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Contents

ISSBD SPECIAL ISSUE

TO THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ISSBD

Page

- 1 Introduction *Karina Weichold*
- ISSBD ORAL HISTORY BY TWO FOUNDERS OF ISSBD
- 2 Willard Hartup interviewed by Brett Laursen
- 8 Franz Mönks interviewed by Marcel van Aken
- BIRTHDAY NOTES FROM THE PAST PRESIDENTS
- 12 1991-1996: Lea Pulkkinen
Implementation of International Collaboration – the Goal for ISSBD *Lea Pulkkinen*
- 13 1998-2002: Ken Rubin
All my very best for the next 50 years! *Ken Rubin*
- 14 2002-2006: Rainer K. Silbereisen
How and why I joined ISSBD *Rainer K. Silbereisen*
- 15 2006-2010: Anne C. Petersen
ISSBD: A distinctive global scientific society
Anne C. Petersen
- 16 2010-2014: Wolfgang Schneider
ISSBD: A truly international scientific enterprise
Wolfgang Schneider
- 17 2014-2018: Xinyin Chen
ISSBD: Promoting career development of young scholars and well-being of humans in times of social change *Xinyin Chen*
- 19 NOTES FROM THE CURRENT PRESIDENT
Notes from the President *Toni Antonucci*
- 21 THE HISTORY OF ISSBD BIENNIAL MEETINGS
Map of Locations of ISSBD Biennial Meetings
- 22 ISSBD Meetings: Photo Collection
- FACES OF ISSBD: A VIEW INTO THE CURRENT MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY
- 29 Twenty-One Members of ISSBD introduce themselves
- OUTLOOK: NOTES FROM THE PAST EARLY CAREER SCHOLAR REPRESENTATIVE
Building a Global Developmental Science
Josafá da Cunha & Jonathan Santos

ISSBD
50th
Anniversary

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Introduction to the Special Issue: The 50th Anniversary of ISSBD

Karina Weichold

We are all members and friends of ISSBD, the Society for the Study of Behavioural Development. We attend the Biennial Meetings that take place around the globe, where we meet with our international colleagues (who are often meanwhile friends). We enjoy the vivid diversity of the membership with regard to nationality and scientific status, and we appreciate the stringent focus on the promotion of young scholars with a particular emphasis on regions of the world that are often excluded from scientific discussions. The society inspires us continuously to study various facets of human development under a biopsychosocial and culturally sensitive research framework, while using rigorous methods and aiming at the translation of results into intervention, practice, and social policy. These aims are also stimulated by the society's publication outlets, in particular the *IJBD*, but also the *ISSBD Bulletin* and the *e-Newsletter*. While reflecting on ISSBD, we often focus on present and future directions of the society, but on its 50th birthday, it is time to also recall the history of ISSBD.

With this special issue of the *Bulletin* for ISSBD's 50th anniversary, we are aiming at both, looking at the past and future of the most international society for developmental scientists. And, as is usual at a birthday bash, we want to celebrate with those who founded ISSBD and those who worked for it in leading positions, along with all the members.

We are happy to present in this issue the oral history interviews of two founders who were involved in translating the vision of an international society of developmentalists into reality in the year 1969: to that end Willard Hartup and Franz Mönks spoke with Brett Laursen and Marcel van Aken about the origins of ISSBD. From the foundation of ISSBD, up to today, 13 presidents have headed the society, among them not only Willard Hartup (1979-1983) but also Lea Pulkkinen (1991-1996), Ken Rubin (1998-2002), Rainer K. Silbereisen (2002-2006), Anne C. Petersen (2006-2010), Wolfgang Schneider (2010-2014), and Xinyin Chen (2014-2018). All of them sent their birthday greetings to ISSBD, as did the current president of the society, Toni Antonucci (2018-2022).

Fifty years of ISSBD means also 25 Biennial Meetings with extraordinary scientific programs at exciting venues around the globe, organized by ambitious local teams. A map summarizes the many international locations of these events. Besides that, countless ISSBD regional workshops took place with a particular focus on Africa, Asia, and South America in order to build capacity, train young scholars and increase the visibility of researchers in those regions. During all these meetings, not only was outstanding research on human development stimulated; also, the business of the society was discussed among the president, the steering committee, the executive committee, and our publisher SAGE. Meetings of ISSBD were also hotbeds of networking between researchers at all academic levels, for improving international contacts, and for developing friendships. We are sure that all members have their own personal memories from the events described in this *Bulletin*, and we have also presented some snapshots from past ISSBD workshops and biennial meetings.

Now looking at the present: ISSBD today has 1,045 members. But who are they? We were curious and selected individuals from the membership directory at random, asking them to introduce themselves and to answer a few questions. The reactions were amazing! From Ph.D. student to professor emeritus, our 21 "Faces of ISSBD" cover all levels of an academic career, study various aspects of human development, and they come from many different cultures. In addition to being members of ISSBD, they share a great enthusiasm and the wish that their hopes for the future of the society will become true. One of the most appreciated features of ISSBD in the eyes of these individuals was the promotion of young scientists around the world. Josafa da Cunha has been one of the most engaged members of ISSBD's executive committee on that topic during the past years and he gives a glimpse in his birthday statement of his ambitions for the society in the future.

Editing this issue of the *Bulletin* for the 50th anniversary of ISSBD was spectacular, so was the close contact to the members, as well as past and current leaders of the society when assembling the content. We hope that the readers will enjoy it and celebrate together with us the impressive past of the society and the many successful years to come!

Happy Birthday, ISSBD!

ISSBD ORAL HISTORY

Willard W. Hartup

Willard W. Hartup, PhD, former ISSBD President, is Regents' Professor of Child Psychology at the University of Minnesota, USA, interviewed by Brett Laursen, Florida Atlantic University, USA



PART ONE

Brett Laursen: Brett Laursen here, with Bill Hartup doing an ISSBD History interview. Today is 13 December 2018. I'm going to start by asking Bill for some background. A lot of Bill's personal history is available at the SRCD oral history site, so I'll ask him just to provide a synopsis.

Bill Hartup: I was raised on a farm in Northwestern Ohio, although my parents were teachers and not farmers. My father taught agriculture, my mother had to leave teaching when she got married because married women weren't allowed to teach in that school. I graduated from high school at the close of World War II. As a matter of fact, it was that summer that the war ended. But I decided to go into the army rather than directly to the university. I probably would have been drafted anyway. So, the next two years were spent in uniform, mostly in schools of various kinds. There were other experiences, though, during those two years that had a formative influence on me. It was during a tour of duty in Panama that a young man wanted to be friends with me, providing I would read two books. One of them was *Das Kapital* and the other was the New Introductory Lectures [on Psychoanalysis] by Freud. Well, I got partway through *Das Kapital* but I think the only outcome of that was an added liberal brush to my political views. And we also attended a couple of labor rallies in Panama City. But more important to me was the experience I had reading the New Introductory Lectures. I did that during guard duty on the post where I was based, out on the fringes of the jungle at night, and it profoundly affected me. I left the army a year later and went to the university with a vague intention of pursuing psychoanalysis. Well, in the course of doing that, one would take

introductory psychology, which I did, and found that was, of course, not psychoanalysis. But I continued on, interested in what I found there, and ended up studying that as my major field.

Brett Laursen: Let me jump in with a question for clarification. Panama City...

Bill Hartup: Is in Panama.

Brett Laursen: ... instead of Florida.

Bill Hartup: Yes.

Brett Laursen: And you took your undergraduate degree at...

Bill Hartup: Ohio State.

Bill Hartup: I also majored at that university in English but I decided at the time of my graduation that I didn't want to be an English teacher. And although I didn't know what a psychologist did, really, I decided to go on with no clear goal into a graduate program at that same university. Well, midway through the first year, one person, his name was Boyd McCandless, took me aside at the class one day and wanted to know what I wanted to do as a psychologist. And when he found that I had been at that university for four years and had no idea what I wanted to do, he suggested that I might be interested in studying children. And that made a great deal of sense to me and the second thing he said was: "you must leave this university, you've been here long enough" and within three months I had a research assistantship at Harvard and worked on the study which became famous by Robert Sears, Eleanor Maccoby, and Harry Levin called "Patterns of Child Rearing."

I got from there a few years later to the Iowa Child Welfare Research Station, at the University of Iowa. That unit was an old, well regarded unit devoted to developmental psychology and it helped begin the movement in the 1950s that came to be known as 'experimental child psychology.' Most of my colleagues were interested in utilizing Hull-Spence learning theory as a basis for thinking about developmental change. I spent my time basically "painting my nudes." I did a little bit of this, a little bit of that: evaluation of preschool programs, doll play studies of adult influences on children's imitation, and others.

Brett Laursen: Did you do anything that built on your work at Harvard?

Bill Hartup: Very little. Except that my main interests dealt with the influence of parents and parent-child relationships on development. It was only during my last year at Iowa, through student questions in a seminar, that I become interested in what children's relationships with other children might contribute to development.



PART TWO

Bill Hartup: I had reached the point where I was feeling like a fish out of water in that program. Harold Stevenson, who had become the director of the Institute of Child Development at the University of Minnesota, came to Iowa for a summer session and got to know me. And that led to an invitation three years later to join the faculty at Minnesota. Stevenson was the fifth president of ISSBD. At that point, ISSBD was not yet born. But I moved to the University of Minnesota and found a place where I really wanted to be.

Brett Laursen: And this was in what year?

Bill Hartup: In 1963. And I began work on the part of social development which interested me through the rest of my career, which was namely "How are relationships among children implicated in individual development?" This took the form of studies of social attraction, structures of children's peer groups, peer status and its implications for development, and then, most extensively, the study of friendships and their developmental significance. I ended my active research career in the late 1990s with studies of children's antipathies for one another and studies of conflicts as involved in children's peer relations.

Brett Laursen: So your undergraduate years were roughly from when to when, your graduate years were roughly from when to when?

Bill Hartup: My undergraduate years were from 1947 through 1950. My graduate years were from 1950 to 1955. I taught at a Rhode Island college for one year and then went to Iowa in 1955. I stayed there for eight years until 1963, when I went to the University of Minnesota, and I stayed there for the remainder of my career. But in 1969, a serendipitous event occurred which had a major impact on my life. And that was the visit to the Institute of Child Development by Franz Mönks, who was recently appointed to the chair in Developmental Psychology at the University of Nijmegen, now Radboud University in the Netherlands. Franz was on a study trip designed, in part, to see if he could recruit some people from the United States and Canada to come for periods of time to Nijmegen in order to augment the program that he was trying to build. Well, when this invitation came, I was ready for a sabbatical leave, and having discussed this with my family, we took off for a whole year in the Netherlands during 1970-71. My kids went to Dutch schools, my wife did theatrical activities in English for her friends in Nijmegen, and I began work with colleagues in the Institute of Psychology at that University. One of the things that Franz was doing in the fall of that year, was organizing the first congress of ISSBD. Well, I had never heard about ISSBD. It had only been organized in 1969 by a relatively small group of developmental psychologists who were attending a meeting in Bonn, Germany. Discussion about forming such a society had taken place at various meetings over more than a decade.

Brett Laursen: Can you remember and give some names for that group?

Bill Hartup: The names I can recall from among the founders are: Hans Thomae; Jan de Wit, who was at the University of Amsterdam; Jarmila Kotaskova, who was at the

Academy of Sciences in Prague; Marcello Cesa-Bianchi, who was at University of Milan; Ursula Lehr from Bonn, and Franz Mönks. There were probably others.

