

THE BULLETIN OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR RESEARCH ON AGGRESSION

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Editorial Katja Bertsch European *Bulletin* Editor



Welcome to the December 2020 edition of the ISRA Bulletin.

It is almost Christmas and I am happy that we were able to collect and present some of this year's ISRA members' achievements and news in the Bulletin! I would like to thank all people who contributed to this edition and would like to invite all of you to submit reports, information, pictures about your recent work, awards, books, and upcoming meetings that might be of interest to ISRA members. For all of us, 2020 was a very unusual year dominated by Covid-19 pandemic and the consequences we are facing on a personal, social as well as scientific level. Let's hope the best for 2021 and the future!

Due to the pandemic, we were not able to meet in person this summer and this also had an impact on ISRA business affairs. However, I am very happy that we are able to present you the new team of ISRA Officers and Council

Members in this *Bulletin*. I would like to thank all of you for participating at the online vote and digital ISRA business meeting earlier this month. But before presenting you the new team, we will – as always – start with messages from our President-Elect, Tracy Vaillancourt, our President, Eric Dubow, our Past-President, Barbara Krahé, and our Executive Secretary, Dominic Parrot. I would particularly point out Dominic's message in which the decisions of the business meeting are described. Please note that we decided to provide free membership for students and early career investigators as well as members from lower- and middle-income countries. Since we hope to attacked more members, please do not forget to mention this to your students and colleagues!

*N*ext, you find some notes and information about the ISRA World Meeting in Ottawa which has been postponed to 2022! A big thanks to the organizers for your great effort!!! I am already looking forward to the Ottawa meeting in 2022.

Following this, you will see the new ISRA Officers and Council Members 2020-2022.

*U*nfortunately, ISRA lost two precious members, Adam Frączek and Seymour Feshbach. Please see the Memorandum for information. Thank you, Rowell Huesmann and Lucyna Kirwil for your contribuation!

*F*inally, you find information about ISRA members latest achievements (awards, books, studies...) as well as about jobs and other conferences.

*P*lease remember that our goal for the *Bulletin* is to keep our members informed of scholarship in the area of aggression and to share each other's work. So, please email me with any materials you would like us to include in the next issue of the *Bulletin*.

Having said this, I wish all of you a Merry Christmas and all the best for 2021! I hope to see all of you soon in good health and mood!

Best wishes, Katja



A Message from our President-Elect Tracy Vaillancourt

It is an incredible honour to be nominated President-Elect of the International Society for Research on Aggression. I remember with great fondness the first ISRA meeting I attended in Montréal Canada in 2002 as a post-doctoral student working with Dr. Richard Tremblay and Dr. Michel Boivin. At this meeting, I had the opportunity to meet many of the researchers I had been referencing in my work. It was also at this meeting that I met Dr. Rowell Huesmann (ISRA President, 1996-1998), who has since become a close friend and colleague. What I appreciated most about the Montréal world meeting, and every meeting since, is the generosity of ISRA members. ISRA is a tightknit community that values diversity of thought and nurtures new scholars. Although I knew then that I wanted to be part of this group of impressive scholars, I did not anticipate being its first Canadian President-Elect. Thank you for this privilege.



In my mandate as president, I would like to enhance our membership to include more early scholars so that they too can benefit, as I have, from this amazing organization. This goal has been made easier with the recent changes to membership. Free membership to all students and early career investigators is the way to go. This change will also help me achieve my other goals, which include: (1) having better representation of membership on our committees in terms of gender, sexual orientation, race, disability, and geography—our governing body needs to represent the diversity of our membership, and (2) broadening the type of research that is disseminated at our world meetings and in our bulletins, as well as in the membership of our society. In particular, I would like to see us extend our base in the areas of collective violence (e.g., domestic terrorism), education, and interdisciplinary research.

I am also interested in having a stronger media presence. I envision an ISRA in which the media seek out our commentary first as the leading authority on aggression research. I am concerned about the antiscience movement that is taking hold around the world. We need to curtail this anti-intellectual stance with a stronger media presence. We have the best of the best represented in our community, and as such, we need to be the leading public authority on aggression research.

I look forward to working with the new ISRA council and President Dr. Eric Dubow, with whom I have an excellent working relationship.

Finally, I look forward to seeing all of you in Ottawa in 2022. I am proud to live in the capital of Canada and welcome the opportunity to show off my beautiful city and campus at uOttawa.

Stay well!

Tracy Vaillancourt President-Elect of the International Society for Research on Aggression



A Message from Our President Eric F. Dubow



The COVID pandemic continues to grip the world, and has wreaked havoc on all aspects of our lives. Most important, we grieve for lost loved ones. Although vaccine development has offered light at the end of the tunnel, the pandemic's negative effects will be far reaching. It is in this context that we find ways to move forward, with strength and hope.

As you know, we have had to postpone the World Meeting in Ottawa till July 2022. Authors whose submissions had been accepted for the cancelled 2020

meeting can present their research in 2022, and can update their presentations without needing to resubmit. In addition, we agreed to open an additional call for presentations in January/February of 2022 for the July 2022 meeting. So, the 2022 World Meeting will be bigger and better than ever!

ISRA held our Business Meeting virtually a few weeks ago (December 7), the meeting that we had hoped to have in Ottawa in July. Thanks to all of you who were able to join that meeting. It was great to see old friends, which reminded me of how much we cherish in-person meetings. At the meeting, we announced the results of the election of officers and Council members. As chair of the Nominations Committee, I want to thank the committee members (Katja Bertsch, Sarah Coyne, Andre Melzer, and Wayne Warburton) who worked diligently to come up with the slate of nominees. Thanks to the officers and Council members who agreed to stand for nomination (and if you weren't elected this time, your time will come!). We could not function as a society without your dedicated interest and commitment. And I want to congratulate those who will be our new officers and Council members. I look forward to working closely with all of you to keep our society a high-quality, vibrant scientific organization. Thanks also to Barbara Krahé, our past-president, who has been a perfect role model for me; it is daunting to take the baton from Barbara, but she knows that I will constantly seek her feedback in the next two years!

As I mentioned on our Virtual Business meeting, there are a few initiatives I'd like to pursue as president of the society:

1. Mentor young investigators. Perhaps mentoring programs could piggyback on the Young Investigators program to be ongoing (e.g., summer visiting assistantships to the mentor's institution).

