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## President's message

### EABA Newsletter

Dear EABA members! We are very happy to bring you the latest news of what is happening in our organization. First of all, EABA's board members have been busy planning and preparing for our upcoming bi-annual conference which will be held in Enna, Sicily on September 14-17. The Italian affiliated chapter IESCUM and our colleagues in Kore University in Enna have been working very hard in preparing almost the whole town of Enna to welcome us with open arms. The university has opened their doors, the mayor of the city and even the transportation system have as well. We thank our dear

colleagues in IESCUM and Kore University for making us feel so welcome in beautiful Enna. We can all look forward to a lively and joyful reception with opening talks, music show, and opportunities to mingle. We will visit a castle on our second evening, and have a gala dinner on our last evening for those who choose to attend. We will even be able to shop Italian fashion clothing after the conference in a nearby town. Students will be very well taken care of and special events will be arranged for them. Lodging in the homes of local students is an option for a limited number. Our science program that will be two and a

half days, plus a late afternoon poster session will include an Italian track, carefully chosen and top-rated keynote speakers and loads of interesting presentations from our members and beyond. There will be plenty of Sicilian air, food, and hospitality. We look very much forward to seeing you all in Enna.

**EABA Newsletter May 2016**

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Association for Behaviour Analysis



Call for papers:  
8<sup>th</sup> Conference of the  
European Association for Behaviour Analysis  
Enna, Sicily, September 14-17, 2016



The call for papers is already open (deadline: June 15th). We are happy to present you an exciting program - in an enchanting surrounding. We are working diligently on the schedule of events and the organizational details.

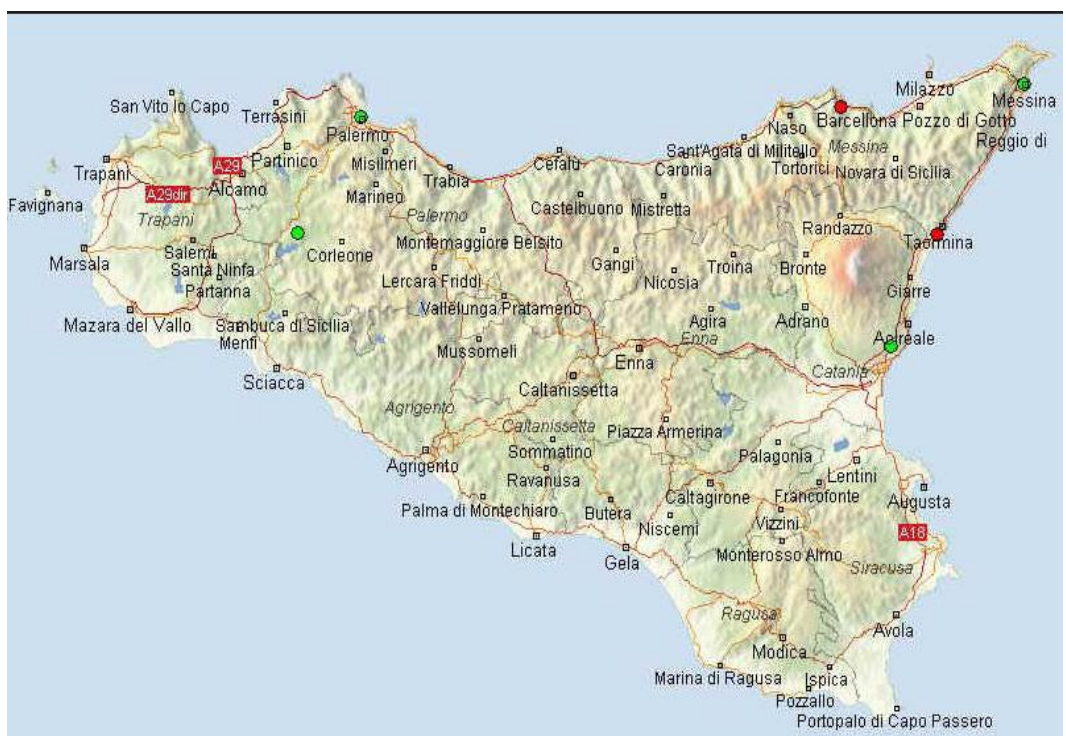
Please visit <http://www.europeanaba.org/events/> to keep yourself up-to-date!