Brett Laursen: It's a pretty good list.

Bill Hartup: Oh, and there were two Americans: Robert Havighurst and Bernice Neugarten from the University of Chicago. The complete list can be found in my history of ISSBD during its first quarter-century published in the Journal in 1996. Back to 1970, Franz Mönks, Jan de Wit, and I became the Organizing Committee for the first Congress. And we set about doing that in a fashion that I thought was a little unusual. It was pretty loose in some ways. But we did nevertheless issue the invitation and about 100 people came, maybe slightly more than that, to Nijmegen in July of 1971 for that congress.

Brett Laursen: Mostly from Europe, or equal parts from North America?

Bill Hartup: More Europeans than Americans, although there were a lot of Americans who came.

Brett Laursen: And was there anyone from outside of Europe or North America?

Bill Hartup: I don't believe so.

Brett Laursen: By Europeans at this time we're only talking about Western Europeans.

Bill Hartup: Yes, yes.

PART THREE

Bill Hartup: So, the program consisted mostly of plenary sessions. There were, I think, a few times when there were two sessions going on at once. But the audience was quite enthusiastic and quite attentive. I remember one incident: Robert Cairns, who was a friend of mine, was giving a paper dealing with his early work on aggression and he was not paying much attention to his delivery. Suddenly, a voice came booming out of the audience (it was Ase Skaard, a formidable lady who had been a member of the Norwegian resistance during the war and was widely known in the field of early childhood education) saying "Please slow down. You must remember that we are not all native speakers of English." Bob blushed deeply and, of course, slowed down.

Brett Laursen: Can I ask you a little more about this... Mostly senior faculty or was this something that students or junior faculty might attend.

Bill Hartup: There was no effort to invite junior faculty. I think the only ones there were probably the junior faculty at Nijmegen, who were also graduate students, and I think there might have been others from Amsterdam and maybe Bonn. But I don't think there were lots of junior faculty there from other countries.

Brett Laursen: You make it sound as if it was not a male only affair.

Bill Hartup: Not, it wasn't. I don't remember how many women were there but I think a sizable number.



Brett Laursen: So, the content came and went . . .

Bill Hartup: The contents came and went. We did publish a book of the proceedings.

“Determinants of Behavioral Development,” Academic Press, 1972. Since this was in English I had a fairly heavy editorial assignment so I only remember the process and not the content. Anyway, so far as my stay in Holland is concerned, it opened up to me the possibilities that could derive from closer work internationally in our field. You have to remember that in the early 60s we were still in an age when communication between people was largely by mail. It was slow. Most of the people in attendance at these meetings had worked provincially, within their own countries, were identified with works going on in their own countries, did not know people from other countries, except maybe that group of founders.

Brett Laursen: This is 1969 and the Society is how old?

Bill Hartup: Well, no, this conference took place in 1971 when the Society was two years old. The Society was commissioned, or authorized, in the Netherlands during that period right after 1969. The documentation was signed by Queen Juliana. And all this was accomplished by Jan de Wit who was the general secretary.

Brett Laursen: Was there a business meeting at the meetings, and did you attend said business meeting?

Bill Hartup: I am pretty sure that I did but I don't remember anything about it (laughs). The governance for the Society at that point was really strange for a person like me who was accustomed to something quite different. The Executive Committee consisted entirely of those people who had founded the society in 1969. From then on, for about the next 6 years or so, that continued to be the case. There was no formal way for new members to be added; they were added just on the suggestion of members of the Executive Committee. There were no elections, there was no formal procedure for becoming a member of the Society. Dues, I think, were not levied in any systematic way. And so, it was in 1975, after two other meetings of the society, that work began on an expanded set of by-laws. I was involved with Harry McGurk and Jan de Wit in writing them and these were operational by 1977.

Brett Laursen: So, Jan de Wit was still president, or had there been some kind of rotation?

Bill Hartup: Well, there were rotations. Thomae was the first president, de Wit became president in 1975, four years later. And he continued through the meetings in Lund in 1979. I had been appointed to the committee in 1975 and by 1979 they thought that they wanted me to be the president.

Brett Laursen: How were those discussions conducted? The founders just sat around a table or they did it at dinner or . . . ?

Bill Hartup: I think it was a combination of both. It was very informal.

Brett Laursen: Happened in one sitting or this was a lot of back and forth over time?

Bill Hartup: Oh, I don't think there was a lot of back and forth over time. I think there was an agreement from very early on that the Society should have presidents for four years and not longer. Thomae, actually, was in favor of retaining rather loose regulations for doing the Society's work. He was afraid that if it would become too formal it would be too much like American societies and not as comfortable for many colleagues.

Brett Laursen: He gets credit for this very, very long term of presidency where you have two years, four and two . . .

Bill Hartup: The term of the presidency actually was suggested by an American sociologist whose name was Burt Brim. He was president of Russell Sage Foundation at that time, and he had come to the meeting in Nijmegen, and later on when he knew that we were thinking about drawing up some bylaws he suggested to the committee that that would be a reasonable term. He felt that 6 years would be too long, that 2 years would be too short in view of the fact that meetings of the Society only occur once every 2 years. As I said earlier, I was a member of that by-laws committee with Harry McGurk and Jan de Wit, and that group got together largely at my instigation. I became really uncomfortable with this sort of old boy club that I was afraid the Society would become and I thought we should have more regular standards and procedures for membership and for elections and so forth. We actually drew up the bylaws using those of the Society for Research in Child Development as a template. There were some differences, and this document has been amended several times since. If you look to the two documents now I don't know whether you could tell that one was related to the other.

Brett Laursen: So, there was a Dutch president, and then a Dutch president and then you were president?

Bill Hartup: No, Thomae was German.

Brett Laursen: So a German president, then a Dutch a president, and then you were president?

Bill Hartup: That's right. My presidency was marked by further steps towards the formalization that I was just referring to. We had the bylaws and the organizational scheme, but just barely. The membership stood at about 250, maybe. And we did think that we were in line to do another meeting in North America and then one in Europe. The meeting in Toronto was not a lot bigger than the one that had taken place in Nijmegen. We hadn't pursued members, and I remember asking that a membership desk be set up during the conference, and that people be urged to become members. The informality of the day was illustrated by my taking home bundles of travelers checks and different currencies which people left for their dues.

Brett Laursen: The president was also the treasurer?

Bill Hartup: We had a treasurer, and he had a small amount of money which had accrued in the previous 8 years through memberships mostly. But most of the Society's funds came from profits from the biennial meetings. But the Biennial Meetings were set up entirely by the individual who was the organizer.

Brett Laursen: They still are.



Bill Hartup: And their funding was not provided by ISSBD, and the organization of the meetings and the whole operation of them rested with the organizer, as did any profits. Well, by the time I became president in 1979, there were profits in Ann Arbor, there were profits in England, there were profits in Holland, there were profits in Germany, and there were some other accounts in various other places, and I called them all in, although it took some doing.

Brett Laursen: When did the publication of the proceedings cease?

Bill Hartup: Klaus Riegel and Jack Meacham edited the second conference proceedings (Ann Arbor), Harry McGurk edited the third (Guilford), and Marcello Cesa-Bianchi edited the fourth set of proceedings (Pavia). The latter were published only in Italian. And then they stopped.

Brett Laursen: Who followed you as president?

Bill Hartup: Paul Baltes. My last two years as president were marked, as I said earlier, with settling in a more formal organization and a more formal way of doing business with conference organizers. Paul was asked to organize the 1983 conference which was held in Munich. It was the best conference that ISSBD had sponsored up to that time and he was elected president then.

Brett Laursen: Elected by whom?

Bill Hartup: By the membership, we had bylaws operating by then.

Brett Laursen: So you were the last president elected by the Executive Committee. Then the society moved to a membership election?

Bill Hartup: Yes, I think so.

Brett Laursen: What would you say were the Society's aims during these years, aside from just being organized? Were there overarching goals?

Bill Hartup: No, the constitution says just generally it is to promote the study of behavioral development over the lifespan.

Brett Laursen: Okay, but as the first international organization devoted to behavioral development, there must have been something beyond lifespan behavioral development that was motivating the participants to travel large distances to go to these congresses.

Bill Hartup: Well, I think it was the general flowering of developmental work in the social sciences during this time, rather than interdisciplinary considerations per se. Beginning in the 1960s, but especially apparent in the 1970s, theoretical models and research methods for studying "development" broke through decades of inertia, becoming vibrant across a wide spectrum. The number of academic positions, national research institute positions, and privately funded programs increased greatly during that period. And, I think, as that happened in the United States, it also happened in Europe. And the Society came into being at just the point in this expansion when international collaboration in research and dissemination seemed both feasible and to have great potential.

Brett Laursen: When you say international, you mostly mean transatlantic, I assume.

Bill Hartup: Well, it was at that time. There was really no representation in the Society much from Eastern Europe, although by the time I became president, we had organized one training workshop in Poland and others were being planned in an effort to bridge the gap between Western Europe and colleagues in Eastern Europe. People like Jarmilla Kotaskova, who had been a member of the Society from the beginning, helped with that. I think that expansion was also assisted by Magda Kalmar, from Budapest, and a number of others.

Brett Laursen: My reflection is that became an increasingly important orientation for the society as the Cold War years advanced.

Bill Hartup: Right. The first one of the workshops, I think, was organized during the time that Jan de Wit was president. But I was very anxious to encourage the continuation of that program. I take great satisfaction in the long continuation of that program up until the present and its expansion to Asia, South America, and Africa. The first Asian Workshop took place in 1978 in Indonesia. The organizer was Singgih Dirgagunarsa. He was a very experienced man from Indonesia who had, I think, come to the attention of Jan de Wit because of the historic connection between Holland and Indonesia. Jan de Wit spent a lot of time going back and forth from Holland to Indonesia, and I think that is how he came to know Singgih.

Brett Laursen: We're trying to round up all of the previous workshops. So there was one in Indonesia. The years were roughly . . .

Bill Hartup: The whole list of workshops that took place in the first 25 years of the Society can be found in my 1996 article in the Journal.

Brett Laursen: Oh, you've got all of the workshops in IJBD, very good.

So the initial organization and organizing principles were about development and then increasingly about international bridge building. Was there waxing and waning, shifts in focus during those years? How would you say that the focus of the Society changed over time? Clearly the founding fathers and mothers, so to speak, continued to lead the Society. Were there generational transitions, or any kind of transition during your years?

Bill Hartup: Well, there was a generational one. De Wit and I were about the same age, and Stevenson was a little bit older than I was. So maybe the generational transition, didn't take place, or part of it took place then, and moved on a bit later to Harry McGurk, Lea Pulkkinen, and Ken Rubin who were somewhat younger. You ask about changes, substantively. I think that changes simply mirrored what was happening mostly in developmental psychology during that time.

Brett Laursen: Somewhere along the way someone got it in their head to have a journal.

Bill Hartup: That actually happened also in the 1970's; the first volume appeared in 1976. I remember meetings that

we had with Larry Erlbaum from Academic Press, and other potential publishers as well as our more general conversations about starting a journal. But I think Franz Mönks would be a much better informant about this than I am.

Brett Laursen: But you were on the Executive Committee. What was the rationale, the motive for starting such an undertaking with such a small group of individuals?

