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ASSC NEWSLETTER – August 2007  
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Welcome to this month's ASSC newsletter.

This newsletter includes several important announcements with regard to the organization of the ASSC, so please read them carefully.

– ASSC EVENTS AND INFORMATION:

1. Program Committee for ASSC–12 in Taipei Confirmed
2. ASSC–12 Poster–Design Prize
3. Call for ASSC Committees
4. PSYCHE Committee Disbanding
5. ASSC–11 Preliminary Conference Report
6. ASSC–11 Publicity
7. ASSC Increases Membership Fees from October 1st 2007
8. ASSC Eprint Archive – The Five "Most Popular" Papers of July 2007

– NON–ASSC EVENTS AND INFORMATION:

1. Postdoctoral Position in Visual Neuroscience, Macknik Lab

Enjoy the newsletter!

Kristina

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SUBMISSION GUIDELINES  
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All members of the ASSC are invited to submit items for inclusion in the newsletter that are of potential interest to the general membership to Kristina Musholt ( kmusholt@gmail.com) by no later than the 10th of the month (subject: ASSC newsletter).

Items should be in the form of ONE paragraph of plain ASCII text no longer than 200 WORDS, and should be of general relevance to the MAINSTREAM ACADEMIC study of consciousness. Attachments will

not be accepted. The submitting author must be a current member of the ASSC. Submissions that do not meet these requirements may be rejected without further correspondence.

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ASSC EVENTS AND INFORMATION  
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1. PROGRAM COMMITTEE FOR ASSC-12 IN TAIPEI

Corresponding author: Allen Houg ( [assc12@ym.edu.tw](mailto:assc12@ym.edu.tw))

Further information: <http://www.ym.edu.tw/assc12>

The ASSC Board is very pleased to announce that the program committee for our next conference in Taipei is now confirmed. It is composed of the following members: Shin Shimojo, John Haynes, Steve Macknick, Michael Pauen, Dan Lloyd, Max Coltheart, Ralph Adolphs (Chair), Allen Houg (Co-chair, local organizer). We are convinced that with the help of this excellent group we will have an outstanding meeting in Taipei next year.

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2. ASSC-12 POSTER PRIZE

Corresponding author: Chien-Hui Chiu ([assc12@ym.edu.tw](mailto:assc12@ym.edu.tw) )

Further information: <http://www.ym.edu.tw/assc12>

Call for ASSC-12 Poster-DESIGN!

Become the poster designer of the first ASSC meeting in Asia.

Become the strongest presence at ASSC-12.

Make your design the OFFICIAL ASSC-12 POSTER!

ASSC 12 is now calling for poster designs. The winning poster will be sent to all participants worldwide before the meeting, and the winner will get a USD 500 prize! We invite you to submit your creative designs to [assc12@ym.edu.tw](mailto:assc12@ym.edu.tw) before Nov. 1st , 2007. The winner will be announced on Nov. 15th, 2007. For more information regarding the details of the poster design contest, please see the link above.

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3. CALL FOR ASSC COMMITTEES

Corresponding author: Kristina Musholt ([kmusholt@gmail.com](mailto:kmusholt@gmail.com))

Further information: <http://www.assc.caltech.edu/board.htm>

In addition to the executive board, the day-to-day running of the ASSC is performed by a number of different committees. For an overview of the various committees see the link above. Committees are currently seeking new members. In particular, we are still looking for members who are interested in joining the Conference and the Election committees. The Conference Committee is responsible for ensuring continuity between meetings (both in terms of records and standards), and conducting and evaluating an annual survey of each meeting. The committee is also responsible for taking the lead in soliciting future conference sites. We need two new members for the conference committee (preferably, applicants should plan to attend ASSC-12 in Taipei). The Elections Committee secures nominations by mail ballot for president-elect and members-at-large. The committee ascertains whether the nominees are qualified and willing to serve if elected and shall be responsible for making a preferential count of the election ballots and reporting the results to the membership. We need one new member for the election committee. If you would like to join one of the committees please contact me ( [kmusholt@gmail.com](mailto:kmusholt@gmail.com)) asap. To help the Board make it's decision please provide two short paragraphs (each less than 200 words); the first detailing your background, the second what you think the committee should try to achieve. The deadline for all committee-applications is September 1st.