2. Broaden the research that represents ISRA. We need to be creative to draw researchers from underrepresented topic areas into ISRA membership and encourage them to publish in *Aggressive Behavior* at higher rates (perhaps by commissioning a few special issues of the journal).



3. Encourage large-scale research collaborations among members. ISRA might examine ways it can help foster collaborations for members to seek federal funding for projects (e.g., time set aside at meetings for specific interest groups, seed funding for promising groups of researchers to meet during the year to plan their projects).

Of course, these ideas are not new—they build on the ongoing initiatives of the society. I will work with the officers and Council members in the coming months to discuss these ideas and determine if we have consensus to move forward and how we should implement them.

In the meantime, best wishes during this holiday season, happy new year, and stay safe! Hope to see you in 2022 in Ottawa.

Eric



A Message from Our Past-President Barbara Krahé



Dear ISRA Colleagues and Friends,

When I wrote my message for the June Bulletin, it was with mixed feelings. Mixed, because I was sad to miss the trip to Ottawa to meet with all of you in an inspiring World Meeting, but also hopeful that the Covid19 crisis was beginning to come under control, making a meeting next summer a realistic possibility. In the meantime, we have all had to learn that such optimism was unfounded, and as a result, the Ottawa organizing team and the ISRA officers jointly decided to postpone the ISRA World Meeting by another year, now setting our hopes on the summer of 2022.

One implication of these developments has been to reverse the decision, taken when moving the meeting to 2021, to extend the terms of all elected ISRA officers by a year, as it is now clear that such an extension would need to last for another year, covering the period of a full extra term of office for all of us. This was not considered to be in the spirit of the ISRA constitution, and hence, as you all know, elections were held in early December and a new leadership team is now in place. For me personally, this means that my time as president comes to an end at an unexpected time, later than initially thought and earlier than anticipated in the meantime. I am pleased to pass the baton to Eric Dubow, who I know will further promote the work and international standing of our society in his presidency.

Looking back at my two-and-a-half years of being ISRA president, I believe we have made progress on the goals I outlined when taking office and reiterated in the past Bulletins. To achieve the goal of broadening the membership, both geographically and in terms of career stages, the decision to waive membership fees for early career researchers and researchers from low- and middle-income countries was approved in the December business meeting and will take effect from 2021. The goal of making ISRA a more influential voice in societal discourse related to aggression is taken up in the work of the Presidential Commission on Police Violence that will present an expert statement based on input from an interdisciplinary team of eminent scholars very soon. These are very encouraging developments which I hope will continue to flourish in the future.

For now, I wish you and your families a peaceful holiday season, a good start into 2021, and the strength and resilience needed to retain a sense of hope and happiness in these challenging times. I also want to thank all of you for the trust and support you gave me as your president. It has been a great honor to serve ISRA in this role, and I will, of course, continue my commitment to ISRA as past-president and then as a loyal and dedicated member in the years to come.

Cordially, Barbara



A Message from our Executive Secretary Dominic Parrott



Dear ISRA Colleagues,

What a year it has been. I am very proud to have worked with fellow my Officers, Council Members, and members of the Ottawa World Meeting team to navigate ISRA through the uncertainties that have characterized 2020. I believe that they have served ISRA very well.

The two postponements of the Ottawa World Meeting have

obviously been a primary focus of our work. If you have not done so already, please read the statement in this issue of the Bulletin and on the ISRA website. The postponement has, once again, affected ISRA Business in several ways.

First, in June, I noted that ISRA's "new normal" would be to hold World Meetings every oddnumbered year. Well, we are adjusting again to the "old normal" of holding World Meetings every even-numbered year. In the history of ISRA, 2020 will simply be the exception to ISRA's tradition of holding a World Meeting every even-numbered year. I look forward to seeing you all again in 2022 in Ottawa.

Second, in June, we planned for all terms of service for our current officers and councilmembers to be extended for one year so that the end of their terms would coincide with the 2021 ISRA World Meeting. However, with the postponement of the World Meeting to 2022, ISRA worked swiftly to hold elections in the last month. The newly elected Officers and Council Members are listed in this issue of the Bulletin and on the ISRA website. I look forward to working with them all.

Third, for a number of years, ISRA's Council has discussed ideas for changing our dues structure as a way to promote membership in ISRA. ISRA had planned to address this issue at the Ottawa Meeting, and then decided to wait to address them after the World Meeting was postponed to 2021. But with the need to hold a Business Meeting in December related to the aforementioned elections, ISRA's Council agreed that it was important to move forward on a final proposal *which will provide free membership to many new and some existing members*. I'm very excited to report that the ISRA membership voted to approve this proposal at the Virtual Business Meeting. We believe that these new dues structure will make it easier for new members to join, stay involved in the Society over several years, and eventually find ISRA to be the "professional home" that they remain a part of for the duration of their careers.

I summarize these changes here.

• Effective 2021, ISRA will provide **free membership** to all students (undergraduate or graduate), early career investigators within 3 years of their terminal graduate degree, and



members from lower- and middle-income countries as determined by the World Bank. We also offer ISRA members the opportunity to apply for special exceptions from paying dues.

- All other members will pay the same \$60 annual membership dues.
- Based on criteria listed on our membership webpage, the Executive Secretary will determine whether new applicants and current members seeking renewal will be required to pay annual dues or receive a free membership.
- As has always been the case, all new applications for membership will be reviewed by the Executive Secretary. Renewal applications do not require approval to continue membership.
- A key change is that all new applications regardless whether that new member receives a free membership – will require an endorsement from one ISRA member. This will be achieved by the applicant listing that current member's name and email address on the web-based application. The Executive Secretary will then confirm the endorsement with that member. Applicants who cannot obtain an endorsement will be reviewed for endorsement by the Executive Secretary, President, and one member of Council.

You will find these changes reflected in the 2021 ISRA membership drive and on the ISRA website. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Finally, I'd like to encourage all ISRA members to explore the ISRA website and consider contributing to it. For example, you can:

- Click on the "Member Login" and enter your email and password to find an active list of members, ISRA Life Fellow Roger's Johnson's "A Walk Through History: A Half-Century of Reminiscences about ISRA", minutes from prior meetings, and some course resources (to which you can add!).
- Take a look under the "News" tab for our featured "Members in the Media." If your research has received any media attention, please forward that information to me so I can include it on our website.
- Review our library of over four years of blogs written by ISRA and non-ISRA members. If you are interested in a contributing a blog to the ISRA website that will get disseminated to ISRA follows on social media, please let me know!