Bill Hartup: Well, I think they were consistent with the general purpose of the Society, which was to provide a mechanism besides the biennial meetings for stimulating international exchange. What we hoped was that it would not be a general journal of developmental psychology, but rather one in which collaborative work would appear, from laboratories across nations, and also that there would be publications from a variety of nations on issues that would touch on national or international themes. I think it has remained more or less true to that goal.

Brett Laursen: It was a big undertaking, the Society was not flush with funds.

Bill Hartup: No, it wasn't.

Brett Laursen: And journal publishing was not very lucrative in those days.

Bill Hartup: We didn't have much funding from the publisher. The initial publisher was Elsevier, and I think within a short period of time Elsevier was so severe in its lack of support for the journal that we felt we could not afford it. And its subscription prices were so high that many libraries could not afford it. And that is when Academic Press came to our rescue. You'll need to get the exact chronology from Franz or look in your own files.

Brett Laursen: I'm more interested in the deliberations surrounding the decision to undertake the launch of the journal. Because it could not have been done lightly, given the financial considerations. Even when I was first involved in the Society, the financial burdens of running a journal were heavy.

Bill Hartup: All I remember is a lot of discussion, because we knew it was a big undertaking, and one that might not necessarily pay off.

Brett Laursen: And it had competitors. *Child Development* was already established.

Bill Hartup: Yes, it had been published for 40 years and was going great guns at this time with more than 700 submissions a year.

Brett Laursen: And Merrill-Palmer Quarterly had already been established.

Bill Hartup: *Developmental Psychology* started in 1969 and was receiving more than 600 submissions per year.

Brett Laursen: But you didn't see the journal as any kind of competition with the main journals at the time?

Bill Hartup: Competitive only in the sense that they were the big guys, and we were the little guys, and we didn't know whether we could join the party.

Brett Laursen: Talk to me about the appointment of editors. How did that come about? We will have the Editors' perspective in an interview with Franz Mönks, but we don't know the deliberations around the Executive Committee's table.

Bill Hartup: Franz was, I think, the person who proposed the journal or, if he didn't do that, he was an advocate for it. And so it was decided to try it and there was a consensus that he should be the first Editor.

Brett Laursen: Who was the president at that time?

Bill Hartup: Thomae was retiring and de Wit assuming the presidency.

Brett Laursen: Talk to me about efforts to make the Society distinct from SRCD.

Bill Hartup: Well, the relation between the Society and SRCD is one that has been fraught. At the 1975 meeting of ISSBD, which was held in Guildford, in England, SRCD arranged for its entire Long Range Planning Committee to attend. The purpose was to discuss several of its objectives with the ISSBD governance: how to stimulate interdisciplinary research and, most relevantly, how to promote international endeavor in child development. That group had a vigorous set of discussions, and one of the issues was how ISSBD and SRCD would get along.

PART FOUR

Bill Hartup: For a time, there was communication between the two organizations, but it never was really very clear how the small international society and the big North American society could really get together with more than just statements about the desirability of international work. SRCD was not interested necessarily in going to great lengths to share pages in its journal with another organization, although we were invited to participate in those pages. And there was a kind of case of David and Goliath, I think, and there was a small group of people who were interested in international cooperation, but that didn't include everybody. For this reason, there has not been much success in the ensuing years in formalizing a relationship between the two organizations. In recent years, I think there have been efforts in SRCD to increase the participation in its organization by people from abroad, but that's been very one-sided.

Brett Laursen: But isn't it fair to say that the North American participants in ISSBD were also involved in SRCD, for the most part.

Bill Hartup: Oh yes, I think they all were. As for me, my activities in ISSBD tapered off in the 1980s: I became the editor of *Child Development* in 1983, eventually president of SRCD. It wasn't my interests that changed, but the range, or the scope, of my activities. I did maintain regular involvement in ISSBD affairs until I retired, and also spent considerable time abroad.

Brett Laursen: So there has always been some desire on the part of the leaders of ISSBD to make sure that the Society does not become too North American-centric. Can you talk a little bit about that topic and what kind of efforts were



made in that respect? Was there something like a firewall built between the two?

Bill Hartup: Well, that was a big issue from the beginning. I remember Hans Thomaе talking about it. There were some folks like him worrying that ISSBD would be just overwhelmed by North Americans. Largely because there were so many more of them and they had resources. And he saw that as an obstruction to the growth of the human development field in other countries. But the only rules that were put up to ensure that this wouldn't happen were unwritten. This was understood from the start: that no conference would be organized that wouldn't have a good participation from people from a variety of countries. And that a strong effort would be made to secure participation in the meetings from a range of countries, and that the meetings would be held in North America relatively infrequently. And committee work would be shared, and officers would be only periodically elected from North America.

Brett Laursen: Was there an effort to both ensure that most of the meetings were held outside of North America and that most of the officers came from outside of North America?

Bill Hartup: Yes. I don't know in the last 50 years how many North Americans have been presidents of the society, about five, six?

Brett Laursen: We have that online!

Looking back, to the extent you think you initially had goals and aims, how successful do you think the Society was in meeting them? Did the Society fall a bit short, was it too slow to develop, was it overly ambitious?

Bill Hartup: Well, I think, to some extent, we are still overly ambitious. The field of behavioral development has changed in lots of ways – at different rates and speeds in different places. I think what may not have happened as much as I thought would happen is international collaboration. But there are exceptions to that, there are lots of exceptions to that rule. And that may be that such cooperation for its own sake is really not a meaningful objective. It's like a lot of things in the life course. When there's a clear superordinate

goal you get the kind of cooperation you want from the participants as you want, and in the absence of that goal you don't. I think this is the case where people have gone about their work with much better information about what has been going on in other parts of the world. But that hasn't meant just a wave of international collaboration or empirical work.

Brett Laursen: So here's my final question: Where did the name come from? Why Behavioural Development?

Bill Hartup: Well, I think those founders who met in Bonn included a couple of people who were not psychologists, and it also definitely included people who were committed to the lifespan study of development. The emphasis conveyed by the word behavioral was to distinguish the Society's concerns from strictly non-behavioral ones.

Brett Laursen: I often wondered why it wasn't Human Development instead of Behavioral Development.

Bill Hartup: There was a journal called Human Development that had been edited for many years by Hans Thomaе. Maybe to distinguish it from that. There's an interesting and funny story about 'behavioral'. If you notice, the Society uses the word 'behavioural,' spelled with a U in its name (the British spelling) while the journal uses the word without the U (the American spelling). Well, the U, I think, is in the name because the founders were mostly senior Europeans and the English that most continental Europeans used at that time was British rather than American English. But when Franz Mönks became the first editor of the journal, he really wanted to emphasize the relation between the North American and European activity, so he insisted that the journal be named without the U.

Brett Laursen: Was the journal name solely at the behest of the editor or was it a group decision?

Bill Hartup: I think it was Franz's decision.

Brett Laursen: Any final words?

Bill Hartup: No, I don't think so. It was my pleasure to talk about these things.

ISSBD ORAL HISTORY

Franz Mönks

Franz Mönks, emeritus professor in developmental psychology at Radboud University of Nijmegen (The Netherlands) was one of the founders of ISSBD. He was interviewed by Marcel van Aken (Utrecht University, The Netherlands). This is a shortened and edited version of the interview. The full version is available on the ISSBD website.

Marcel van Aken: Good Morning. Today I am interviewing Prof. Franz Mönks. He is an emeritus professor in developmental psychology at Radboud University Nijmegen (The Netherlands) and he is also one of the founders of ISSBD. So we are going to talk about your personal history but also about your history related to the development of ISSBD and also of the journal you are involved with. Can you tell us first something about where you came from and how you became a developmental psychologist?

Franz Mönks: You see, I am actually from Germany, but was born close to the Dutch border in Goch. I came here because I heard that psychology in Nijmegen was very good, so my study of psychology began in Nijmegen. And there I met Adriaan de Groot and Rutten, etc., very important persons in psychology, and Buytendijk, of course. I started as a student in Bonn, Germany. My professor there was Hans Thoma. I went to Bonn because the last Gestalt psychologist, Wolfgang Metzger, was in Münster, and he was always talking critically about Thoma, so I thought "this must be a very interesting person." So I moved to Bonn and indeed he was much better from my perspective. He knew the American psychology very well, especially lifespan development. This was his main topic.

So I came here to Nijmegen in 1962 again. Why? Because I had a fellowship to collect data here for my dissertation. I finished my dissertation in Bonn, on the topic "Future time perspective in adolescents". So it was not at all related to giftedness, the area I am now in. And then in 1963, we had an international symposium on creativity and my professor at time that, professor Colon, said: "Mönks, you will be studying childhood and adolescence." It was the era when professors told you what you had to do. So, I did it and it was very, very interesting because I also learned the literature about giftedness. Creativity was closely related to giftedness. I got to know all the important persons like Lewis Terman, the American who later was a professor at Stanford University, and who started a longitudinal study in 1922 about giftedness. And you know, he was very much interested in the differences between people. Why? Because at that time they lived in a small village, Needham in Indiana and there was a vendor who sold books, and he knew the children. And he had a book about phrenology. And he of course, he knew the children's characteristics. So he touched their heads and told something about themselves, which was true of course. And little Lewis Terman said to his older brother John, who was already headmaster in the neighbor village: "John, you

have to buy this book." John bought this book and from that time onward Lewis Terman was interested in giftedness. His dissertation was on six slow and six brilliant students. He retained this focus on gifted and not gifted, and disturbed and non-disturbed.

So I had the luck to know and to see where Terman grew up. When they grew up they had to work on the farm from early in the morning until late in the evening, and he said that they had no time to think about things. But Terman's father owned an Encyclopedia Britannica, which was very special in that environment. So when they didn't know something they looked it up in the Encyclopedia Britannica.

Terman went for his PhD to Clark University. Clark was the Mecca of psychology at that time, because the president was Stanley Hall. A very famous American, he actually wrote the first empirically based book on adolescence. When they celebrated the anniversary of the university in 1909, he invited many psychologists from Germany, including Freud, Stanley Hall himself, Carl Gustav Jung, and also William Stern. So you see, this was a very interesting area which I moved to in 1962, based on the command of my professor "Mönks, you will be studying childhood and adolescence".

Marcel van Aken: And Terman was one of the people at that conference?

Franz Mönks: No, Terman was not there. He was still a student at Clark, where he got his PhD.

Marcel van Aken: And was the conference in 1963 already related to ISSBD?

Franz Mönks: No, the conference in 1963 in Nijmegen, an international conference on creativity, was not at all related. At a certain moment he, he was talking with Jan de Wit (a professor from Amsterdam), and said "We should have a group working in the area of behavioral development." And that was actually the beginning of the interest in having a separate branch on behavioral science. Thoma, who knew many psychologists in Europe, wrote letters to many persons. This was actually the beginning of ISSBD. Thoma founded it, he was the creator, and he became the first president. That was a wonderful happening, because all of us here in Nijmegen were also working on the lifespan. And this behavioral development was focused across the lifespan.

Marcel van Aken: And who were other people that were involved?

