debit card and hope to have this in place shortly. In the meantime, we can accept membership payments by bank transfer only. To renew your membership by bank transfer, please email the ESPLAT Secretary Treasurer, Paul Wilson (p.wilson@qub.ac.uk) who can provide you with a unique reference number and our bank details. The 2020 membership fee is €80 for a full/associate members and €50 for students (including Psychology Learning and Teaching Journal subscription) or €30 for students without PLAT journal subscription.