Environmental Psychology in Spain, Portugal and...

PsicAmb, that was born in 2011

Enric Pol & Alba Fernández

Social, Environmental and Organizational Psychology Research Group
Environmental Management and Intervention: People and Society Program
Universitat de Barcelona

Session 43 National environmental psychology organizations in Europe: Histories, practices, and a common future
Friday July 1, 2016
Environmental Psychology in Spain, Portugal, and...???
Enric Pol & Alba Fernández -
Social, Environmental and Organizational Psychology Research Group

Barcelona 1982

IAPS

Madrid 1986

Promoted by:
Professor F. Jimenez-Burillo (UCM-Social Ps)
Young academics: J.I.Aragonés (UCM)
José A. Corraliza (UAM)

They invite to the Organizational Committee
Bernardo Hernandez (U. La Laguna)
Enric Pol (U. Barcelona)
Ricardo de Castro (Env Ps Andalucia Government)

Lisbon 1986 NATO

J. Muntañola (Arch), E.Pol, M.Morales (Ps)

L. Soczka
5 IAPC Int Architectural Psych Conf – R. Küller
2 ICEP Int Conf Environment Psych – D Canter
Antecedents and the 3 starting conferences

1978 J.L. Pinillos *Psychopathology of urban life*
1982 F. Jiménez-Burillo *Psych & Env.*
1986 F. Jiménez-Burillo & J.I. Aragonés (Eds)
First Spanish textbook on *Environmental Psychology*

one of the ‘missing links’ of the ‘first’ environmental psychology Hellpach et al.

1973 Josep Muntañola *Architecture as Place Children and Cities*
1978 M. Siguan PhD courses on Env Psychology
Continued by M.T. Anguera

Luís Soczka
1983 Noise - aeroport
1983 Environmental attitudes
1984 *Grupo de Ecología Social Laboratório Nacional de Engenharia Civil*
1988 Children, fear to crime, social ecology & neighbourhoods
**SAME MILESTONES**

**LISBON**

- After first applied works of Luis Soczka (seventies and eighties)...
  - Jose Manuel Palma Oliveira created consultancy company on Environmental Management from Psychology in Portugal
  - Luisa Lima, leadership of academic work, and Paula Castro SR and quali - ICST-Lisbone
  - Also: Ana Loureiro, Susana Batel, J Gaspar, C Moro, C. Marques, Fatima Bernardos...

**MADRID**

- Same collaboration with National and local governments, and some private foundations.
- Impact on **Natural Parks Management, Environmental Education, Acoustic Pollution, Residential satisfaction, cognition, attitudes, landscape preferences**, etc.
- 80's Firsts works on Residences for elderlies by R. Fernández-Ballesteros
- J.A. Corraliza introduce Environmental Psychology as a mandatory subject in the degree of Environmental Sciences (linked to Biology)
- J.I. Aragonés and Maria Amérigo (1998, 2000, 2010) leadership the second textbook on Environmental Psychology
Barcelona

- 1982-1992 Same contribution to ‘reconstruction of Barcelona’ process - QoL, appropriation of space (Pol) environmental ambient (Salvador Rueda, biologist and psychologist) Muntañola (from architecture).
- 1989-2007 Collaboration with Catalan and local governments, and private companies developing policies and tools for evaluation and management
- 1990 Social Impact analysis for EIA (Environmental Impact Evaluation) (Valera et al.)
- 2000 SID/BCN Social Impact Detection Tool (E. Moreno & E. Pol)
- Impact on Environmental Management, communication (A. Castrechini), social participation, waste, nimby, city, symbolism and appropriation, public space (T. Vidal, MR Bonet, T. Remesar), Qualitative approaches (Lupicinio Íñiguez, A. Dimasso, Pep Vivas, Isabel Pellicer etc.)
- BOARD IAPS (E.Pol, A. Castrechini), leader
- 2005 formal recognition Research Group on Social, Environmental and Organizational Psychology (PsicoSAO), linked to transdisciplinary Research Center POLIS (T.Remesar) and leading the transdisciplinary Catalan Network on Research on Sustainable Education (edusost.com), during 2006-2010
- International publ (Monographic C-I-S Environ and Behav, 2002; Handbook, 2002; G.Fleury-Bahi, Pol, Navarro Eds Handbook on Env Psy and QoL Research, Springer 2017, etc)
Same Milestones

- 1985 **Ricardo de Castro**, First Environmental Psychologist working at a government Environmental Agency in **Andalusia** (Natural Parks management, voluntary works and social participation, Environmental Education, Communication)

- 1988 First meeting on Environmental Management from psychological approach in **Sevilla**

**Ricardo García-Mira** (U. Coruña) - Research with big petroleum companies and social analysis of Prestige Disaster

2002 IAPS Conference in Coruña

2004 Ricardo Garcia-Mira editor of IAPS Bulletin. Member of IAPS Board

2014-2018 IAPS President

Coordinator of several European Research Program on sustainability, transitions to carbon free and social innovation

**Cesar Sanjuan** (Basc Coutry University) International Cooperation Programs in social and environmental emergencies- Leadership of *Psychologist without boundaries*