Franz Mönks: People at that time? Jan de Wit, from Amsterdam, very much interested and joined the first group, which held the first conference of what they called ISSBD, International Society for the Study of Behavioural Development. At a certain moment, I brought Bill Hartup here to Nijmegen, because we had a good relationship. In 1968, I got a fellowship from the Dutch organization for



Franz Mönks and Marcel van Aken during the Oral History interview recording

pure scientific research to visit the United States, and I stayed there for three months. Not to study giftedness, not to study adolescence, but to conduct longitudinal studies, and study the university kindergartens. So I started in New York, because I had very interesting correspondence with people there, who also wrote books on adolescents. Later I moved to Yellow Springs, Ohio. I visited the Fels Institute because we had also corresponded with Sontag, who was the director there. I also visited Berkeley, where the most important persons for longitudinal studies, such as the California Growth Study, while Dorothee Eichhorn was still there. Yes, I had very good relationships in Minneapolis as well as in California, in Berkeley. And in Berkeley, I learned so much about longitudinal studies. And in Minneapolis, the director at that time was Harold Stevenson, who took me to a room filled with research papers by Goodenough, and said "This is the reason why I never will start a longitudinal study. This material is waiting for analysis and nobody is able to analyze it." So this was a clear contra to longitudinal studies.

But we in Nijmegen thought ok, we will start with a longitudinal study and we wrote an application but we did not get it. It was too expensive and too long-lasting. At that time the Dutch organization for pure scientific research did not like to spend money on long-lasting projects. But in Nijmegen we were just building a new psychological institute, here on the Montessorilaan, so we started anyway.

Marcel van Aken: But you said that back in 1968 you already knew Bill Hartup? And you invited him here?

Franz Mönks: I met him in Minneapolis and he made a very good impression; he wanted to go somewhere for a sabbatical in another country. So I had the chance to invite him here to Nijmegen. He got some funds, and spent a full year here on sabbatical.

Marcel van Aken: And was that the time that you decided to really make ISSBD an official society?

Franz Mönks: This was close to that. But the important thing with Bill Hartup was, he came a certain day, he came to me and said we'd like to have a journal, a new journal. I said, that there are so many journals, why again a new journal? So I said: "Ok, I will do it but first I have to do a feasibility study to see whether there is space for a new journal". So I wrote to Child Development, and all these important developmental psychology journals and they all reacted very positively and actually encouraged me to go ahead and establish it under the name "International Journal for the Study of Behavioral Development." And found a Dutch publisher, Elsevier, was willing to publish it.

Marcel van Aken: And that they were willing means that they had money for it, or did the society have to pay for it?

Franz Mönks: No, they had money for it. And at that time I was advisor to the Bernard van Leer Foundation, and they were willing to take a hundred copies of the journal. Without this financial support, we could not have started a new journal. But they bought and paid for hundred institutional journals - and institutional is always more expensive than personal journal.

Marcel van Aken: Ok, so that started it. And at that moment the society was already a real society?

Franz Mönks: It was a real society and we even had a list of members and held the first conference in Nijmegen. I think it was 1972 or so. Kohlberg was there as well. And we had people from Krakow, Poland, including developmental psychologists, who asked whether they could cooperate with Nijmegen because they were very much interested in animal psychology. We had a good animal lab, so the

department of physiological psychology formed a fruitful cooperation with Krakow.

Marcel van Aken: And if you look at ISSBD, there were Europeans involved but also some US scientists? What was the main reason to have the society? Was it a topical reason or was it also an idea that we should have our own European associations?

Franz Mönks: Partly. Some persons thought we should support more developmental psychology, and lifespan developmental psychology in Europe. But in the beginning we had more American members. And the American members preferred to not just focus on child development but to join the broader International Society for the Study of Behavioural Development: ISSBD.

Marcel van Aken: Why did they like it? Because of the international or because of the behavioral?

Franz Mönks: The international and behavioral, both. Indeed, that was the case.

Marcel van Aken: And then it started as a relatively small society of course, and then it grew?

Franz Mönks: It grew and grew and I was very much surprised when I was invited to Gent in Belgium, to the conference Leni Verhofstadt organized. I was impressed to see so many people interested in behavioral development. And when I see today what ISSBD is, that is amazing.

Marcel van Aken: Yes, I remember the conference in Gent was one of the biggest we ever had, I think.

Franz Mönks: Yes.

Marcel van Aken: Ok, so then you were the first editor of the journal.

Franz Mönks: Yes.

Marcel van Aken: How long were you the editor?

Franz Mönks: It was for five years, I think. But in-between I had to go to Peru, because I was also very much involved in international projects. We had one project in Peru, and one in Indonesia. Actually, those of us from Nijmegen helped to build up psychology in Indonesia as well as in Peru. They translated my book 'Developmental Psychology,' published by Gadjah Mada University Press in Indonesia. It is now in its 20th edition, but I want to add more Indonesian content to it.

Marcel van Aken: So it should include some more specific Indonesian psychology. Is this something that you think is also important for ISSBD to stimulate?

Franz Mönks: Yes, I think so. I think so because ISSBD was inspired by the international studies in behavioral development. And in Indonesia they have now 250 million people, with a young population. Years ago, I knew the minister of education, who was a psychologist. I visited him while he was minister and he said: "Listen, to change things here is so difficult because there are millions of children. We have to improve the educational system, and of course we have to support giftedness."

Marcel van Aken: To come back to ISSBD, what do you think ISSBD has done for such countries?

Franz Mönks: What ISSBD has done for those countries is that people in, for example Indonesia and Peru, could become members of ISSBD. And I think this membership supports them in their ideas and actions. I think it is important to have a group especially concerned with behavior, in this case gifted behavior. They now want to have a program in gifted education so they invited me to come and I am now thinking I am too old to go again. But maybe I will do it. My last official thing.

Marcel van Aken: About what you said about how important it is for people in a country such as Peru or Indonesia to become an ISSBD member: I think that is also one of the main good things that ISSBD stands for. But for the journal, as editor, how did you get your articles? Did you invite people?

Franz Mönks: That is interesting. You are always learning in life. I learned that authors first submitted articles to us. Then they got our comments and then they submitted it to "Vita Humana." I was also on the board of that journal, and that was amazing.

Marcel van Aken: Why? Was Vita Humana considered to be a higher outlet?

Franz Mönks: At that time, it was a very important journal, but it no longer exists. It died a number of years ago.

Marcel van Aken: So people would use IJBD to get peer feedback and then go to another journal. And was that only in the beginning?

Franz Mönks: It was in the first year of my editorship that I learned of many people submitting twice, once here and once there. I did not like that.

Marcel van Aken: At that time, did you have associate editors, already from the beginning?

Franz Mönks: Yes, we had an associate editor, Kees van Lieshout, from Nijmegen. He took over the editorship when I was in Peru for one year. And he was always a very reliable person stood with me in guiding the journal.

Marcel van Aken: I have also been editor of the journal. What I sometimes found difficult was that because it is the journal of the society, sometimes people say that the journal should publish more papers from members of the society. Was that an issue when it started?

Franz Mönks: At that time that was not an issue. I think we were just happy to keep the journal alive and to build its importance. And that's what happened. Looking backward I can see it has a lot of impact, if you are looking back now.

Marcel van Aken: As far as I know, the journal was also very well available in Indonesia, for example, or in Peru, because of the policy of the publisher.

Franz Mönks: The publisher made it possible that we could spread the journal also in those countries, where normally, they don't have access to this kind of journal.

Marcel van Aken: And was this an ISSBD idea to ask the publisher?



Franz Mönks: I think the publisher itself took the initiative.

Marcel van Aken: Ok. We have seen that you were there at the beginning of ISSBD, so to say, and you mentioned that Hans Thomae probably was the first one who started it? He was also the first president, right?

Franz Mönks: Yes, he was the first president.

Marcel van Aken: Looking backward, what would you say are the major things that ISSBD has done and what this has meant for the field?

Franz Mönks: As far as I can see, I think it was very important that there was a group studying behavioral development. And this behavioral development in an international frame of reference was extremely important. And I think that was the idea of Hans Thomae as well. He thought that we should work on an international relationship, form an international chain of cooperation for all who are busy with behavioral development. And I think that was very important that the ISSBD came at that time, in that year, that period, because later it would have not been as good, I think. But that was the right moment to start.

Marcel van Aken: Why was it the right moment?

Franz Mönks: It was the right moment because there were many people who were not contented to focus only on child development and human development. They were busy with behavioral development. And they wanted to have more international knowledge and international connections. ISSBD had a very wonderful task to fulfill at that time and now you can hardly fathom how rich and broad and widespread it is. That is incredible.

Marcel van Aken: What would your advice be? Do you have any suggestions as to what ISSBD should do, or how it should proceed?

Franz Mönks: What you do now is very important, namely to talk about old times, to talk about what was important, why we did this and not that, and why it is important to have these international relations. It is my task to network internationally. And I think this networking is done in an exemplary way by ISSBD. I think it's great that you are tapping the knowledge of "old people", in the sense of old members.

Marcel van Aken: Okay, so keep an eye on the more senior members. But you also talked about PhD training. What role should ISSBD play in that?

Franz Mönks: I was involved in, not a conference, but rather a PhD training, along with Rolf Oerter, and Harold Stevenson was there; I think it was in Trier, where we developed a so-called "Sandwich Program." That meant that the senior should make suggestions about what they could do, but the idea should come from the own country. And the report, the results should also be reported back to the own country. For example, it may not be of interest for us to know what beginning students think about heterosexuality. But it maybe is important in their context.

Marcel van Aken: Does that mean that you would say that the international aspect of ISSBD does not mean a kind of mission for the western world to tell the others what is right?

Franz Mönks: That's correct, they know what is right for themselves. The only thing we can do, and I think that is what ISSBD did and does, is to support other people to make them ready to support themselves. And I think it is really important not to give someone what is called developmental aid, but to back them up in solving their own problems.

Marcel van Aken: Okay. I think these are very good final words. Thank you very much for this interview.

Notes from the Past Presidents of ISSBD



Lea Pulkkinen

Implementation of International Collaboration—the Goal for ISSBD

The International Society for the Study of Behavioural Development (ISSBD) was founded (in 1969) to increase international collaboration in the study of human development and to encourage interdisciplinary approaches to human development covering the whole lifespan. International collaboration has been advanced by organizing biennial and regional meetings and workshops on six continents, encouraging international membership, and organizing the governance of ISSBD on an international basis. The interdisciplinary approach has been adopted by inviting experts from many disciplinary fields to act as keynote speakers, members of program committees, and organizers of symposia and workshops.

ISSBD filled my life with work, travelling, and pleasure for 14 years from 1986, when I started the preparations of the 10th Biennial Meetings of ISSBD in Jyväskylä, Finland (1989). In 1989-1991, I was involved in the activities of ISSBD as a member of the Executive Committee. In 1991, at the 11th Biennial Meeting

in Minnesota, USA, I was appointed as the President of ISSBD after Harold Stevenson from the USA. My term as the President was one year longer than usual, because organizing biennial meetings had been decided to be moved from odd-numbered years to even-numbered years to avoid the arrangement of important meetings in the same year. My successor as the President, Harry McGurk from Australia, was appointed in 1996 at the 14th Biennial Meetings in Quebec City, Canada. He passed away unexpectedly in 1998. Since I was the Past President, I became the Acting President until the next President, Kenneth Rubin from the USA, was appointed at the 15th Biennial Meetings in Berne, Switzerland in 1998. Thereafter, I continued in the role of the Past President until the 16th Biennial Meetings of ISSBD in Beijing in 2000.

Within ISSBD, I wished to promote international collaboration. In its Biennial Meetings in Jyväskylä, participants (800 from abroad; 950 in total) were from 40 countries and six continents. Financial support that the Finnish Ministry of Education awarded for travel and accommodation costs enabled many researchers from developing and socialistic countries to attend it. Support for the participation of researchers from these countries in a number of further biennial and regional meetings and workshops was received from the Johann Jacobs Foundation, Switzerland, for which ISSBD was most thankful.