Best Regards,

Dominic Parrott Executive Secretary International Society for Research on Aggression



A Message about the ISRA World Meeting in Ottawa Canada

In March 2020, ISRA's leadership and the organizing team of the World Meeting chose to reschedule the 2020 ISRA World Meeting for July 2021. Since that time, we have continued to monitor the potential impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the 2021 World Meeting. As a part of that process, in early October, ISRA Officers and representatives from the local organizing team in Ottawa met to discuss the viability of hosting the World Meeting in 2021. As a result of this meeting, **ISRA has decided to postpone the Ottawa Meeting to 2022.**

There were several reasons we arrived at this decision. First, with respect to an in-person meeting, there are simply too many factors that remain unpredictable and could threaten ISRA's ability to host a safe and successful World Meeting. These include (but are not limited to) the potential for international travel restrictions, a rate of COVID cases that would prevent a safe in-person gathering, liability related to COVID infection, hotel closures in Ottawa, and funding limitations for registrants' travel. Second, we considered the alternative of hosting a virtual World Meeting but concluded that there are significant disadvantages. Of particular relevance, a virtual meeting would not provide the individual interaction that is so highly valued and quintessential for any ISRA World Meeting. We are also keenly aware of the burnout that many of us face with what feels like endless videoconference meetings as well as the stress we all experience as we try to adapt to profound changes to our everyday lives.

The purpose of this statement is to provide additional information about what this decision means and next steps for those who have submitted symposia, papers, or posters for ISRA2021 (formally ISRA2020).

What are the dates of the rescheduled World Meeting?

• The World Meeting will be rescheduled – it is not being cancelled. The 2022 ISRA World Meeting will be held in Summer 2022 – likely in July. Final dates will be announced in the coming months.

I submitted an abstract. What happens now?

On March 15th 2020, the Program Committee had received many submissions for symposia, as well as oral and poster presentations. If your presentation was accepted, you can list it on your CV as "accepted for presentation" and plan to present it at the 2022 World Meeting.

- We recognize that between the time of acceptance and the 2022 World Meeting, the abstract may change (e.g., additional data collected, new interpretations of those data, etc.). We welcome you presenting your original work or an updated version of your work.
- If you wish to withdraw your submission, please contact the Chair of the Program Committee, Eric Dubow (<u>edubow@bgsu.edu</u>).



• ISRA will also re-open the submission portal in early 2022 to accommodate <u>new</u> submissions.

I applied for the YI Program and/or a Student Travel Award. What happens now?

• Only new applications for the Student Travel Awards and Young Investigators Program will be reviewed for the 2022 World Meeting. Information about submission deadlines and application instructions will be posted on the World Meeting website by January 2022.

Please continue to monitor the <u>ISRA website</u>, the <u>World Meeting website</u>, our social media accounts on <u>Twitter</u> and <u>Facebook</u>, and messages from the ISRA Executive Secretary for updates.

We recognize that these are unusual times and a challenging time globally and for everyone. We wish you strength and patience as you cope with this crisis.

Please contact the local organizing team at <u>isra2020@uottawa.ca</u> should you have any questions.



The ISRA Officers and Council Members 2020-2022

Council Members elected in 2020 will serve a 4 -year term (expiring in 2024) are:

Past President Barbara Krahé (Germany)



Executive Secretary **Dominic Parrott** (USA)



President Eric Dubow (USA)



Treasurer Jamie Ostrov (USA)



President Elect Tracy Vaillancourt (Canada)



Archivist **Tom Denson** (Australia)



Council members elected in 2020 for a 4 year-term (expiring in 2024):Katja Bertsch (Germany)Paul Boxer (USA)Ken Dodge (USA)



Rebecca Bondü (Germany)





Cara Swit (New Zealand)







Council members elected in 2018 for a 4-year term (expiring in 2022): John Archer (UK) S. Alexandra Burt (USA) Karin Osterman (Finland)



Jamie Ostrov (USA)

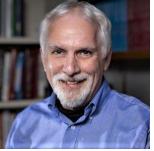








Editors Craig Anderson Editor-in-Chief, Aggressive Behavior



Jamie Ostrov North American Editor, ISRA Bulletin



Katja Bertsch European Editor, ISRA Bulletin





In Memoriam

This year, ISRA has lost two important members and former presidents: Adam Frączek and Seymour Feshbach. We are thankful to their many and long-time contributions to ISRA and offer our condolences to their families. Rowell Huesmann and Lucyna Kirwil have written an obituary on Adam Frączek (see below). An obituary for Seymour Feshbach will be published on the ISRA website and the next Bulletin.

Adam Fraczek: A Rigorous Scholar and Compassionate Man

By Rowell Huesmann and Lucyna Kirwil

Adam Frączek (1935 – 2000), long-time ISRA member and ISRA president from 1990 to 1992, passed away after a long illness on October 18, 2020 at the age of 84. He was instrumental in the early development of ISRA as a respected scientific society in Poland and Eastern Europe, in establishing productive scientific ties between aggression researchers in Poland and the rest of the world, and in advancing psychological theory and research on aggression.

Contributions to the Study of Aggression

Fraczek was a seminal figure in the conceptualization of intrapsychic mechanisms for what he called "Readiness to Aggression." Building on his early rigorous scientific training in personality psychology under Professor Tadeusz Tomaszewski at Warsaw University, his early interests were in clinical psychology and, along with his colleague Janusz Grzelak, on psychological responses to failure and on the efficacy of psychotherapy (almost unknown in Poland at the time) to improve lives. However, after a stint as a Postdoc with ISRA member Leonard Berkowitz at the University of Wisconsin in 1968, Adam became engrossed in the study of aggressive behavior. He introduced the experimental paradigms that he had learned in Berkowitz's lab into Poland to study aggression, and he began to integrate his own thinking about personality with the learning theory conceptions of aggressive behavior that he saw driving the work of both Berkowitz and ISRA psychologist Leonard Eron whom he had met through Berkowitz (Fraczek & Macaulay, 1971; Fraczek, 1979a). The result was that he proposed a regulatory theory of interpersonal aggression based on individual differences in 'readiness to aggress.' Readiness to Aggress was defined as a personality characteristic that "refers both to the [easy] arousal of anger resulting from frustration and to [the presence of] aggressive tendencies developed through past experience" (Fraczek & Macaulay, 1971). For people at a sufficient level of "Readiness to Aggress," the presence of the appropriate eliciting stimuli facilitates the occurrence of aggressive behavior.

