Editorial

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Advances in Experimental Psychology

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This special issue “Advances in Experimental Psychology” provides a selection of contributions to the 63rd TeaP (Tagung experimentell arbeitender Psychologen; Conference of Experimental Psychologists). From March 14 to 16, 2021, the TeaP virtually convened as online conference following the slogan “TeaP@Home” due to the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic. The TeaP is a well-known psychological research conference of junior and senior scientists, who address their research questions by applying an experimental research approach. The TeaP conference has a long history and tradition: Since the first TeaP held in 1959 in Marburg, Germany, the TeaP community has been constantly growing and striving, meanwhile with conference contributors from all over the globe. Also in 2021, psychological researchers from various fields came virtually together to present and discuss their results at “TeaP@Home”. The TeaP 2021 was organized by colleagues from Ulm University, Germany. We thank the Institute of Psychology and Education of Ulm University, the Section General Psychology of the German Psychological Society (DGPs) and the sponsors for their generous support. We also thank the numerous students, research assistants and post-docs from Ulm University, who ran the virtual sessions as technical chairs or welcomed the attendees at the virtual reception desk. Their help essentially contributed to the success of this online conference.

More than seven-hundred participants from Europe, North America and Asia representing twenty-eight countries attended the conference. Five-hundred scholars presented their research in symposia, talk and poster sessions featuring various fields of experiment-based psychological research: General, Biological, Developmental, Social, Clinical, Educational, Engineering Psychology as well as other applications. Symposia, talk and poster sessions were complemented by three invited keynote lectures held by Marisa Carrasco from New York University (USA), Helge Ritter from the University of Bielefeld (Germany) and Natalie Sebanz from the Central European University in Vienna (Austria). Special lunch sessions discussing behavioral online experiments and the compatibility of career and children in female scientists working in the field of general psychology were another highlights of this conference. We were excited by the excellent scientific contributions to the conference, the fruitful discussions in the sessions and the enjoyable conversations in the conference breaks at the virtual coffee tables.

Following the tradition of the past TeaP conferences, the Section General Psychology of the German Psychological Society (DGPs) granted three Poster Awards for the best posters. The awardees of the TeaP 2021 were Simon Merz (Universität Trier), Vanessa Mitschke (Julius-Maximilians Universität Würzburg) and Barbara K. Kreis (Universität Mannheim) reaching the first, second and third place, respectively. We congratulate the winners for their success. Before the official start of the TeaP 2021 conference, a memorial session honored our esteemed colleague Prof. Dr. Dirk Vorberg, who unfortunately passed away in 2021. Dirk Vorberg was a permanent guest of the TeaP and a founding member of the General Psychology Section of the DGPs. Dirk, who was an enthusiastic supportive companion and ambassador of psychological research at the highest quality level, considerably contributed to the international reputation of our research community.

Thanks to the cooperation with the Journal Open Psychology and the publisher DeGruyter, we are able to present in this special issue a selection of contributions to the TeaP 2021 in an expanded fashion. Given the broad scope of the TeaP conference, this article collection comprises a considerable number of topics from various fields of basic and

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applied psychological research. Several articles of this special issue present recent work related to classical topics of General Psychology such as perception, language, attention, memory or cognitive control, which were main topics of many other conference contributions. In line with the multidisciplinary nature of the conference, this special issue also features research related to Social Psychology, Educational Psychology, Engineering Psychology and Research Methods, topics traditionally presented at the TeaP. Many of the articles cross the boundaries between the classical psychological subdisciplines, highlighting the relevance of an integrative approach. This article collection also shows that experimental approaches in psychology are not only used to elucidate elementary phenomena in basic research, but are also the fundament for appropriately addressing practical issues in various fields of applied psychology.

The articles appearing in this special issue of Open Psychology may provide an exciting showcase of the multifaceted experiment-based research in the current scientific community in psychology. It is our hope that the work presented here does not only advance our empirical and theoretical knowledge on relevant issues in basic and applied psychology, but might also contribute to developing novel research agendas.