A task of the President is to provide consultation for the local organizers of meetings. I also found it important to be present in them. With the support of the Academy of Finland I could, as the President and Past President, attend biennial meetings in Recife, Brazil (1992), Amsterdam, The Netherlands (1994), Quebec City, Canada (1996), Berne, Switzerland (1998), and Beijing, China (2000); regional European Conferences of Developmental Psychology organized until 1994 under the auspices of ISSBD: Sevilla, Spain (1992), Bonn, Germany (1993), and Krakov, Poland (1995), Rennes, France (1997), and Spetses, Greece (1999); regional Asian workshops in Jakarta, Indonesia (1993), Darussalam, Brunei (1997); ISSBD workshops in Moscow (1993), Beijing (1994), Estonia (1994), Chandigarh, India (1995), and Amsterdam (1997); and the African workshops: Yaounde, Cameroon (1992), Abidjan, Ivory Coast (1994), Lusaka, Zambia (1996), and Windhoek, Namibia (1998).

I was personally much involved in the arrangement of the series of African workshops. Robert Serpell and Pierre Dasen were my colleagues and good advisors in this work. They also interpreted presentations in these workshops so that Francophone and Anglophone African researchers could sit around the same table, exchange ideas, and learn to know each other. These events, as part of the implementation of international collaboration, were great experiences, and African researchers were very thankful to ISSBD for them.

Lea Pulkkinen
Past Presidents of ISSBD



Ken Rubin at the ISSBD Meeting in Beijing in 2000

All my very best for the next 50 years!

In 1981, I attended my first meeting of ISSBD, in Toronto. At the time, I was on the faculty of the University of Waterloo—a brief 90-minute drive to the conference. I must admit that, at the time, I knew little about the society. My main source of content vis-à-vis the field of Developmental Science stemmed from the Society for Research in Child Development. Indeed, in 1981, I was serving as one of three Associate Editors of *Child Development*. And, as a Canadian, one “bit” that I did notice at the time was the genuine lack of non-North American scientists who were submitting manuscripts to *Child Development* during my period as Associate Editor.

From my 1981 ISSBD experience, I recognized immediately what I had been missing in my professional career—a sense of belonging to an international, multicultural society and the opportunity to interact with members of an international community of developmental scholars. Thus began my lengthy association with ISSBD, culminating with my election to the Executive Committee (1987, Tokyo), my playing the role of Membership Secretary and Treasurer (1989, Jyvaskyla), and ultimately, my election to the presidency of the organization (2000, Beijing).

I have attended 15 meetings of ISSBD, having missed the last five because of serious medical difficulties. But I continue to follow the comings-and-goings of the society through my former graduate students and post-docs, including Xinyin Chen, Julie

Bowker, Charissa Cheah, and Tina Malti, each of whom has played an executive role in the society.

From my perspective, the “gift” of ISSBD to the field of Developmental Science is its intimacy (no one gets lost in a “crowd”), diversity, and internationality. The society was among the very first to provide easy and significant membership access (including the full privileges of membership) to Developmental Scientists from LAMIC countries. ISSBD was, as far as I know, the first professional society to benefit from the generosity of the Jacobs Foundation. It was among the first to create an international workshop program that would meet, with regularity, in Africa, Eastern Europe, Asia, and Latin America. And it was among the very first organizations to provide travel support to its workshops and biennial meetings to young scholars and scholars from LAMIC countries.

When SRCD established its first International Committee, I was invited to become a member. I learned quickly that ISSBD was viewed as the veritable model of how things should be done when it comes to developing a more diverse, international, and cross-cultural professional society. In short, ISSBD has, and will continue to be at the heart of international, multi-cultural Developmental Science for years to come. All my very best for the next 50 years!

Ken Rubin
Past Presidents of ISSBD



Rainer K. Silbereisen during a discussion with a colleague

How and Why I joined ISSBD

My first lasting experience with ISSBD's international outreach and global policy was a workshop in Torun in 1977. Note that this happened in the socialist Poland more than a decade before the political changes of the late 1980s, and yet the interpersonal climate and discussion culture was outstanding. Our Polish colleagues had brought together young scholars and senior scientists from various countries from the East and West of the political divide. The arrangement also allowed personal contacts between East and West German investigators – unheard of at that time.

This experience was the trigger for research collaborations with the University of Warsaw on topics, like youthful problem behavior, that were politically very sensitive at this time, but helped to melt the ice between the research communities in Poland, Germany, and beyond. This experience represents the quintessence of the roles ISSBD played during the Cold War. It helped to build bridges between countries that had been foes for decades.

ISSBD carried out a long list of workshops in various regions of the world, be it Western Europe, North America, Latin America, Africa, or countries of the former East Bloc. For the latter, it was especially important that people could become members as individuals by their own choice, and received travel permits. In a nutshell, ISSBD was an incubator of integrated research priorities.

I should hasten to add that ISSBD also offered opportunities to grow in responsibility and outreach. My own career, from various duties as Editor (including a more beneficial publisher deal) to finally becoming President between 2000 and 2006 is a case in point. The “elder statespersons” of the society really cared for the young, gave support, and served as role models. From ISSBD, I turned to the International Union of Psychological Science and, drawing on all prior experience, helped to establish an international workshop program for the Asia-Pacific region, renovated the *IUPsyS* journal, and served as President. As is true for many other people, ISSBD was the training ground.

What about the future? ISSBD has been at the forefront of international collaboration in research on human development. In contrast to other relevant learned societies, it was always truly international in membership and program, and significantly, followed a life-span orientation. The lesson for the future is to maintain that orientation and to go on with its bridge-building mission. Today's problems differ from those of the past, but a look at the UN Sustainability Goals tells the challenges we want to deal with, such as international migration, climate change, armed conflicts in various regions of the world, the struggle for democracy, and many more, and of course the new challenges in basic science, from genetics to neuroscience. ISSBD's role in overcoming ideological divides by science may have diminished over the last decades, but we should especially turn to pressing inequalities across research communities. Young and senior researchers from Low- and Middle-Income Countries deserve our special attention, and should find support in taking part in our work.

Rainer K. Silbereisen
Past Presidents of ISSBD



Anne C. Petersen, eighth from the left, at the ISSBD Workshop in Ghana 2017

ISSBD: A Distinctive Global Scientific Society

ISSBD is distinctive as the most internationally engaged of the developmental science societies, having begun as a global organization. My term as ISSBD President ran from July 2006 to July 2010, as ISSBD's tenth President, following nine exceptional scholar-leaders. I aimed to strengthen that distinctive role, building from the significant accomplishments of my predecessors.

As context, I noted that "International organizations like ISSBD have become more important than ever. With globalization and many emergent trends as background, understanding of human development worldwide is essential for everything from commerce and trade, to war and human suffering, to know how best to support positive development for individuals, their families, and communities. We have a significant opportunity in ISSBD to surface – through our meetings and our publications – the most outstanding and important research to inform these applications as well as to advance developmental science." (Petersen, 2008).

Making a difference in such relatively short-term leadership roles requires clear goals within the context of the organization's strengths. Early in 2007, I identified several priorities to achieve the overall goal of building a global community of developmental scientists (Petersen, 2007): (1) sustain our traditional life span focus, (2) expand our multidisciplinary focus, (3) develop our capacity building in the majority world from recognition to sustainability, and (4) continue to develop early career scholars as the key element of capacity for the field and ISSBD. In addition, I undertook several organizational changes to engage more members in roles and committees, in order to broaden the group advancing the organization.

At the conclusion of my Presidency, I reflected on what we had accomplished (Petersen, Fall 2010): (1) strengthened ISSBD through expanded active engagement in the work of ISSBD with additional roles and committees, strengthened regional membership coordination with help from Ann Sanson and then Xinyin Chen in lead roles, and established a revised membership fee structure aligned with World Bank standards; (2) expanded early career scholar support largely through partnership with

the Jacobs Foundation augmenting continuing ISSBD travel grants, a new mentored Developing Country Fellowship program led by Peter Smith, and a Jacobs-funded mentored fellowship program initially led by Ulman Lindenberger; (3) strengthened regional workshops following a key study by Suman Verma and Catherine Cooper identifying ways to enhance engagement of members from the majority world. A major accomplishment during my Presidency, with credit to Karina Weichold, was the transformation of the *ISSBD Newsletter* into the *ISSBD Bulletin*, a journal that reflects the best of ISSBD's global engagement. To address goals 1 and 2, program chairs were asked to especially invite scholars of adult development and aging as well as those from disciplines related to psychology; this attention helped maintain lifespan involvement and multidisciplinary but was insufficient for advancement. I also noted the major distraction (and worse!) to all involved with financial responsibilities, of our bank deciding not to work with anyone outside the US; this took us awhile to identify, more time trying to negotiate, and finally finding a new bank, with help from Rick Burdick, who is still assisting us.

Happily, there is evidence still emerging of progress on some fronts. For example, regional workshops in Africa – initiated during Lea Pulkkinen's Presidency – now have yielded 25% of ISSBD's membership being African, even while visa denials and shortage of travel grants make travel to biennial meetings impossible for most. I also take pride in having the first ISSBD biennial on the continent of Africa, organized by Robert Serpell in 2010. Surely, this is a membership model to be emulated in other regions.

Despite some areas of disappointment in advancing ISSBD and the field, ISSBD has been a powerful, important experience for me. I continue to work on many goals for the field, now through the International Consortium of Developmental Science Societies (along with former President Rainer Silbereisen, among others). ISSBD is a distinctive scientific society with historic global engagement. Happy 50th anniversary, with best wishes for another fifty successful years!

Anne C. Petersen
Past Presidents of ISSBD

ISSBD: A truly international scientific enterprise



Wolfgang Schneider at the ISSBD Biennial Meeting in Shanghai, 2014

Although it is not completely transparent when exactly ISSBD was founded (see Hartup, 1996, p. 245), I am glad that pioneers such as Willard Hartup, Franz Mönks, Hans Thomae and Jan de Wit did not give up and eventually succeeded in starting this important international project about 50 years ago. My first experience with ISSBD dates back to 1983, when I participated in a biennial meeting in Munich, Germany (the place where I lived and worked at that time), which was (well) organized by Paul Baltes. I was particularly impressed with the variety of interesting topics dealt with at this meeting, the quality of presentations, and the many lively discussions during the course of the meeting. So I decided to join the Society in 1983 and did not see any reason to quit thereafter. It has always been fun to attend the biennial meetings in different parts of the world and to interact with scientists from different countries, not only at the meetings but also before and after these occasions. I soon realized that ISSBD is a truly international society given that members not only came from Europe and North America (still the dominating continents) but also from Africa, Asia, Australia, and South America. Although comparably few members joined ISSBD at the very beginning, the number went up from about 300 in the late 1970s to more than 1000 members from more than 40 countries in the mid-nineties. Meanwhile ISSBD members come from more than 60 countries.

