

## Editorial

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This third issue of the *European Journal of Developmental Science* accomplishes two goals: 1. We were very happy to be able to include manuscripts that were submitted to the Journal for peer review. We are very thankful for the fact that our readership submits their work to our new Journal demonstrating their trust in the ideas and goals we—the Editors—want to pursue. 2. This issue also finishes off our tribute to the outstanding work of Gilbert Gottlieb, one of the most important scientists and patron within the field of Developmental Science.

Martha Cox wrote in her Obituary to Gilbert Gottlieb, that Gottlieb's paper "Social Induction of Malleability in Ducklings", first published in 1991 in *Animal Behaviour*, "was ranked as the 14<sup>th</sup> most fascinating study published in the psychological literature since 1950 by members of the Society for Research in Child Development" (2007, p. 14f.). Because it is very important to us that Gottlieb's ideas live on to tell the tale of Developmental Science, we decided to re-issue Gottlieb's paper in this third issue of the *European Journal of Developmental Science* (Gottlieb, 1991/2007) and invited colleagues from different disciplines to write commentaries on his ideas put forth in this manuscript. We were very fortunate that a series of outstanding scientist from various disciplines followed our invitation to comment on Gottlieb's paper: Jeffrey B. Wagman, Celia L. Moore, Susan M. Schneider, Christopher Harshaw (Psychology), Donald H. Owings (Psychology/Animal Behavior), Bo Terning Hansen (Biology) and John Dieter (Clinical Psychology) wrote comments and taken together, the commentaries underline the importance of Gottlieb's paper to the field of Developmental Science and his work in general.

Wagman (2007) indicates, that the paper reflects "a paradigmatic example of research within the transactional approach to behavioral development" (p. 227) and Hansen (2007) resumes that "Gilbert Gottlieb argued that canalization could function not only at the genetic level, but at all levels of the developing system, including the developing organism's usually occurring experiences" (p. 243). Moore (2007) accentuates that the paper "provides a fine example of his creative, experimental approach to behavioral embryology" (p. 231) and Schneider and Harshaw think that it "represents a milestone in our understanding of the impact of social experience in developmental malleability" (p. 234). Owings (2007) reasons, that "Gottlieb showed that traditional emphases on the role of genetic mutations has seriously underestimated the active role played by organisms and their developmental systems in production of the variation upon which natural selection acts" (p. 241). Finally, Dieter (2007) resumes:

"The innumerable contributions that Dr. Gottlieb made to developmental science can not be overstated. His was both a clever and methodical research sci-

entist and a profound and articulate theoretician. He added greatly to our understanding of the complexities of how behavior, the environment and genes interact to produce the diversity and wonder of our biological and psychological existence” (p. 251).

My colleague, Kay Niebank, and I, feel very fortunate to having had the opportunity to write a paper with Gilbert Gottlieb for the first issue of the *European Journal of Developmental Science* (Scheithauer, Niebank & Gottlieb, 2007). Gilbert provided continuous support and encouraged our endeavour to promote the ideas of Developmental Science by e.g. contributing a foreword (Gottlieb, 2004) to our *Textbook on Developmental Science* (Petermann, Niebank & Scheithauer, 2004), he supported our efforts to found this Journal and helped us to find a publisher for a joint English *Textbook on Developmental Science*. His unexpected death prohibited us to actively collaborate with him on these projects but his spirit will continue to motivate us to pursue our goals to promote the ideas of Developmental Science.

Thus, with the brilliant commemorative issue edited by Carolyn Tucker Halpern, Kathryn E. Hood and Richard M. Lerner (2/2007), summarizing 13 papers referring to the scientific contributions of Gilbert Gottlieb, this third issue concludes—for the time being—our commemoration of Gilbert Gottlieb’s work—but Gilbert’s important contributions to Developmental Science will continue to influence our thoughts about human development.

This is the first issue of the *European Journal of Developmental Science* that includes uninvited but very welcomed submitted manuscripts. Farran, Brown, Cole, Houston-Price, and Karmiloff-Smith (2007) describe their results on perceptual grouping by luminance similarity and by proximity in infants with Williams Syndrome. Zimmerman, Phelps, and Lerner (2007) give results from their “4-H Study of Positive Youth Development” with regard to the role of intentional self-regulation in the positive development of young adolescents. In the following issues we will continue to publish submitted work and invited special issues on topics contributing to the field of Developmental Science.

Finally, it is our pleasure to welcome a new member to our Editorial Board, Dr. Tina Malti, from Harvard Medical School, and a new member to the Scientific Board, Prof. Dr. Richard Lerner, from Tufts University. Recently, Lutz Jäncke, from University of Zurich, and Linda Juang, from San Francisco State University, have joined the Scientific Board. We are looking forward to a fruitful and inspiring cooperation!

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