For the last 50 years Frączek successfully applied this construct to understanding aggressive behavior by a variety of person-types in a variety of contexts. Initially he showed how the two components of readiness to aggress interact to explain some puzzling differences in for whom



the sight of weapons increases the risk of aggression, i.e., if substantial anxiety is elicited by the sight, it does not (Frączek & Macaulay, 1971). Then in the 1970's, 80's, and 90's, drawing on the newer thinking about the role of cognitions in aggressive behavior exemplified by ISRA psychologists Seymour Feshbach, Rowell Huesmann, Ken Dodge and others, he expanded the role of past experience in determining *Readiness to Aggress* to include learned information processing procedures that employ learned cognitions such as self-image, beliefs about the world, and moral beliefs (which he viewed as elements of personality) to modulate the intrapsychic regulation of aggressive behavior (Frączek, 1979c; Frączek & Geller, 1981; Frączek, 1986b; Frączek, 1992).

More recently, Adam (Frączek, et. al, 2016) revised his definition of *Readiness to Aggress*, and expanded his theory to propose three different categories of readiness to aggress. While his revised conception did not deviate much from his initial 1968 conception that <u>readiness to aggress depends on the interaction of a temperament easy to anger with learned aggressive propensities that can be triggered by eliciting stimuli, it emphasized that three specific patterns of readiness to aggress could be identified that all might produce similarly looking aggressive behavior. He named them: 1) emotional-impulsive, 2) habitual-cognitive, and 3) personality-immanent. Emotional-impulsive readiness to aggress is characterized by a propensity to be easily angered coupled with low emotional control. Habitual-cognitive readiness is characterized by a person having well-learned scripts and beliefs supporting habitual aggression. Personality-immanent readiness to aggress is characterized by a person having positive feelings about aggression and the suffering of victims.</u>

Adam conducted numerous influential empirical studies applying this series of ideas across countries and cultures. In 1985 he showed (in collaboration with Finnish ISRA members Kirsti Lagerspetz and Kaj Bjorkqvist) that Polish and Finnish young adults have very similar normative beliefs about the appropriateness of relatively mild aggression but Polish young adults are more accepting of serious interpersonal aggression in many situations (Frazzek, 1985).

During the late 70's and 80's he also conducted a cross-national collaboration with ISRA researchers Len Eron and Rowell Huesmann in the USA, Riva Bachrach and Simha Landau in Israel, and Peter Sheehan in Australia to investigate the influence of mass-media violence on the development of aggression (Frączek, 1983; 1986a). The results of the study in Poland showed very similar effects for children to what was found in the USA - that exposure to TV violence was correlated with later childhood aggression - but the 15 year effects in Poland only showed significant effects for males. Adam attributed this difference between the genders (and difference from the USA) to differing socialization experiences during these years (when Poland was undergoing radical social-political change) that produced different moral beliefs that moderated aggression. Thus, he saw the results consistent with his conceptions of the intrapsychic regulation of readiness to aggress.

In the 2016 study on *Patterns of Readiness for Interpersonal Aggression* mentioned above (Frączek et al., 2016) compared sex differences in types of readiness to aggress in Poland with sex differences in readiness to aggress in Italy, Spain, and the USA. In all countries Adam's team found that males scored higher than females on habitual-cognitive readiness and personal-immanent readiness (that is positive feelings about aggression) while females scored higher than males on emotional-impulsive readiness to aggress particularly in Spain. Additionally, females

scored much higher on emotional-impulsive readiness than they did on habitual-cognitive readiness in all countries. This result was consistent with Adam's proposition that female aggression is regulated more by individual differences in emotional-impulsive readiness for aggression while male aggression is regulated more by individual differences in habitual-cognitive readiness. Why? Adam's proposed that females' knowledge of sex-type stereotypes makes emotional-impulsive readiness more consistent with their female-self-image and motivates them to suppress script-based physical expressions of anger. This suppression leads to sudden impulsive emotional outbursts for females high on emotional-impulsive readiness to aggress. Males, on the other hand, perceive scripted aggressive behavior as acceptable for males to obtain desired goals. Thus, when frustrated by goal blocking, males higher on habitual-cognitive readiness are more prone to act aggressively. These relatively recent extensions of Adam's theorizing will undoubtedly stimulate more research both by his collaborators and by others as they become more aware of the theory. This fact must be seen as one of the greatest complements for Adam's research, and one that would please him – that, after his passing, his research, thinking, and writing has stimulated more thinking and research.

The studies above were by no means the only cross-national collaborations with other ISRA researchers that Adam did. Adam attended almost every ISRA world meeting from 1978, many off-year meetings as well, and spent time in many other researcher's labs, and developed many cross-national collaborations out of these contacts. In addition to the collaborations with USA ISRA researchers Leonard Berkowitz, Leonard Eron, Rowell Huesmann, and Seymour Feshbach, and with Finnish ISRA members Kirsti Lagerspetz, Kaj Bjorkqvist, Karen Osterman, Lea Pulkkinen, and Vappu Vimero; he collaborated with Gian Vittorio Caprara in Italy, Martin Ramirez in Spain, Hans Joseph Kornadt and Horst Zumkley in Germany, and with many other ISRA members in other countries. Many of these collaborations have produced significant research will have lasting legacies. However, perhaps an even greater legacy will be the large number of young aggression researchers he trained and motivated to contribute to the field.

Adam was devoted to teaching and training young scholars in Poland to perform good, rigorous social psychological research and was particularly interested in developing a cadre of young scholars who would study interpersonal aggressive behavior. The roll of names is too long to list, but almost every notable aggression researcher in Poland who was educated between 1970 and 2020 and who came in contact with him clearly benefited from his attention, and in comments they have written since his passing uniformly recognize how much he gave to them

Adam made it a practice to bring young Polish scholars of aggression to ISRA meetings, to introduce them to other members, and try to arrange future connections for them. Many have indeed become active aggression researchers and contributed significantly to the field, and a number of his students (including the co-author of this obituary) became active ISRA members. There are too many to list all of them, but some particularly good researchers of aggression who studied with him or gained experience in his lab include Monika Dominiak-Kochanek, Hanna Eliasz, Wanda Gajda, Sonia Geller, Marek Ignaczak, Lucyna Kirwil, Karolina Konopka, Dorota Lubańska, Anna Pohorecka, Joanna Rajchert, Ewa Stepiań, Małgorzata Toepliz-Winiewska, Jacek Zakrzewski, and Maria Zakrzewski.