When I got more closely involved in ISSBD's organizational activities during the last 10 years or so, I identified several core elements that contribute to the attractiveness of ISSBD for its members. One important aspect is that regional workshops have been carried out regularly since 1975. I counted almost 40 such

workshops, sponsored by the Society and other institutions, and held at different locations in Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, the Middle East, and Latin America. The main focus of these workshops has been on scientific training of young researchers, providing contact between young scientists and senior scholars. One of the major strengths of ISSBD has been its commitment to supporting young scientists from all over the world. To achieve its goal to improve the situation for young developmental scientists, ISSBD has been securing grants from several leading private foundations such as Jacobs Foundation, the W.T. Grant Foundation, and the MacArthur Foundation. Using this support and its own resources, ISSBD managed to support numerous young scientists, enabling them to participate not only in regional workshops and summer schools but also in the Society's biennial meetings. Just to give an example, past-president Anne Petersen and I worked out a plan several years ago for a "Jacobs-ISSBD Mentored Fellowship Program for Early Career Scholars" which was approved and financially supported by Jacobs Foundation. This long-term support contract secured funding for several of ISSBD's young scientist activities, including travel grants for ISSBD preconference workshops and the attendance of International Regional Workshops. Two different Early Career Scholarship Programs, one open to applicants from all countries in the world, the second focusing on early career scholars from "currency restricted" countries were conceptualized, with the aim of recruiting doctoral students in two "waves" or cohorts.

Another important aspect of ISSBD's success concerns its journal policy. The *International Journal of Behavioral Development*

was founded in 1976 and is now well-established, certainly benefitting from the professional experience of its editors and their teams. Moreover, the *ISSBD Bulletin* is very popular among ISSBD members, providing information on internal processes within the Society and interesting reports on research activities of its members. In my view, the support provided by SAGE is extremely valuable, not only with regard to the prosperity of ISSBD's journals, but also because this support secures a generally stable financial situation for the Society.

Overall, I conceive of ISSBD's development during the past 50 years as a true success story. I am confident that this positive

trend will continue during the years to come, and wish those people who promote this process good luck!

Wolfgang Schneider
Past President of ISSBD

Reference

Hartup, W.W. (1996). The International Society for the Study of Behavioural Development after 25 years: Retrospect and prospect. *International Journal of Behavioral Development*, 19, 243–254



Xinyin Chen at the ISSBD Meeting in Vilnius in 2016

ISSBD: Promoting career development of young scholars and well-being of humans in times of social change

My experience with ISSBD started in 1987, when I attended a satellite meeting it organized in Beijing. Among the scholars I met and interacted with at the meeting was Ken Rubin from Canada, who became my mentor a year later when I went to the University of Waterloo for my PhD study, and Harold Stevenson from the United States who was the external examiner of my dissertation. On the final day of the Beijing meeting, I briefly chatted with the organizer, Professor Fan Liu, in the elevator. He asked me what I thought about the meeting and then said, "This meeting is really for young scholars like you, and I hope ISSBD will provide more opportunities for young scholars in the field to communicate with others from different countries". I have been involved in various

activities of ISSBD since then, with a major goal of promoting interaction among international researchers, which I believe particularly benefits the career development of young scholars.

Over the years, ISSBD has made a great effort to support young scholars in multiple ways. Here are just a few examples:

- Scholars' programs, such as the Developing Country Fellowship (DCF) and the ISSBD-Jacobs Fellowship, provide intellectual as well as financial support for students and junior scholars to conduct research, attend conferences, and engage in other academic activities.
- Regional workshops organized by ISSBD each year offer extensive opportunities for young scholars to receive training on conducting human development research in specific contexts.

- Methodological sessions at preconference workshops of ISSBD biennial meetings focus on helping young scholars develop research abilities and skills.
- The early career scholars' committee maintains a network for discussion and collaboration among early career scholars on a regular basis.

More generally, ISSBD has established a reputation among scholars, researchers, and professionals around the world for its success in promoting research on lifespan development and application from interdisciplinary and social-cultural perspectives. These perspectives are reflected in the diverse topics covered in ISSBD publications and conference presentations, such as grandparenting in Zambia, experiences of street-involved youth in Brazilian cities, morphological awareness and grapho-morphological awareness in Chinese reading and spelling, policies and practices that help or harm refugee and

asylum-seeking youth, and strategies to prepare transition from work to retirement in different societies.

As ISSBD celebrates its 50th anniversary, the organization is poised to play an increasingly important role in the field. Many countries are experiencing dramatic changes, due to domestic and transnational migrations of populations, advances in information technology, and interaction among socio-political, economic, and cultural systems across societies. An interesting issue is how youth function and develop in the changing environment with diverse, and perhaps conflictual, cultural norms and values and other challenges. As a truly international society of developmental science, ISSBD is well situated to facilitate scientific exploration of this and other related issues in human development and to enhance the social and psychological well-being of individuals and families in the new contexts.

Xinyin Chen
Past President of ISSBD

Notes from The President



Toni Antonucci with the young scholars of the ISSBD / Jacobs-Foundation Fellowship Program; Gold Coast, Australia, 2018

Dear ISSBD Colleagues and Friends,

It is certainly a privilege to be your 13th ISSBD President. Our mission is to promote international scientific research in human development throughout the lifespan. We are now celebrating our 50th anniversary. In this issue you will find thoughts and reflections from our Society's past presidents. They highlight important issues, challenges, and accomplishments of ISSBD during their presidencies.

Now, we face the future. What will it hold for us?

Well, of course, I don't know. But there is one thing about which I am absolutely certain: It will not be easy. While we are making important scientific advances and discoveries, we are also living in a time of significant challenges.

On the scientific level, I am excited about our expanded understanding of underlying developmental processes, about our increased recognition of the importance of context, and about the availability of new tools, measures, and methodologies. We regularly use multiple techniques for gathering data, by observation, interviews, focus groups, surveys, genetics, biomarkers, sensors, eye tracking and other data gathering devices including monitors, personal assistant devices, and social media. We also now have access to quite clever, advanced analytic strategies. These include multi-level modeling, computer programs to analyze qualitative interviews, latent class analyses and actor-

partner interdependence models, to name just a few. We are breaking new ground linking brain functioning to development. Fields such as cultural and social neuroscience make clear the extent to which the phenomenon of development is multi-level, requiring interdisciplinary partnerships and teams to achieve an entirely new level of understanding concerning any phenomenon of interest.

On the human level, I am encouraged by the increased recognition of the need for and benefits of interdisciplinary science. For example, although we have long recognized the importance of context, we seem to be taking this to a new level, which requires experts in different fields to address the same issue and provide input that contributes to our total understanding of the issue at hand. A simple example is illustrative: to maximize the health of the child, adolescent, and adult, we recognize the importance of the individual level, e.g. availability of food and shelter. While we have long recognized the importance of family context, we increasingly see that families are changing and can be supportive or threatening in multiple ways; the same is true for the schools children attend or the work and community within which adults live. Further, we now recognize the possible impact of micro level factors such as genetics and biology or macro factors such as economics, climate change, war and conflict. We can't



all be experts in all of these areas, hence the need for interdisciplinary teams.

On a societal level, we are facing numerous global challenges. While the past may have seen behavioral development as a phenomenon to be studied in the laboratory, we are increasingly aware that our science is relevant for and should be applied to the problems we face at both the individual and global level. Many of us now think in terms of how our findings can and should be communicated to policy makers so that they can apply scientific evidence to the most pressing challenges we face internationally. This view is grounded in our increased awareness that human development is dynamic, not fixed at birth or by geography. It can be influenced in both positive and negative ways and influence can happen across the lifespan and intergenerationally; and is bi-directional. Hence, as developmental scientists we have an obligation to communicate what we learn through our work.

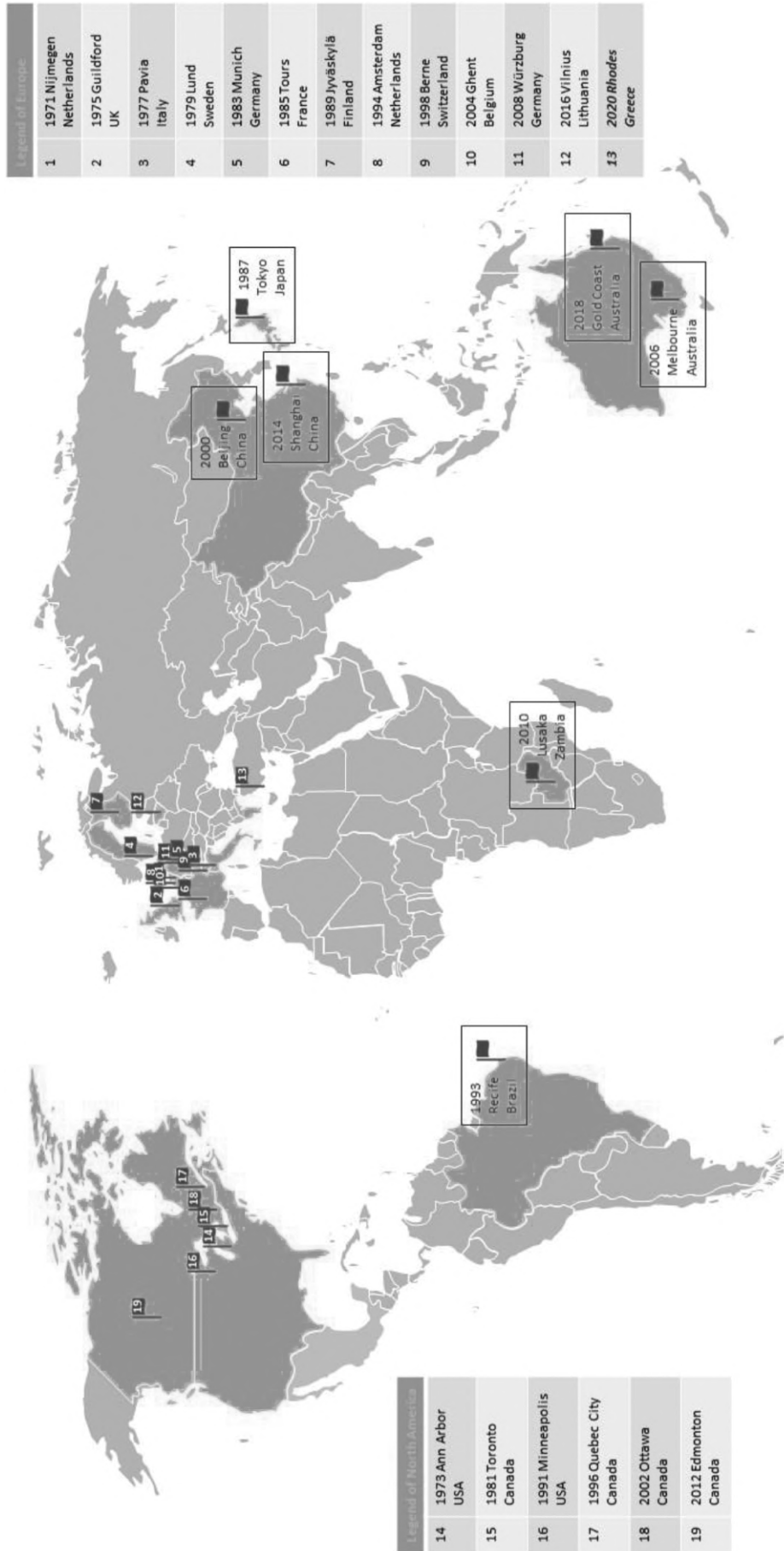
I am proud that we, as a society, increasingly recognize the moral and practical benefits of science. We are learning to use modern technology in unique ways that allow us to profit from our scientific discoveries. At the same time, I believe we are increasingly adapting global goals that focus on health, well-being and productivity for all. We recognize that societal progress need not be sacrificed to financial profit, and that we learn from each other when we work in interdisciplinary and/or international teams. ISSBD is committed to working interdisciplinarily, to educating and socializing young and emerging scholars and to contributing to finding solutions to the global challenges we face. While one size often does not fit all in the application of science; the goal of optimizing development through scientific principles is global and will benefit all.

