

A WALK DOWN MEMORY LANE: A FESTSCHRIFT FOR GÉRY D'YDEWALLE

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This Special Issue of *Psychologica Belgica* is a Festschrift in honour of Géry van Outryve d'Ydewalle and in celebration of his research. It contains nine papers, six of which are directly associated with the symposium organised on his behalf on September 7th 2012, in the Royal Academy building in Brussels. We would like to thank the authors for their valuable contributions, as well as Etienne Quertemont, editor-in-chief of *Psychologica Belgica*, for enthusiastically supporting our initiative.

Although the central focus of this Special Issue is on memory, there is a large variety in the topics discussed. This variety simply reflects the extensiveness of Géry d'Ydewalle's scientific work and the fact that his expertise is spread out over a multitude of fields. Throughout his career, Géry d'Ydewalle studied an impressive number of topics. His broad scientific interest and his continuous efforts to develop new lines of research made him an important player not only in the field of memory, but also in the fields of perception, attention, reasoning, and a number of more applied domains. Scientific diversity is his trademark, but memory always remained the connecting thread throughout his work.

Géry d'Ydewalle obtained his PhD at the University of Leuven in 1974. He became the head of the Laboratory of Experimental Psychology in 1980, which indicates the speed with which his career developed. One of his first (in a row of many) PhD students was Mieke Verfaellie, now a world authority in the research about amnesia and the director of the Memory Disorders Research Center of the Boston University School of Medicine. The first article in this Festschrift is a review from her and her collaborators about medial temporal lobe contributions to future thinking. It describes fascinating evidence of the link between remembering the past and envisioning the future, with a focus on neuropsychological studies of patients with amnesia and the critical role of the medial temporal lobes. From the very beginning of his career, Géry d'Ydewalle has been interested in amnesia, dementia, and other clinical conditions related to memory. It became a tradition that would be fol-

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lowed by his collaborators for decades. Ilse Van Damme, one of the last to have obtained a PhD under his supervision, shows how this long-established line of research can be integrated with research about false memory in the second article of this Special Issue. The study of false memory has become increasingly popular since the 1970's. Under supervision of Géry d'Ydewalle, Ilse Van Damme investigated how this type of memory distortion can interact with memory loss in amnesic patients. The contribution of Van Damme and Dewhurst describes two studies evaluating the effect of encoding factors on immediate and delayed recognition of non-studied lure words in Korsakoff patients. Results point to the conclusion that not deficient encoding, but rather deficient recollection is the main factor determining the difference in false recognition between Korsakoff patients and memory-intact controls. The following article by Hedwige Dehon clarifies and nuances concepts as 'false memory' and 'memory distortion', by providing an excellent review of 'illusory recollection' or the strong and detailed feeling of remembering things that never happened. The importance of studying not only clinical conditions such as amnesia, but also normal aging becomes abundantly clear in Nilsson's contribution. Lars-Göran Nilsson is an expert in the development of memory across the lifespan. He discusses several methodological factors that should be considered in research on cognitive aging, with major theoretical and practical implications.

In 1992, Géry d'Ydewalle was the recipient of the Francqui Award, a prestigious prize awarded by the Francqui Foundation in recognition of outstanding scientific achievements. Before this milestone, Géry d'Ydewalle's research had been mainly focused on learning and memory. After, he adopted a multitude of approaches to study perception as well as memory, both theoretically and applied, with the ultimate goal of disentangling the cognitive processes involved in the encounter of complex situations. He gradually expanded his interest to other aspects of memory, with studies about prospective memory and working memory as a result. Prospective memory refers to remembering to perform a certain action at some point in the future. Paul Burgess, one of the international leaders in the field of cognitive neuroscience, provided us with an extensive and outstanding review of the study of prospective memory. The contribution of Gonen-Yaacovi and Burgess discusses task characteristics, theoretical models, the influence of aging, and neuroscientific findings. Maria Brandimonte, also an authority on prospective memory, describes one of the recent developments in the field. She and her collaborators examined the effects of collaboration and competition on pro-social prospective memory. Their results suggest that memory for intentions is significantly influenced by social drives and thus point to the importance of motivation.

Another line of research in the domain of memory that was pursued by Géry d'Ydewalle is the study of working memory and executive functions. It

turned out to be a fruitful topic, yielding many interesting findings and evolving into a scientific trail that would be followed for years. In the seventh article in this Special Issue, André Vandierendonck – another Belgian leader in cognitive psychology –, presents a model that elaborates the general idea that working memory is a workspace for storing and manipulating temporary information. This proposal can be viewed as a process-implementation of the time-based resource-sharing (TBRS) model, which also inspires research on conditional reasoning in the Laboratory of Experimental Psychology in Leuven (e.g., Wim De Neys, Walter Schaeken, Aline Sevenants, Niki Verschueren). In the following article, Sara Verbrugge and Aline Sevenants go one step further in drawing the link between reasoning and memory. They investigated how well children and adults can recall different types of coherence relations after having read a text. The results show that epistemic relations are remembered worse than content relations but the difference in recall decreases as the participants' age increases.

Finally, this *Festschrift* wants to illustrate how (the study of) memory permeates through (the study of) many other psychological functions and processes. In the final article, Merckelbach and Collaris show how the study of memory can be useful in unexpected ways in the domain of health psychology. They describe a study in which it was explored whether exposing people to a moral prime would reduce their tendency to engage in malingering (i.e., the exaggeration or fabrication of symptoms). Their findings are twofold, as there were no moral prime effects in the lab, but preliminary data suggest that there might be an effect outside the lab, in a clinical context. Harald Merckelbach is an expert on memory in all its forms and appearances. In his work, he continuously explores not only the theoretical, but also the social and practical importance of what people remember. This mission to study memory entirely and fully is also very dear to Géry d'Ydewalle, and it is something that he has successfully passed on to many of the people who worked with him.

Géry d'Ydewalle's scientific contributions to the field of cognitive and experimental psychology have been great. Both in the numerical and the qualitative sense. His work has had an impact across a variety of domains, with his interest in memory being the ever-connecting thread. He has influenced dozens of research careers and touched the lives of many people. This *Festschrift* serves as a thank you for all of these things. Géry d'Ydewalle's career can undoubtedly inspire a whole new generation of memory scientists. Hopefully, the top-quality contributions in this Special Issue can provide some fresh ideas, stimulate scientific thought, and therefore aid to fulfil these aspirations.