Adam's Life

As with most of us, Adam's career was shaped to a great extent by his early environment. He was born on November 1,1935 in the village Podegrodzie in the Sądecka Land in southern Poland. Podegrodzie, now a commune village with a sightseeing and recreational character, is one of the oldest towns in this region. It is located southwest of Nowy Sącz, on the left bank of the picturesque Dunajec River at the foot of the Beskidy mountains. Adam attended primary school there, where his mother Josepha (Józefa Frączek) worked as a teacher. He was an only child, and that, plus his mother's teaching, may have helped create the passion for reading and knowledge that he displayed throughout his life. These were difficult times all over Poland with the German and Russian WWII occupations and their terroristic repression of Polish culture. But Adam and his family survived, and after the war he graduated from primary school and continued his education at the Pedagogical Secondary School in Stary Sącz from which he graduated in 1953.

Then, when he was 21, Adam moved to Warsaw and began his first professional job as a tutor and teacher in the Maryna Falska Children's Home and in the Orphanage of the Ministry of Foreigh Affairs in Warsaw where he worked from 1956 to 1961. At the same time (necessatated by economics and following the tradition of Polish academics working and studying simultaneously) Adam enrolled in the University of Warsaw in the Faculty of Pedagogy and Psychology. He concentrated in Psychology and graduated in 1958 with a M.A. in psychology. That was the beginning of a long scientific path of studying *scientifically* the issues of child and youth development, education and upbringing to which he remained faithful throughout his life.

From 1958 to 1962 he was employed as an assistant in the Laboratory of Psychology at the Polish Academy of Sciences and as an assistant in the Laboratory of General Psychology at the Military Academy in Warsaw. Then, in 1961 he was accepted into the Ph.D. program of General Psychology at the Faculty of Pedagogy and Psychology at Warsaw University, directed by Professor Tadeusz Tomaszewski who became his mentor and model for his scientific endeavors. Adam was an assistant at first and then was named an assistant professor. In 1965 he earned the doctor of humanities title defending the thesis entitled "*Emotions and schemas as regulators of behavior after failure*" under the supervision of Professor Tomaszewski.

Professor Maria Jarymowicz, who at that time was a student in General Psychology at the University of Warsaw, recalls that she saw Adam for the first time when he was introduced to the students as the "supervisor" of their exam in personality psychology: "He looked charming and gentle (reducing the students' stress significantly). Who would have thought at that time that he would become a famous expert on human aggression?!"

At that time Adam began what would be life-long friendly relationships with two other important Polish psychologists: Janusz Grzelak, who had been in Adam's student cohort, and Janusz Reykowski, who was older and more established. They were all interested at first in bringing modern clinical psychology to Poland particularly to treat "stress after failure" as Adam studied in his dissertation. Consequently, in 1967 Adam decided to spend six months as a post-doc in clinical psychology at New York University. Of course, a major allure at the time, for any Polish academic, would have been the opportunity to spend time in the USA and to interact with American academics. How much lasting influence that NYU experience had on Adam is unclear, but it certainly must have motivated him in the next year to take the Postdoctoral Fellowship at Wisconsin with ISRA member Leonard Berkowitz that would change his career trajectory toward social psychology and the study of aggressive behavior.

After he returned to Poland from Wisconsin, Adam worked first at the University of Warsaw and later in the psychology section of the Polish Academy of Sciences that was headed by his older acquaintance, Janusz Reykowski. While at both places, Adam gave a great impetus to the development of social psychology and aggression research in Poland and introduced young Polish researchers to international modern research in social psychology. Professor Mirosław Kofta from Department of Psychology at Warsaw University recalls that "*at the beginning of 1970s Adam Frączek was in the process of creating a laboratory of psychology of aggression and socialization. The team in this lab was very young and had an original structure. It was inter-university, it consisted of a university part and a part at the National Institute of Special Education. The intensive participation in the work of this team was very educating and inspiring. The team was meeting every week to present new research projects. The members of the team had a first chance to learn about modern, experimental social psychology." During this time Adam, together with team member Kofta, published the chapter "Frustration and Psychological Stress" in the textbook edited by Professor Tomaszewski, that became the basic source of psychological knowledge for generations of students.*

In the summer of 1975 Adam also advanced the study of aggression in Poland by organizing an international conference on aggression in Warsaw that attracted the most influential international researchers on psychological, social and biological determinants of aggression. The presentations at the conference were then published in the book entitled *Aggression and "Behavior Change. Biological and Social Processes"* that was edited by Adam and Seymour Feshbach. In that same year Adam also spent 6-months at UCLA collaborating with Feshbach.

During the late 70's and 80's Adam also increased the links between aggression research in Poland and the rest of the world by participating in two major cross-national projects in which he involved his students. The first was the cross-national longitudinal (it continued into the 90's) project on media violence and aggression organized by Rowell Huesmann and Leonard Eron of the University of Illinois at Chicago that included research teams from the USA, Australia, Finland, Poland, and Israel. The second was organized by Rainer Silbereisen of the Technische Universität Berlin and was devoted to the comparison of the socio-emotional maturation process of Polish and German youth with particular emphasis on the role of substance use by adolescents.

The international contacts spawned by these collaborations advanced the study of interpersonal aggression and related topics even more in Poland. However, in the late 1970's and early 1980's life was difficult both economically and politically in Eastern Europe for researchers interested in studying interpersonal aggression. In Poland, before Adam's work, little had been done to research interpersonal aggression, and the term aggression had such negative political connotations that one often had to couch aggression research in more neutral terms.

In the early 1980's Adam moved his laboratory to the Polish Academy of Sciences (*Polska Akademia Nauk*, PAN) where, as mentioned above, the psychology section was directed by his old acquaintance Janusz Reykowski who had good connections to the ruling establishment but



believed that advancing Polish scientific psychology was more important to the future than paying lip service to political correctness. From 1981 to 1990 Adam was the head of the *Laboratory of Psychology of Socialization* at the Institute of Psychology at the Polish Academy of Sciences, and in 1989-1990, as the iron curtain was coming down and communism was ending in Poland he became the deputy director of that institute.