With much hope for our future and wishing us all a happy 50th anniversary,

Toni C. Antonucci



ISSBD Meetings: Map of Locations



ISSBD Meetings: Photo Collection



Lea Pulkkinen, Rainer Silbereisen, Bame Nsamenang, Annie Sampa and Robert Serpell among the participants of the ISSBD African Workshop in Lusaka, Zambia, 1996



Ken Rubin and Xinyin Chen at the Great Wall, ISSBD Meeting in Beijing, 2000



IJBD Editor Brett Laursen



Hellgard Rauh, Rainer Silbereisen and others at the 1st ISSBD Summer School in Torun, 1978



Uri Bronfenbrenner and others at the ISSBD Summer School in Liblice, Czechoslovakia, 1986



Opening Ceremony of the ISSBD Biennial Meeting in Vilnius, 2016



Luc Goosens at the poster presentation in Shanghai ISSBD Meeting, 2014



ISSBD EC Meeting in Vilnius 2016: Toni Antonucci, Rita Zukauskienė, Tina Malti, Robert Kail, Karina Weichold, Esther Akinsola, Livia Melandri, Marcel van Aken, Julie Robinson, Xinyin Chen, Charissa Chea, Nancy Galambos, Silvia Koller



Peter Smith and young scholars of the ISSBD funded Mentorship Program at the ISSBD Meeting, Gold Coast, Australia, 2018



ISSBD Members at the Meeting in Shanghai, 2014



Suman Verma, Marcel van Aken, Karina Weichold at the Meeting in Vilnius, 2016



Members of ISSBD, Vilnius, Lithuania



Josafa da Cunha and Kerry Barner (SAGE)



Lively conference break, Goald Coast, 2018



... after discussing posters



... listening to talks



... discussing new projects



... and exciting conference events



Rainer Silbereisen and Anne Petersen at Melbourne, 2006



Ingrid Schoon, Sabine Walper, and Katariina Salmela-Aro at a roof top bar at the ISSBD Meeting in Shanghai, 2014



Some of the initiators of the YSI: Deepali Sharma, Katja Kokko, Paul Oburu, Charissa Cheah and others, Melbourne, 2006



Young Scholar's Initiative (YSI): group interactions between senior scientists, such as Frank Vitaro and Reed Larson and young scholars, Melbourne, 2006

Faces of ISSBD



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1. What do you like about the society?

I appreciate how open it is at the international level: six continents are present; regional meetings are organized; members on the board come from different geographical and scientific areas.

2. What is your most vivid memory related to ISSBD events?

My most vivid memories: the European East-West summer schools that were organized thanks to the support of ISSBD in the 80's (i.e. during the Cold War, before the fall of the Berlin wall). They were challenging encounters, attended by scholars and PhD students who had no other occasion to meet but were eager to share their common interests in the development of children and their education in spite of the ideological barriers and political fears. These residential meetings offered the opportunity to develop friendships, as well as an interest in discovering each other's scientific legacies. I remember, in particular, Polish and Hungarian colleagues asking me to access Jean Piaget's answer to Vygotsky and the discussions that this opened as we were all eager to better understand the *processes* involved in development (and not so interested by the prevailing "fashion" of those days to look for means to accelerate development).

3. What do you wish for the future of ISSBD?

I wish for ISSBD to remain an open and dynamic international society with strong regional anchors, allowing us to connect to, and reflect on, the "local" and the "global" with due respect to both. ISSBD is now a strong society and hence could give support to those innovative researchers who are ready to venture into new frontiers of research with revisited methodological, philosophical and cultural paradigms. ISSBD is probably the best place to organize critical discussions that could help to identify the tacit implicit premises of many of our present theoretical models and methodological traditions that are still historically marked by strong "individualistic", "middle-class", and "Western centered" values. I don't mean that these models are not interesting but that they could be helpfully reconsidered as intellectual productions "located" in time and space, i.e. historically and culturally situated. Revisiting these models from the perspectives of researchers experienced with other socio-material societal arrangements could open new venues for deeper understandings of behavioral development.



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1. What do you like about the society?
 The key characteristic of ISSBD, and the one that attracts me most, is its commitment to building a true international society. That is quite remarkable in my opinion.
2. What is your most vivid memory related to ISSBD events?
 Certainly, the biennial meeting in Shanghai. It was such a unique experience: I remember sightseeing in the city center and meeting ISSBD fellows (with their conference bags on!) exploring the Chinese culture. We also had a cruise reception for early-career scholars followed by dinner at a memorable restaurant. That night is unforgettable.
3. What do you wish for the future of ISSBD?
 I wish that ISSBD continues growing, attracting scholars from other countries, so it can keep its true diversity.



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1. What do you like about the society?
 I like that ISSBD gives training opportunities to young researchers at the beginning of their careers through scholarships, travel grants and workshops. The ISSBD is an effective medium for scientific exchange in a truly international context and it gives opportunities to developing countries. ISSBD is one of the few organizations that integrates scientific rigor and social problems. It aims to increase knowledge in pursuit of science and to solve social problems too. It puts science at the service of humanity.
2. What is your most vivid memory related to ISSBD events?
 My most vivid memory was the Brazil, Gramado, 2007, ISSBD Workshop. It was organized by Silvia Koller, Brett Laursen and William M. Bukowski.
3. What do you wish for the future of ISSBD?
 I hope that ISSBD will increase the number of its members and continue to train researchers from all over the world who want to contribute to science and human development.



Name: **Prof. Dr. Hellgard Rauh**
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1. What do you like about the society?
 The international and life-span focus, summer school activities, international meeting sites, and: interesting and nice colleagues
2. What is your most vivid memory related to ISSBD events?
 The inauguration with Thomae as president (I was a founding member). My cooperation with Ellen Skinner when we started the ISSBD Newsletter. The East-West European Summer Schools, three of which I co-organized, and that in Estonia where I participated as a mentor. The meetings in Hungary, in Australia, and in Canada.
3. What do you wish for the future of ISSBD?
 That ISSBD will continue to flourish, continue to attract and support young researchers, especially also from underprivileged countries, some political influence in the "home" countries and via UNESCO.



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1. What do you like about the society?
 I like the fact that ISSBD is a scientific community that supports the exchange of scientific knowledge and ideas among researchers all over the world. Moreover, I like the fact, that by including researchers from all over the world, ISSBD, contributes to the reduction of prejudice and stereotypes by bringing together people who share the same objectives and interests. Lastly, I firmly believe that the exchange of scientific knowledge between researchers worldwide enhances the establishment of cross-cultural relationships
2. What is your most vivid memory related to ISSBD events?
 The most vivid memory I have concerning ISSBD events was last year, in the regional workshop that took place on 5-7 February, 2018 in Milan, where researchers from all over the world presented their research data, covering almost all aspects of human development and personality. I remember that I felt extremely lucky to participate in this workshop, because I had the opportunity not only to enhance my scientific knowledge in various areas of psychology, but at the same time, to learn how research projects were conducted in other countries of the world.
3. What do you wish for the future of ISSBD?
 I wish ISSBD for the future to expand its research activities, enriching thus the scientific knowledge in the academic and applied field of psychology, and giving the opportunity to young researchers to present their work and to acquire valuable skills concerning research.



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 in the life course
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1. What do you like about the society?
 The international mix and the lifespan breadth
2. What is your most vivid memory related to ISSBD events?
 Jyväskylä meeting with Jari-Erik Nurmi and many other friends, outdoor sauna and cooling in a lake.
3. What do you wish for the future of ISSBD?
 To grow and thrive as a truly international society of lifespan development researchers.



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1. What do you like about the society?
 Very good support for Early Career Scholars
2. What is your most vivid memory related to ISSBD events?
 As a Second Year PhD Candidate I was assisted at the African Workshop in Nigeria to shape the focus.
3. What do you wish for the future of ISSBD?
 Offer more assistance and mentorship programmes for Early Career Scholars especially from the African Region



Name: **David A. Nelson, Ph.D.**

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1. What do you like about the society?

I have been drawn to ISSBD because it presents a grand opportunity to engage with impactful scholars in a smaller conference venue. This is the conference where I began, as a young scholar, to engage with some of the top researchers in my field. At large conferences, those scholars are much less accessible. Many established scholars saw the promise of ISSBD for what it continues to be—an opportunity to connect international researchers of human development. I was happy to follow these visionary leaders to ISSBD and benefit accordingly. I have also embraced cultural perspectives in my work since my graduate years, and ISSBD has been a wonderful place to present that work and receive feedback.

2. What is your most vivid memory related to ISSBD events?

Beyond the rich scholarly interactions I have enjoyed, I have especially loved the cities that have hosted ISSBD over the years (thanks to those who have taken on the difficult job of hosting such a large event!) I appreciate the opportunity to visit other countries and cultures and to appreciate the diversity and the beauty of language, architecture, art, and history. ISSBD has taken me to seven different countries over the years, and I look forward to many more opportunities.

3. What do you wish for the future of ISSBD?

I hope that ISSBD will remain the vibrant scholarly outlet that it currently is, consistent with rigorous scholarly research and healthy debate. I especially hope that we will avoid the paralyzing polarization that is currently tearing at the fabric of so many societies and university campuses. I also trust that we will continue to attract scholars from a plethora of countries, and that the positive impact of high-quality scholarship will bless the lives of people in every part of the world. That is one of the great promises of ISSBD!



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1. What do you like about the society?
 The strong focus that the society has on supporting early career researchers and researchers from developing countries.
2. What is your most vivid memory related to ISSBD events?
 The gala dinners at the biennial conferences in Vilnius, 2016 and Gold Coast, 2018. Both of these events were a lot of fun. They were great opportunities to meet researchers from around the world with a variety of interests in a relaxed environment.
3. What do you wish for the future of ISSBD?
 I hope that ISSBD can continue their fantastic work in supporting the development of researchers and promoting developmental research.



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1. What do you like about the society?
 ISSBD provides many learning, networking and collaboration opportunities. In addition it provides opportunities to tour the world as we attend the biennial conferences and workshops.
2. What is your most vivid memory related to ISSBD events?
 The awesome cocktail party we had at The Star Gold Coast, during the 2018, 25th biennial meeting. Almost all the meals looked raw to me and I thought I would sleep hungry. There was not a single meal close to my local meals like, rice, *ugali*, and *nyama choma*. I was scared of eating raw food, but on seeing many people munching it happily with ease, I got the courage to give it a trial. Guess what! It was yummy! I ended up actually indulging in it head-on. What an experience!
3. What do you wish for the future of ISSBD?
 - i) That it becomes the society with the highest membership globally.
 - ii) That it is able to give more scholarships and fellowship positions.
 - iii) That it is able to offer travel grants for conferences and workshops to members who would want to travel to present papers but have challenges raising the funds.



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1. What do you like about the society?
 The extent of members' research interests is so large that every meeting and publication of the society is not only academically but also personally fulfilling.
2. What is your most vivid memory related to ISSBD events?
 The Society's meeting in 2008 held in Würzburg Germany coincided with a local festival. After day-long attendance to sessions that are professionally developing and satisfying, being part of the local people and atmosphere was a great pleasure.
3. What do you wish for the future of ISSBD?
 I wish ISSBD would put more emphasis on translation of developmental science to application in the future and contribute more to those working in applied areas like early intervention.