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#### 4. PSYCHE COMMITTEE DISBANDING

Corresponding author: Alva Noë ([noe@berkeley.edu](mailto:noe@berkeley.edu) )

Further information: <http://www.assc.caltech.edu/board.htm>

Over the course of the last year the ASSC has acquired the online journal Psyche. This was a big job. A lot of work had to go into reconceiving the journal and figuring out what its role as an organ of the ASSC would be. Not the least of the tasks that that needed to be undertaken was the appointment of new editors. The bulk of the work done for ASSC to make all this happen was performed by the Psyche committee, comprising Alva Noë (Chair), Geraint Rees, Eric Schwitzgebel, Jane Aspell, Tim Bayne, and Manos Tsakiris. Now that the journal is up and running, in the able hands of the new editors

Gabriel Kreiman and Robert van Gulick, the work of the Psyche Committee is done. Accordingly, the committee is disbanding. Its remaining duties -- oversight of the journal -- have been subsumed by the board. Thanks to the Psyche Committee for its valuable work!

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#### 5. ASSC 11 PRELIMINARY CONFERENCE REPORT

Corresponding author: Paula Droege ( [pdroege@psu.edu](mailto:pdroege@psu.edu))

The 11th annual conference of the ASSC held in Las Vegas, Nevada was well received, based on responses to a post-conference survey. Keynote speakers were rated highly overall, particularly the talk by William James Prize speaker Sid Kouider on levels of processing in unconscious perception. Symposia were also successful, with high marks given to the symposium on cortical networks and consciousness (Alumit Ishai, Rafael Malach and Giulio Tononi). Though concurrent talks and posters proved somewhat less popular, the sessions were consistently rated as 'good'. Respondents found the Magic Symposium very enjoyable; however some expressed concern over the lack of academic content. The variety and quality of presentations over the course of the conference impressed many respondents. Conversely, the Las Vegas location (and the Imperial Palace Hotel in particular) garnered the most negative commentary, which may account for the slightly lower attendance than in recent years. Look for the full report of the survey results on the ASSC website and the ASSC Eprint archive. It should be completed soon.

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#### 6. ASSC-11 PUBLICITY

Corresponding author: Susana Martinez-Conde ( [smart@neuralcorrelate.com](mailto:smart@neuralcorrelate.com))

Further information:

<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v448/n7152/pdf/448414a.pdf>

Dear ASSC members,

Thank you once again for giving us the opportunity to organize ASSC11. The meeting was a tremendous success and we had a great

time, thanks to all of you. We hope that those of you who attended had a good time too. We wanted to bring to your attention some high level publicity that the conference drew, which we hope serves to increase ASSC's profile in the future. A feature article that we wrote for Nature was published a few days ago (please see reference pasted below), and we also expect there to be coverage (soon) in The New York Times (Tuesday Science Section), The New Yorker, and Vanity Fair.

Martinez-Conde S, Macknik SL (2007). "Mind Tricks", Nature 448: 414.

Hope to see you all at future ASSCs.

All the best,

Susana Martinez-Conde and Steve Macknik  
Co-Chairs, ASSC11

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#### 7. ASSC INCREASES MEMBERSHIP FEES FROM OCTOBER 1ST 2007

Corresponding author: Christof Koch (koch@klab.caltech.edu )

Further information: <http://www.assc.caltech.edu/apply.htm>

Our membership fees have been extraordinary low since the inception of ASSC, in particular in comparison to other professional organizations. For instance, the American "Society for Neuroscience" charges \$145 for regular membership and \$45 for student membership. As we seek to move to an organization with more professional services we need to pay for these through our membership fees. The ASSC Board therefore decided to increase fees to \$60 for a one year membership, \$120 for two years and 500\$ for a lifetime membership. The fees for undergraduate or graduate students will remain the same. These fee increases will start to go in effect on October 1st 2007.

Affiliate and full members are entitled to substantial benefits, including:

1. Discounted registration to the ASSC annual meeting (last year a 20% price reduction)
2. A discount on the journal Consciousness and Cognition (currently \$130 (€116) instead of \$194 for individual purchases)
3. A 25% discount on all Oxford University Press book publications.
4. A 25% discount on all MIT Press book publications.

