

Editorial

As *Psychologica Belgica* inaugurates the new millenium* with its 40th volume and a new cover, momentous changes are taking place both in the Belgian Psychological Society and in the psychological sciences in general. First, the Society, now entering its 54th year as an institution, is opening up to a more diverse membership so as to better reflect the constituents of academic psychology in Belgium and elsewhere. Second, psychology in general is, perhaps more than ever, becoming increasingly interdisciplinary. The impact of brain imaging methods on the conduct of research in psychology cannot be understated. As these new powerful methods become progressively integrated with more traditional behavioral or computational modeling methods, the output of psychological research likewise becomes increasingly better available to society as a whole, in the form of design recommendations, remedial programs that address specific pathologies, or important contributions to the public's knowledge of how the brain develops, learns, and processes information.

In this context, *Psychologica Belgica* will remain the Society's main publication outlet. Its impact has steadily increased under the editorship of André Vandierendonck and the members of the former editorial board, who all deserve our gratitude for their efforts in helping make the journal a better one. My goal is to continue to work in the same direction, namely to publish high-quality, peer-reviewed articles that address any domain of scientific psychology, while simultaneously attempting to further open up the journal and to improve its standing among its competitors. To better serve this goal and to offer prospective authors better feedback concerning their contributions, I have requested the help of several outstanding associate editors, each of whom will be in charge of handling manuscripts and of making editorial decisions in their respective areas of expertise:

Marc Brysbaert (UG), Psycholinguistics & Memory
 Guy Karnas (ULB), Work & Organizational Psychology
 Ivan Mervielde (UG), Clinical and Personality Psychology
 Thierry Meulemans (ULg), Neuropsychology & Neuroscience
 Eric Soetens (VUB), Learning & Attention
 Jean-Pierre Thibaut (ULg), Developmental Psychology
 Karl Verfaillie (KUL), Perception
 Vincent Yzerbyt (UCL), Social Psychology

* Readers will hopefully agree that the debate about whether the year 2000 actually marks the beginning of a new millenium should not be addressed in the pages of this particular journal.

Naturally, *Psychologica Belgica* will continue to consider contributions from any domain of psychology, not just those listed above.

Psychologica Belgica competes with a large number of excellent journals. What, then, should motivate you to publish in this journal as opposed to any other? There are, I believe, several good reasons. First of all, *Psychologica Belgica* is *your* journal. It is what you make of it, and I expect Society members to contribute to its contents on a regular basis. If this were the case, *Psychologica Belgica* would continue to fulfill the function it was originally created for — that of representing an archived sample of the scientific research about psychology conducted in Belgium over the years. More importantly, it seems obvious that the appearance of increasing numbers of high-quality articles can only improve the attractiveness and the impact of the journal. Second, *Psychologica Belgica* can serve as a unique forum to make available to the community research findings that specifically have local relevance and that other publication outlets might justifiably disregard for this very reason. The journal will thus continue to encourage the publication of such contributions, in continuity with the contents of the “Belgian Corner” section initiated by André Vandierendonck. Third, *Psychologica Belgica* now has a relatively short publication lag and we intend to make it even shorter. Considering that excellent papers often take years to appear in competing journals, this factor is undoubtedly an important one when selecting a publication outlet.

Space permitting, I also intend to continue to develop two publication policies initiated by the former editor:

- (1) A special thematic issue once a year. These volumes are generally highly successful and systematically attract contributions from outstanding foreign authors. Albeit special issues are typically invited by the editor, I will be happy to consider any proposal, which you are welcome to submit for consideration by the editorial board at any time.
- (2) An “Invited Address” section, which includes invited contributions from holders of the Francqui chair and, more recently, from winners of the Belgian Psychological Society “Best thesis award”.

In closing, I hope that readers and authors alike will join myself and the associate editors in sharing a sense of renewed enthusiasm for *Psychologica Belgica*.

Axel Cleeremans