During this period of turmoil and change in Polish society, Adam continued his studies on aggression while holding down a variety of positions that made life economically viable. In 1989 he became the head of the Laboratory of Clinical Psychology at the Institute of Psychiatry and Neurology of Ministry of Health and continued with that affiliation until 2001. There he was able to advance one of his initial professional aims of preparing clinical psychologists to provide therapy for those in need. In 1996 he became the head of the Department of Educational Psychology at the Faculty of Pedagogy at Warsaw University and stayed at that position till 2005. At the same time, he became a professor at the Maria Grzegorzewska Academy of Special Education in Warsaw where he transformed the department of psychology into an Institute of Psychology and established a Faculty of Applied Social Sciences. In 2001 he took the position of the Rector of the Maria Grzegorzewska Academy of Special Education in Warsaw and held it for altogether three terms until 2008. Then he was appointed the Janusz Korczak UNESCO Chair for the Interdisciplinary Studies on Development and Well-Being at that Academy.

During all his career, at the same time as Adam was being highly productive in scholarly research, writing, and training of students, he made substantial service contributions to the field and to both Polish and international organizations. He served on the editorial boards of a number of scientific journals, including the *Polish Psychological Bulletin* (1978-1984, deputy editor-in-chief; 1978-1984), *Aggressive Behavior* (1982-2002); and several Polish-language scientific journals, including "*Psychological Studies*" (1987-1999); "*Developmental Psychology*", "*Chowanna*", "*Man, Disability, Society*". He participated regularly in ISRA meetings, served on the ISRA Council, and served as president of ISRA from 1990 to 1992.

He also collaborated with many ISRA members, visiting their institutions, and having them visit his. In addition to his seminal post-doc with Leonard Berkowitz in 1968, Adam has visited and collaborated with Kirsti Lagerspetz and her colleagues at Abo Academy in Finland; with Rowell Huesmann and Leonard Eron in 1981 at the University of Illinois in Chicago and in 2000 at the Institute of Social Research of the University of Michigan; with Simha Landau and his colleagues at Hebrew University in Jerusalem; with Martin Ramirez in Spain; with Gian Vittorio Caprara at the University of Rome; with Ada Fonzi and Silvia Bonino at the University of Torino; and Hans Kornadt and Horst Zumkley at the University of *Saarbrücken*.

Adam was a member of the European Association of Experimental Social Psychology, and the Academia Europaea. In Poland he was a member of the Polish Psychological Association, the Polish Psychiatric Association, the Polish Association of Social Psychology, the Scientific Council of the Faculty of Psychology, University of Warsaw, the scientific council of the Institute of Psychiatry and Neurology, the Council of the Pedagogical Faculty of the University of Warsaw (1996-2010), and the Faculty Council Of Applied Social Sciences at the Institute of Psychology in the Maria Grzegorzewska Academy of Special Education.



In addition to these scientific societies Adam belonged to the Polish Children and Youth Foundation, the Foundation J. A. Comenius (chairman of the Foundation Council since 2002), the Board of the Professors at the "Polityka" (weekly magazine influencing public opinion in Poland to the great extent) that funds the scholarships for young, outstanding scientists in Poland, and the Chapter of the Committee for the Protection of Children's Rights that gives out awards for children-friendly books and toys.

Adam received many fellowships and awards honoring his contributions including a Kościuszko Foundation Fellowship, USA (1967/68), an IREX Foundation Fellowship; and a German Research Association Fellowship (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft-DFG), (1987/88). His awards in Poland have included the Order of *Merit for Physical Culture* (1978), the *Gold Cross of Merit* (1979), the *Medal of Maria Grzegorzewska* (2004), the Honorary Diploma of the Children's Friends Society (2005), the *Pro Publico Bono (Smile) Honorary Diploma*, the *Medal of the National Education Commission* (2006), and the Merit for Warsaw (2008). However, most notably in 2011 he was given the *Knight's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta*; so perhaps he should be remembered as 'Sir' Adam.

Aside from psychology, education, and children's welfare, Adam's recreational passions were soccer (playing or viewing), classical music, and reading mysteries. On one visit to the USA Adam brought my (Huesmann) two young children a soccer ball and taught them to play soccer by taking them to a field and playing with them. A visit to Adam in Warsaw always included a night at the philharmonic as his treat, and the only thing he asked of visitors from the English-speaking countries was for them to bring him a new English language book that was a mystery or spy story.

Over his lifetime, Adam was married four times, first to Czeslawa, then to Barbara, then to Daria, and finally to Halinka Jankowska. With Czesława he had a daughter Beata who gave him two grand-daughters; Magda and Dorota. He had another daughter, Marysia, with Daria. Anyone who visited Adam got to know and enjoy his family at the time because Adam believed in having his family meet and get to know his visitors, and everyone in his family always spoke impeccable English and mirrored Adam's charm and politeness. Czesława passed away several year ago, and Halinka, who after 2000 had been Adam's delightful companion both at home and on trips (including his visit to the University of Michigan in 2000 when they lived in the Huesmann house) also passed away a few years ago leaving Adam only with his cat – Kamai—as a companion. However, in his last years a group of appreciative former students visited him often and helped Adam when he needed it. Adam passed away peacefully in the hospital on the morning of October 18, 2020 just a few weeks before what would have been his 85th birthday.

Beyond all his exceptional scientific achievements and service contributions what stands out the most about Adam in the memory of these writers is that he was a warm, compassionate, true 'gentleman' with very polite manners who cared deeply about others, be they his family, his students, his colleagues, or even his cat, Kamai. Therefore, let us close with another reminiscence of one of his oldest friends, Professor Maria Jarymowicz: "Once upon a hot afternoon when Adam and I were visiting the University of Illinois in Chicago, I was greeted by Len Eron dressed in a suit. Surprised, I dared to ask about the reasons for that elegance not typical for Americans on such a hot day. Professor Eron, a bit embarrassed, answered without hesitation: 'Because Adam always comes so elegant!'