Also: **M.C.Aguilar, C.Ruiz, S.Collado, B.Cortes, F.Cruz, B. Helguero, K.Herranz, M.C.Hidalgo, V. Lázaro, R.Lenoir-Improta, E.Lorenzo, A.M.Martin, J.Martínez-Torbisco, P.Olivos, G.Rolo, L.Vozmediano, V.Sevillano,.... et al.**
Same Milestones

2000 **Bernardo Hernández** (Univ La Laguna) created *Medio Ambiente y Comportamiento Humano* - *International Journal of Environmental Psychology*
2010 new look and new title, it became *Psyecology*

Baltasar Fernández (UAM→University of Almeria)

2004 Create Psicamb as an open internet network - same links with REPALA
2011 Main first promoter of PsicAmb as formal Hispano-Portugues Society

PhD (in all universities) and Master Program (Barcelona)

1987 **Muntañola** (Arch-UPC), **Morales** and **Pol** (Ps UB) created in Barcelona the **Master on Environmental Intervention and Management: Person and Society**.
1989 **Iníguez** (Soc Ps-UAB) joint the team
1987- Master on Environmental Intervention and Management: Person and Society.
N° papers presented x Psicamb and predecessors conferences

Aragonés & Valera (2014: 295)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thematic categories papers Psicamb Conf 1986-2013 (N = 1065) in %</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Theory, concepts and methods</td>
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<td>Disciplinary aspects</td>
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<td>Cognitive maps, perception, emotion</td>
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<td>Place Identity, attachment and other</td>
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<td>The space as a regulator of social interaction</td>
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<td>Physical variables and environmental stress</td>
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<td>Environ assessment, welfare, restoration, landscape preferences, etc.</td>
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<td>Methodology and techniques</td>
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<td>Built environment</td>
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<td>Housing</td>
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<td>Urban environments</td>
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<td>Specific environments (classrooms, prisons, workplaces, etc.)</td>
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<td>Natural environments and environmental management</td>
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<td>Conservation psychology</td>
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<td>Environmental education, volunteerism, participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Concern and pro-environmental behavior</td>
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<tr>
<td>Risk, disasters, disasters, insecurity, etc.</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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(Aragonés & Valera, 2014)
Formal papers on Environmental Psychology

Source: Completed by authors for the 2004-2016 over original from Hess, Suárez & Hernández (2003); (data from PsychInfo and Research Gate)
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International impacts of the Spanish Environmental Psychology

Evolution in the number of Spanish publications in peer reviewed journals
1986-2016

Source: Built based on Psychinfo 1986-2005 (Castrechini-Pol), 2006-2016 (Fernández-Pol)
Spanish Environmental Psychologists published their papers in:

Source: Built by authors based on Psychinfo
In previous texts (1993, 2006, 2007) Pol highlighted a **double turn** of the environmental psychology in the 80’s which consolidates in the 90’s.

- **Green**: not only change in the name but also change of emphasis in classical themes (i.e. urban themes or housing as influencing factors upon the responsible ecological behaviour).


**Environmental Psychology in Spain**

- has a social orientation from the beginnings of 80’s,
- …with some methodological emphasis (positivism, observational methodology, etc.), and
- …with some initial studies from the developmental psychology (Muntañola, etc).

**Evolution from** cognitive and from symbolic interactionist approach **to** constructionism and interpretative paradigm. Progressive increase of the weight of qualitative research.
Aragonés and Valera (2014) concluded:

- Environmental Psychology in Psicamb is ‘urban’ discipline
- Fussy borders with other disciplines (Geography, Biology Sociology, Arch & Urban planners...)
- In Psicamb increase dramatically the presence of EP coming from South America
- Not boundaries between Latin languages

We may add:

- The links with REPALA have seminal effects
- Psicamb conferences, a step to accede to ‘mainstream’ EP and international conferences
- Open vision, accepting works non ‘mainstream’ approach
- Important role of Postgraduate education
- EP mainly rooted in the territory and local languages and cultures, to feet better with people and participatory processes

BUT...
Strong and regular links and exchanges with European and American teams and universities
What we personally detect (specially after the 2007/8 crises)

New challenges (both global and local):

• Displacement from the concrete to the abstract, in the construction of social image or SR of environment and Sustainability → Effects????

• Sustainability is no longer a 'new positive social value', moving to take an image of 'old' and unfashionable or outdated

• Socialization and not just environmental education

Between things hindering or facilitating socialization in the desired orientation, is the effect of:

the shape of the habitat

Allows or hinders social interactions, social belonging needs (community), and allows, improve or hinder desirable sustainable behavior

(See Handbook of Environmental Psychology and Quality of Life Research - Springer - for coming)
What I personally detect (specially after the 2007/8 crises)

✓ Instability in the message-object, with the aim of making it more attractive →
   In contrast has led to some disrepute and incredulity → Ecofatigue

✓ The evolution of the socio-economic model of society is influencing / imposing at least in a subtle way, our research agenda

✓ But we continue on the classic topics, without much capacity for go beyond the immediate reaction to stimuli...

...this makes us anecdotal, insignificant and intrascendents!!!!

It was not so at the beginning of our field ...!!!!

→ How is reflected this -or how we react- in our research and contributions?

→ We need lift the optical analysis without losing the 'person-in-society'
Thanks for your attention

epol@ub.edu

www.psicamb.org

http://www.ub.edu/grc_psicosao2/