We are looking forward to see a well balanced program with research from all fields of behavior analysis, i.e., conceptual analysis, experimental analysis of behavior with both human and non human participants, translational research, applied research, and on service delivery. We want to hear from you and get to know your work.

Join us in Enna!



The registration for our 8th bi-annual conference in Enna, Sicily is now open.





## EABA Membership

Welcome to our most recent affiliated chapter!

ASSOCIAZIONE ITALIANA DI ANALISI E MODIFICAZIONE DEL COMPORTAMENTO E TERAPIA COMPORTAMENTALE E COGNITIVA



[www.aiamc.it](http://www.aiamc.it)

## EABA Membership

We are a community of professionals interested in the dissemination of Behaviour Analysis in Europe.

EABA has members from 24 countries in 4 continents.

### **BENEFITS of membership:**

1. Subscription to the *European Journal of Behaviour Analysis (EJOBA)*

2. Reduced EABA conference registration fees

3. Affiliate/student members enjoy all benefits of

membership except for the right to vote on matters of interest to the organization and the right to hold office.

### **HAVE YOU READ THE LATEST ISSUE OF EJOBA?**

Affiliated Chapters Membership gives your members access to the benefits of EABA membership, including the *European Journal of Behaviour Analysis*, email notifications, information sharing, and reduced conference rates. We encourage associations to apply for Affiliated Chapter Membership.

### **Current affiliated chapters of EABA:**

Norwegian Association for Behavior Analysis

ABA Deutschland

FinnABA (Association for Behavior Analysis / Finland)

Association for Advancement of Radical Behavior Analysis – A.A.R.B.A, Italy

European Institute for the Study of Human Behavior IESCUM, Italy



## The 2016 B. F. Skinner Foundation Research Award for Graduate Students in Europe

**Application Deadline: June 15, 2016**

The [B. F. Skinner Foundation](#) sponsors this award for graduate student research. Two awards of \$ 500 each are available. Winners this year will be given the award at the European Association for Behavior Analysis (EABA) biannual conference.

### PURPOSE OF THE AWARD

- To support and encourage research efforts in behavior analysis among graduate students in Europe
- To promote behavior analytic science
- To boost the overall quality of academic research in behavior analysis
- To provide recognition for students conducting behavior analytic research

### CRITERIA

- Applicants must be attending a graduate-level program in Europe.
- Applicants must be members of EABA.
- The proposal must be for a student-driven research project, thesis or dissertation approved by their department of study.
- Applicants do not have to be in a behavior analytic graduate program, but the research must be behavior analytic in nature. Consideration will be given to proposals that describe research with a focus on observable and measurable behavior (or the products thereof) as the dependent variable and the manipulation of well-defined environmental events as independent variables. Both applied and basic research proposals are encouraged. Applied research proposals should correspond to the guidelines suggested by Baer, Wolf, and Risley (1968, 1987). Basic research proposals should correspond to the criteria set forth in Sidman (1960/1988). Those submitting proposals are encouraged to look to the *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis* or the *Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior* for examples of behavior analytic research. Applied research applicants should describe the basic science roots of their work and basic science applicants the translational aspects of their work.

### IN ORDER TO BE ACCEPTED, THE PACKET MUST CONTAIN:

- A cover letter with the student's contact information, where they are attending school, their program of study, and what they intend to do with the award. The award can be used for almost anything, but preference will be given to direct research-related use, such as equipment, software, paying data collectors, purchasing reinforcers for participants, etc. For equipment or software, explain how it will be used in the research project (One page). EABA does not fund conference attendance for presentation of the award.
- A letter of support from a supervising faculty. The letter should attest to the fact that the research is replicating/expanding knowledge in the field of behavior analysis.
- An Abstract (500 words or fewer), outlining the research project.
- An Introduction indicating why this research is important, how it relates to Baer et al. (1968, 1987) or Sidman (1960/1988), some supporting literature, and the research question. (No more than 3 pages.)
- A Methods section indicating the design (ABAB, multiple baseline, etc.), the number of proposed participants, from where the participants will be recruited, the general timeline of the research, and an overview of the procedures that will be used. Exact details are not needed, but the reviewer should be able to determine the feasibility of the study from the information provided. (No more than 3 pages.)

### REFERENCES

- Baer, D. M., Wolf, M. M., & Risley, T. R. (1968). Some current dimensions of applied behavior analysis. *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*, 1(1), 91-97. doi: [10.1901/jaba.1987.20-313](https://doi.org/10.1901/jaba.1987.20-313)
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- Sidman, M. (1960/1988). *Tactics of scientific research: Evaluating experimental data in psychology*. New York, NY: Basic Books. Boston, MA: Authors Cooperative (reprinted).