Adam teaches Rowell Huesmann soccer on visit to U of Illinois, Chicago; circa 1979



Adam at ISRA in Mexico City, 1982



Adam & ISRA Presient Kirsti Lagerspetz, circa 1985



M. Kuttschreuter(NLD), P. Sheehan (AUS), R. Bachrach (ISR), B. Baarda (NLD),

A. Fraczek (POL), R. Huesmann (USA), V. Viemero (FIN), L. Eron (USA), J. Groebel (D O. Wiegman (NLD), K. Lagerspetz (FIN). Team for cross-nat research on media viol, 1985



Adam & daughter Marysia, Circa 1984



Lucyna Kirwil, Simha Landau & Tamara Horowitz with Adam at ISRA meeting in Budapest, 2008





Adam at installation as Rector of the Maria Grzegorzewska Academy, 2001



Adam at Bodrum,Turkey Hungary, In 1989 CICA meeting, 2009



Adam, circa 2014



Adam in Warsaw apartment, August 2017

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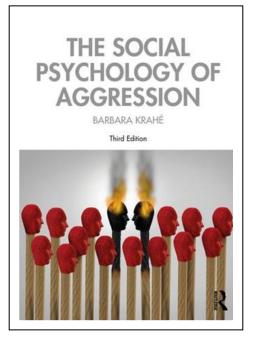


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News About ISRA Members

New Books and Articles



Krahé, B. (2021). *The social psychology of aggression* (3rd ed.). Abingdon, UK: Routledge.

The following text is from Routledge where you can also order the book:

https://www.routledge.com/The-Social-Psychology-of-Aggression-3rd-Edition/Krahe/p/book/9781138608528

Thoroughly revised and updated, this third edition offers a comprehensive and up-to-date overview of the social psychology of aggression, covering all the relevant major theories, individual differences, situational factors, and applied contexts.

Understanding the causes, forms, and consequences of aggression and violence is critical for dealing with these harmful forms of social behavior. Addressing a range of sub-topics, the first part deals with the definition and measurement of aggression, presents major theories, examines the development of aggression and discusses

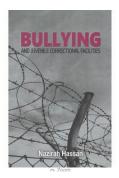
individual and gender differences in aggressive behaviour. It covers the role of situational factors in eliciting aggression and the impact of exposure to violence in the media.

The second part examines specific forms and manifestations of aggression, including chapters on aggression in everyday contexts and in the family, sexual aggression, intergroup aggression, and terrorism. The new edition also includes additional coverage of gender differences, gun violence, and terrorism, to reflect the latest research developments in the field.

Also discussing strategies for reducing and preventing aggression, this book is essential reading for students and researchers in psychology and related disciplines, as well as practitioners and policy makers.



Nazirah Hassan (2020). *Bullying and Juvenile Correctional Facilities*. Penerbit UKM: UKM Press.



The following description and the picture are from: <u>http://ukmpress.ukm.my/index.php?route=product/product&product_id=1039</u>

The first priority of Juvenile Justice System should be to keep young people in correctional facilities safe and free from violence and bullying. Bullying in correctional facilities has been identified as an ongoing and serious issue in different countries. In the context of correctional facilities, bullying has been recognized as a reliable subsection of aggression.



This year, **CICA** (**Conferences International on Conflict and Aggression**) prepared the LIII CICA: Violence and Mental Health Madrid (Spain), 23th-24th April 2020 <u>https://cicainternational.org/past-cicas/liii-cica-violence-andmental-health-madrid-spain-23th-24th-april-2020/</u> and published the book: *La Violencia in Familia, Edited by M. J. Ramirez & Valentin Martinez -Otero Perez, Madrid: Dykinson, 2020* after the conference

Rob Cramer and his team has published a hate-motivated behavior policy brief in Health Affairs: Cramer, R. J., Fording, R. C., Gerstenfeld, P., Kehn, A., Marsden, J., Deitle, C., King, A., Smart, S., & Nobles, M. R. (2020). Hate-motivated behavior: impacts, risk-factors, and interventions. *Health Affairs Health Policy Brief, DOI: 10.1377/hpb20200929.601434*. https://www.healthaffairs.org/do/10.1377/hpb20200929.601434/full/

Jamie Ostrov has published several new papers on aggression in 2020:

- Perhamus, G. R., & Ostrov J. M. (in press). Emotions and cognitions in early childhood aggression: The role of irritability and hostile attribution biases. Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology. doi: 10.1007/s10802-020-00707-7
- Perry, K. J., Meisel, S. N., Stotsky, M. T., & Ostrov, J. M. (in press). Parsing apart affective dimensions of withdrawal: Longitudinal relations with peer victimization. *Development & Psychopathology*. doi:10.1017/S0954579420000346
- Hart, E. J., & Ostrov J. M. (2020). Relations between forms and functions of aggression and moral judgments of aggressive transgressions. *Aggressive Behavior*, 46,220-231. doi:10.1002/ab.21883
- Godleski, S. A., Ostrov, J. M. (2020). Parental influences on child-report of relational attribution biases during early childhood. Journal of Experimental Child Psychology <u>https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jecp.2019.104775</u>



Natalia N. Kudryavtseva has published a new paper about "Positive fighting experience, addiction-like state, and relapse: Retrospective analysis of experimental studies. *Aggression and Violent Behavior*, 2020, 52.

Katja Bertsch and colleagues have published a new review which summarizes neural correlates of reactive aggression across mental disorders: Bertsch, K., Florange, J., Herpertz, S. C. (2020). Understanding brain mechanisms of reactive aggression. *Current Psychiatry Reports, 22* (open access: <u>https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11920-020-01208-6</u>)

New Projects

Jamie Ostrov has received a new Grant from The National Science Foundation (BCS-1939393): *Peer Treatment across the Transition to Kindergarten: A test of Biological Sensitivity to Context Theory. Grant Period:* 09/15/2020 – 08/31/2023

Rowell Huesmann, Eric Dubow, Paul Boxer (PIs), and Meagan Docherty (Co-PI) have received a CDC Award to Study Links between Violence Exposure and Weapons Use (see: https://sasn.rutgers.edu/news-events/news/cdc-awards-psychologist-paul-boxer-grant-study-links-between-violence-exposure-and-weapons-use)

Job Vacancy

Tenure Track Faculty Position: Louise McMahon Ahearn Endowed Professor

Boston College School of Social Work (BCSSW) seeks to make a full professor appointment for the Louise McMahon Ahearn Endowed Professorship beginning July 1, 2021. As one of the nation's top 10 schools of social work, the Boston College School of Social Work is dedicated to pursuing pioneering research, scholarship, and practice to tackle some of the most complex social problems at home and around the world. BCSSW prepares scholars and social work professionals to create transformative, evidence-based interventions to improve the most vulnerable lives, with a particular focus on training leaders to advance equity, justice, and inclusion in diverse communities across the globe. Direct all inquiries regarding this position to Gautam N. Yadama, Dean, Boston College School of Social Work (gautam.yadama@bc.edu).