5. A 25% discount on Christof Koch's new book "The Quest for Consciousness", produced by Roberts & Company Publishers
  6. A 25% discount on all John Benjamins publications in the book series Advances in Consciousness Research.
  7. A 30% discount on S. Laureys (Editor) "The Boundaries of Consciousness: Neurobiology and Neuropathology", paperback version, Elsevier.
  8. Members can submit their publications to be deposited in the ASSC eprints archive.
- For more information on member's discounts please contact Olivia Carter ( [ocarter@wjh.harvard.edu](mailto:ocarter@wjh.harvard.edu) ).

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#### 8. ASSC EPRINT ARCHIVE – THE FIVE "MOST POPULAR" PAPERS OF JULY 2007

Corresponding author: Kristina Musholt ( [kmusholt@gmail.com](mailto:kmusholt@gmail.com) )  
Further information: <http://eprints.assc.caltech.edu>

The Eprint Committee is proud to announce the five "most popular" papers of July 2007. Overall, we registered 45197 downloads from 6 countries – our record so far.

1. Windt, Jennifer Michelle and Metzinger, Thomas (2006) The philosophy of dreaming and self-consciousness: What happens to the experiential subject during the dream state? In: The new science of dreaming (1505 downloads from 18 countries).  
<http://eprints.assc.caltech.edu/200/>
2. Rosen, Alan and Rosen, David B. (2006) The Design of a Sensation-generating Mechanism in the Brain: A first step towards a quantitative definition of consciousness. In: Consciousness and Cognition (1030 downloads from 20 countries).  
<http://eprints.assc.caltech.edu/195/>
3. Sagiv, Noam and Ward, Jamie (2006) Crossmodal interactions: lessons from synesthesia. In: Visual Perception, Part 2 (873 downloads from 17 countries). <http://eprints.assc.caltech.edu/224/>
4. Koriat, A. (2006) Metacognition and Consciousness. In: Cambridge handbook of consciousness. CUP (801 downloads from 17 countries). <http://eprints.assc.caltech.edu/175/>
5. Robbins, Stephen E (2006) Bergson and the holographic theory of mind. Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences, 5. pp. 365–394 (762 downloads from 14 countries).  
<http://eprints.assc.caltech.edu/206>

Notice that many of this year's conference presentations and related material can now be found in the archive – for example, this year's William James Prize winner Sid Kouder's paper: Kouider, Sid and Dehaene, Stanislas and Jobert, Antoinette and Le Bihan, Denis (2007) Cerebral Bases of Subliminal and Supraliminal Priming during Reading. *Cerebral Cortex*, 17 (9). pp. 2019–2029. (<http://eprints.assc.caltech.edu/321>)

We encourage all presenters who haven't done so yet to upload their presentations to the archive.

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NON-ASSC EVENTS AND INFORMATION  
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1. POSTDOCTORAL POSITION IN VISUAL NEUROSCIENCE, MACKNIK LAB

Corresponding author: Steve Macknik ([macknik@neuralcorrelate.com](mailto:macknik@neuralcorrelate.com))

Further information: <http://macknik.neuralcorrelate.com>

A postdoctoral position in visual neuroscience is available immediately at The Barrow Neurological Institute (a member of St. Joseph's Hospital, CHW. EOE.), in the laboratory of Stephen Macknik. Research in the laboratory addresses the neuronal mechanisms of visual perception and awareness, using a combination of visual psychophysics, neurophysiology, and functional brain imaging methods, such as fMRI and intrinsic signal imaging and in vivo two-photon microscopy. Current and planned projects include investigations of brightness and visual masking. The ideal candidate will have a strong background in any (or all) of these techniques: functional imaging, electrophysiological recording, psychophysics, optical imaging (intrinsic signal and/or two-photon microscopy), and neuronal modeling, as evidenced by first-author publications. Programming experience with Matlab or C is very desirable.

Salary will be commensurate with level of experience. A generous benefits package is offered in addition, including medical, dental, vision, and retirement (with a value equal to 24.3% of the salary). The Barrow Neurological Institute is a top-ten rated clinical neuroscience institute (US News and World Report), and is situated

in central Phoenix, the fastest growing and most desirable major metropolitan area in the US.

Please send CV, two letters of reference, and representative publications to:

Stephen Macknik

Laboratory of Behavioral Neurophysiology

The Barrow Neurological Institute

350 W Thomas Rd

Phoenix, AZ 85013

[macknik@neuralcorrelate.com](mailto:macknik@neuralcorrelate.com)