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1. What do you like about the society?
 I like it that ISSBD is a truly international society with members and meetings all around the globe. I get inspired by exchanging insights and ideas with people from other cultural contexts during the biennial meetings. Studying human development in different cultural contexts is essential to get insight into the cultural influences on individuals' life courses, but also to get insight into traits that all humans share.
2. What is your most vivid memory related to ISSBD events?
 During the conference in Lusaka, Zambia, I met some of the Zambian students who assisted in the organization of the conference. They invited me and some colleagues for dinner and took us to a local restaurant which we would have never found by ourselves. We ate with our hands and had really nice discussions on life in Zambia and the Netherlands. It was a great experience and prototypical for the open and warm atmosphere at ISSBD meetings.
3. What do you wish for the future of ISSBD?
 Continuing to attract new members from an even wider range of different countries. It would be great if the society could have members from all 195 countries around the world!



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1. What do you like about the society?
 It is a truly international society, not dominated by North America, or Europe. Moving across continents for the ISSBD meetings helps make this a reality, as do the varying membership rates for different income countries.
2. What is your most vivid memory related to ISSBD events?
 Lots of great memories about different country venues. However a series of very good memories has been the Poster Workshops for Developing Country Fellowships, at successive biennial meetings. This scheme, which I helped to start in 2009, gives early career scholars from lower to mid-income countries a 2-year stipend and free conference attendances at the start and end of their Fellowship. It is always a pleasure to see the work they have done, and the enthusiasm with which it is presented and received, at these workshops.
3. What do you wish for the future of ISSBD?
 To continue the excellent work it is doing—but, one challenge would be to broaden the disciplinary base. I suspect the majority of members are in psychology, or maybe education. What about sociologists, anthropologists, economists, demographers, pediatricians? The society has crossed national boundaries very effectively. It could still do more to cross disciplinary boundaries.



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1. What do you like about the society?
 I like that ISSBD really is operating globally, which is also seen in the sites of the biennial meetings. I also appreciate the atmosphere of the ISSBD whereby it has been made easy for researchers from various career stages to communicate and learn from each other. Finally, I like that both the meetings and the IJBD consider human development from a life-span perspective.
2. What is your most vivid memory related to ISSBD events?
 My most memorable ISSBD event was my first biennial meeting in 1998 in Berne, Switzerland. As a PhD student I was able to meet and listen to all those eminent scientists whose research I had previously read about.
3. What do you wish for the future of ISSBD?
 I hope that the ISSBD will remain as a society open for researchers from various backgrounds and interests in the study of human development. My special wish would be to see even more focus than currently in the ISSBD events and IJBD in adult development and geropsychology.



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1. What do you like about the society?

It seems that no other society brings together such a diverse crowd of researchers and therefore gives hope of combating the WEIRD bias in psychological science.

2. What is your most vivid memory related to ISSBD events?

My first talk in a symposium at an ISSBD event was in Australia. It was perfect place for a conference and many interesting collaborations followed.

3. What do you wish for the future of ISSBD?

Keep up with engaging in every networking activity possible.



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1. What do you like about the society?

I find the heterogeneity of the members' theoretical and methodological perspectives inspiring. There is a true international and intercultural spirit that values ideas beyond the psychological mainstream, which is critically important for the further advancement of the field.

2. What is your most vivid memory related to ISSBD events?

I very much enjoy the constructive and cooperative spirit at the biennial meetings. I had some of the most stimulating discussions on culture and (emotional) development at the 2016 meeting in Vilnius.

3. What do you wish for the future of ISSBD?

In my opinion, ISSBD is the ideal society to spearhead the cultural turn in developmental psychology. In this sense, ISSBD could play a leading role in advancing theory building that reflects the co-constitutive powers of culture in development and in spelling out the implications that this has for applied developmental research and policy development.



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1. What do you like about the society?
 I like the fact that ISSBD focuses on development across the entire lifespan and that the biennial meetings reflect this diversity. Although most of my research centers on children and adolescents, I also occasionally work with young adults. The biennial meetings give me a chance to hear about the latest research across this range of ages.
2. What is your most vivid memory related to ISSBD events?
 In 2018, the biennial meeting was held in my home town of the Gold Coast. It was fantastic to have international colleagues visit and, for me, it was a week of great conference sessions, great company, and a great location!
3. What do you wish for the future of ISSBD?
 I hope that ISSBD continues to build the support it offers to scholars (and particularly early career scholars) from developing countries. This is crucial if we want to gain a better understanding of how culture impacts developmental processes.



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1. What do you like about the society?
 I like the society's mission and thrust in promoting understanding of diversity in developmental processes and outcomes drawn from and supported by a multidisciplinary perspective. In its 50 years of existence, the society has been able to encourage and inspire hundreds of emerging scholars and practitioners in the field. Now, the society has evolved into its current state as an organizational leader in developmental science.
2. What is your most vivid memory related to ISSBD events?
 I missed the last conference held in Australia for a number of pressing reasons. But I am so appreciative of the patience and dedication of the organizers who sought to help me find possibilities to attend the meeting and the workshop.
3. What do you wish for the future of ISSBD?
 My prayer and hope for ISSBD is to explore further the possibilities for members from Asia to connect with each other and generate opportunities to share and exchange ideas on current best practices in developmental science research. I wish for a specific point person from the ISSBD board or officers to be in constant communication with Asian members—similar to a Country-at-Large executive.



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1. What do you like about the society?

ISSBD is a dedicated organization that promotes scientific growth in the field of human development and behavioral sciences. It offers a platform to early career scholars which is very encouraging. It observes a very systematic workstyle in keeping participants informed and announcing biennials far ahead of time. The meetings are very well organized in every way and truly cross-cultural in representation. The journal published by SAGE/IJBD is like a bible for beginners and offers an opportunity for sharing research work of the highest scientific standard.

2. What is your most vivid memory related to ISSBD events?

I was given travel grant to Lusaka, Zambia in 2010, and also to Shanghai, China in 2014. The travel grant to Zambia permitted me to travel overseas for the first time and to share my research on an International platform. Thereafter, my life as a learner and mentor, and as a person, changed forever. The pre-conference workshops gave an insight into global work in the field. Attending certain qualitative presentations during that stay encouraged me to write case studies in my own style within a scientific boundary. I also published books in the following years.

3. What do you wish for ISSBD in the future?

- ISSBD could add regional centers within a country. If I had an opportunity to associate with one in my city, it would permit me to work directly rather struggle through hierarchy and protocols which do not allow autonomy. I could enroll more people and hold regional workshops directly under the Directorate of Education, Chandigarh Administration, if a nomination is proposed by the organization.
- ISSBD can support more specific workshops and publish manuals for better community living, such as guidelines for parenting. We can also have thematic seminars.
- The organization can allow joint mentorship opportunities to encourage cross-cultural research.
- I would be keen to participate in a faculty exchange program as a fellow; this builds one up as a professional, and may include the participation of PhD students under one's supervision as well.
- Please create post-doc opportunities for persons like me who entered higher education later after teaching in schools (12 years followed by 16 years). At about age 52, the opportunities diminish.
- ISSBD is doing very well. Best wishes and a hearty gratitude to the senior mentors for sharing their vision. And to the team, the very best.



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1. What do you like about the society?
 I really appreciate both the scholarly rigor and the international scope of ISSBD. In all the events (biennial conferences, regional workshop) I attended, I was impressed by the keynote speeches and presentations and I was reminded of the amazing diversity of culture and contexts in which children develop.
2. What is your most vivid memory related to ISSBD events?
 I can clearly remember how the leading child development researchers from around the globe all joined in the dancing floor during the last ISSBD conference at Gold Coast, Australia. That was quite a sight!!
3. What do you wish for ISSBD in the future?
 I hope that ISSBD will continue to support research and researchers in non-WEIRD societies, and to provide the same high-quality guidance and mentoring for the next generation of child development scholars.



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1. What do you like about the society?
 I got to know people working on human development from around the world. This broadens my view on my own research. The society is very supportive to young investigators. This is good for the sustainable development of the society.
2. What is your most vivid memory related to ISSBD events?
 I like the biennial meetings. These provide a great chance to learn the frontiers in developmental psychology and to establish collaboration.
3. What do you wish for ISSBD in the future?
 Enlarge the number members who are not from North America and Europe. Enhance collaboration between researchers with similar research interests in different countries. Make the website more usable.



Building a global developmental science

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The International Society for the Study of Behavioural Development (ISSBD) has played and continues to play an instrumental role in supporting scholars from around the world with funding and encouragement. These efforts serve to expand our understanding of human development by highlighting the vast proportion of neglected issues and understudied populations (Lansford et al., 2019). To many early career professionals in low- and middle-income countries, and also those in many high-income countries, the prospects of contributing to research seem limited. Moreover, at times the efforts to engage these scholars have been through a deficit perspective contrasted against the contributions of research from the majority world.

The field of developmental psychology also fits within the global zeitgeist. In 1969, the year of ISSBD's birth, the world was war-torn and marked by distrust and separation. However, the researchers from that time were full of hope, and came together to generate a forum for research and collaboration towards developmental science around the world.

In the decades that followed, ISSBD has played an instrumental role in addressing the issues of non-representation and W.E.I.R.D.-centric collaborations. Namely, collaborations focused on the minority population coming from Western, Educated, Industrialized, Rich and Democratic nations (Henrich, Heine, Norenzayan, 2010). In 2016, I (JC) had the opportunity to interview the late professor Bame Nsamenang, while he was visiting us in Brazil. In our conversation about the early days of his career, he recalled how much of the developmental science he found in books and papers did not reflect his own development, in his family or in his village. Considering this challenge, the main drive of his career became simply contributing to knowledge, and he steadily highlighted how developmental science should move away from models skewed towards rich and western societies (Nsamenang, 2015). His legacy is a great example of how scholars in diverse settings have the opportunity to collaborate and contribute to developmental science because ISSBD veered away from the worn path of large convention centers to provide targeted support.

Fortunately, the field of developmental science has since slowly but steadily moved towards approaches that

are globally engaged. ISSBD continues to advocate and invest its resources in initiatives that foster collaborative and meaningful interactions among developmentalists all around the globe. Just in the last ten years, it has held its Biennial Meeting in Asia, Africa, the Americas, Europe and Oceania, and invested in many opportunities that are focused on early career scholars, such as a number of fellowships, regional workshops and a mentoring program.

From the beginning of our own careers we've benefited from these opportunities, and we didn't finish graduate school certain that we'd learned everything there is to know about how to conduct research. The same can be said about doing global research. If this is something you would like to pursue, it's best to see it as a lifelong learning process, in which we can go farther by learning from mentors and collaborators. A specific opportunity to highlight in this regard is the ISSBD Mentor Program, a service to provide early-career scholars with informal mentoring by mid-career or senior ISSBD scholars, and these mentoring relations can develop into cross-national collaborations and friendships. Therefore, as an early career member of the Society, do take advantage of the available opportunities, as this is the time to develop collaborative relationships that will ripen as you progress in your career.

The contagious hope that made ISSBD possible in the divided world of 1969 still lives on. That hope remains just as important now, as isolationist discourses collide with our growing awareness of the global nature of the challenges facing the world. In ISSBD, many of us have found a home where we can connect and develop our scholarship. Hopefully, the next 50 years of ISSBD will bring to the forefront more scholars like Bame Nsamenang so that we can see farther, in the hope of contributing to our knowledge of developmental science.

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