Upcoming Meetings and Workshops

CICA is planning to open 3 CICA (Conferences International on Conflict and Aggression) Research and Formation Centres: in Colombia, Poland, and Spain. The Centre in Poland will be named <u>in memoriam of Adam Frączek</u>.

The project of the Research and Formation Centres be based on three pillars: a) Consciousness Studies b) Conflict Studies c) Violence Studies

Contribute to the ISRA Website by Writing a Blog!

ISRA's new website is now just over one year old. Our goal is for the site to become a nexus for interchange on aggressive behavior among scholars & researchers. We typically post 1-2 new blog posts per month, the links for which are then disseminated via Twitter and Facebook. Indeed, ISRA has cultivated a growing audience on these social media platforms whom we can reach immediately. Blog length can range from several paragraphs to a page or more. Please see http://www.israsociety.com/blog/ to see the archive that has developed over the 18 months!

ISRA is open to our members' ideas about the topic of a proposed blog post. We respect your time and want this contribution to be of minimal burden to you. So, we would suggest that you not prepare something completely new; rather, it should be a blog that is relatively easy for you to write, based in works you have already published, etc. (it can even be in collaboration with a colleague or a student). In the end, it should be a piece that would be easily digestible by scholars and the public. For those of you who might wonder, "How do I write a blog?" – well, we can even provide you with a blog about how to write a blog!

If you are interested, please contact ISRA Executive Secretary Dominic Parrott at <u>parrott@gsu.edu</u> and let him know a topic that would work well for you and a month during the upcoming year that you would like to submit it for dissemination on the ISRA website.

Some notable blogs from the past few months include:

Aggression in times of Covid-19: the social costs of the pandemic by Barbara Krahé

Are you or your loved ones at risk of developing a video game addiction? By Madisen Watkins and Sarah M. Coyne





THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR RESEARCH ON AGGRESSION

Founded in 1972

ISRA: an Interdisciplinary Society

ISRA, the International Society for Research on Aggression, founded in 1972, is an international interdisciplinary, organization dedicated to the study and dissemination of information on the causes and consequences of aggressive behavior and violence in all of its forms and contexts.

The Social Burden of Violence

The human capacity for aggressiveness and violence inflicts a considerable burden on society. Obviously, it can lead to death and immediate physical injury, but it also creates long-term physical and emotional disabilities. In addition, violence has a profound effect on those who witness it, such as the families and communities of the victims. Moreover, it impairs the ability of communities to address important public health issues, such as infectious diseases, malnutrition, urban decay, and environmental hazards. Violence and aggression often prevents the delivery of critical public services, such as emergency management and education. Such effects on society tend to exacerbate the very adverse social conditions that promote aggression, facilitating a vicious circle, with violence as a crucial factor.

home page: <u>http://www.israsociety.com/</u> ISRA's Core Mission

Effectively addressing violence and aggression, whether it be child abuse, domestic violence, homicide, terrorism, sexual violence, or civil wars, requires a sustained focus by international scientists. *ISRA's principal mission* since 1972 is to show that aggression and violence, as well as alternative ways to resolve conflicts, can be successfully studied using scientific methods.

Members, Meetings and Media

- *ISRA* members gather for *World Meetings* every other year on alternating continents.
- All members receive a free electronic subscription to Aggressive *Behavior*, the official journal of ISRA.
- Members receive the *ISRA E-Bulletin*.

From Understanding to Solutions

Finding solutions to the pervasive consequences of aggression, requires a multidisciplinary approach. To understand the complex causes, our research addresses brain and other physical processes that underlie the human capacity for violence and the psychological processes that facilitate violent actions. Strategies providing alternatives to violence are studied together with the social factors that serve to promote or prevent violent behavior. Importantly, students of aggression studies are increasingly moving beyond the simple awareness of new results in other disciplines, to develop important research approaches that span multiple disciplines. As a result, novel areas of synergy and convergence between different disciplines and methodologies emerge. *ISRA meetings* and media provide the forum and the multidisciplinary audience.

Join ISRA & Turn page! ► A Multidisciplinary Society

ISRA is home to virtually all scientific disciplines interested in aggression and violence, such as psychology, neuroscience, anthropology, animal behavior, endocrinology, primatology, psychiatry, genetics, pharmacology, sociology, and criminology. Joining **ISRA** will help you to reach the right audience for your own research. Its meetings provide an optimal forum to learn about novel concepts and advances in other fields. Members enjoy reduced registration fees at **ISRA meetings**.

Awards

- Each World Meeting the John Paul Scott Award is presented to a scientist with a distinguished lifetime contribution to aggression research.
- Presentation Awards are granted to young scientists for excellence in presentation of original research to a multidisciplinary audience.

The ISRA Logo

The ISRA logo reflects our intention to advance the understanding of a deeply rooted behavior. The humanoid figure in the logo was modified from a petrograph called "the warrior" on the Minnesota-Ontario border¹⁾. The figure seems to express the ambivalent human attitude towards aggression. The figure faces us, a spear in its left hand, reflecting potential to kill. The tip of the spear points downwards, so the weapon is not about to be thrown. The right hand is up and open, a stop-signal in many cultures, and often a signal of peaceful intent. The heart-shaped body expresses force and human's emotional nature.

¹⁾ M Furtman, Magic on the rocks (2000) ISBN: 0-916691-02-0

Home page: <u>http://www.israsociety.com/</u> Membership

ISRA has four kinds of members:

- *Fellows* are scientists working in any biological, psychological or social science on problems of aggression.
- *Associates* are scientists or professionals supportive of the Society's goals but who are not actively engaged in aggression research.
- *Student members* are undergraduate and graduate students.
- *Life Fellows* are chosen on a significant lifetime record in aggression research.

Joining ISRA

In order to join the society, please visit the ISRA webpage at:

http://www.israsociety.com/membership/

Current dues for Fellow and Associate members are \$60.00 per year. ISRA provides free membership to students, early career investigators, and other applicants who reside in lower- and middle-income countries as defined by the World Bank.

If you have any questions please contact ISRA Executive Secretary Dominic Parrott at parrott@gsu.edu

Updated Information see *ISRA home page*.

Official Journal: Aggressive Behavior http://www.interscience.wiley.com