FOR MORE INFORMATION please visit <http://www.europeanaba.org/home/news/the-2016-b-f-skinner-foundation-research-award-for-graduate-students-in-europe/>

# ~~~~~ PRESIDENT'S OPINION STATEMENT ~~~~~

## **Behaviour analysis and the wellbeing of the people of Europe**

The European Association for Behaviour Analysis (EABA) was founded in the year 2003 and has members from European countries, as well as non-European countries. The founding and growth of the EABA is one of many important developments as people all around the globe have come to realize the importance of the science of behaviour analysis. Today, behavioural insights are used to address a full range of important learning, behavioral, and societal issues. EABA has individual members as well as affiliated memberships of many other national or regional associations for behaviour analysis in Europe.

Behavior analysis is the science that focusses on 'behaviour' as its subject matter. Behaviour analysts have identified and researched the behaviour of living organisms, from a simple cell to the largest mammals and everything in between. Behaviour analysis encapsulates three distinct but related fields: (1) Philosophy of the science: Radical behaviourism (as distinct from methodological behaviourism). (2) Basic experimental research: Experimental analysis of behaviour. (3) Applied research: Applied behaviour analysis (ABA). Some look at delivery of ABA based services as a fourth field.

### **Common misconceptions**

Behaviour analysis has provided unprecedented knowledge about how to solve human problems in diverse interpersonal and social conditions and how to achieve socially important outcomes, whether at the individual, group, or societal level. Yet, that there are many distorted notions of behavior analysis.

The unprecedented success of behaviour analysis in supporting skills development of persons on the autism spectrum has led to a distorted view that applied behaviour analysis (ABA) is a therapy for autism while others believe ABA, or more precisely, specific ABA based procedures based on BF Skinner's analysis of verbal behaviour, is a new type of language therapy; still others think ABA is an intervention for behavior problems that is only effective in very few cases and therefore seldom appropriate. It is also believed that the effects of behavioral interventions are only temporary, and that its effects are mostly acquired by the systematic use of aversives or punishment. Some people even believe that behavioral interventions can only be used in institutions where patients or inmates do not get opportunities to exercise "free will". Similarly, some people believe that for the same reason behavioral interventions are only appropriate with children with disabilities. Still others believe that behavioral interventions should not be used in schools because they systematically brake down the motivation to learn. It is troubling how often distorted notions of behavior analysis are encountered and unfortunately systematically disseminated. The vast research literature in behavior analysis has proofed all these distorted notions to be wrong. Unfortunately, many seem to be unaware of this fact. These (and other) distorted notions result in devaluation of the knowledge base of behaviour analysis with serious consequences for people in Europe and beyond who are denied access to the most effective, empirically developed interventions based on the science of behavior analysis.

### **Contributions**

Behavior analysts are indeed able to solve so many problems in ways that were not clear or well-understood a few decades ago. In fact, applied behaviour analysis has made significant contributions in the areas of education, staff training and performance management (including safety behaviour and safety culture in workplaces). Moreover, community interventions based on behaviour analysis have led to increases in traffic safety, healthy food choices in elementary school children, and environmentally-friendly behaviour, as well as to improvements in very early tactual breast cancer detection. Behavioral interventions in the rehabilitation of people with brain injuries, and in the treatment of emotional, behavioural, and health problems are also used frequently with great outcomes. The list continues to grow.

One of the major contributions of applied behaviour analysis has been successful treatment of children with developmental disabilities and particularly with autism, where unprecedented gains have been made.

The knowledge that behaviour analysis has produced is readily available in books, scientific journals, and in universities around the globe, where the science is taught and practiced.

### **Education and training**

The number of universities around the world that have established programs of study in behaviour analysis is rising steadily. At the same time, the number of scientific journals that publish behaviour analytic work has also increased, as has membership in behaviour analytic associations universally. Europe has been a party to this tremendous growth in awareness of behaviour analysis, both in the basic and in the applied sciences. The basic science of behaviour analysis has led to very important discoveries not only in experiments with simple organisms as participants but also with humans. Enormous progress has been made in understanding complex human behaviour, for example, on the learning processes involved when humans learn to communicate with language, e.g., in the area of verbal behaviour. Significant progress has also been made in understanding the processes involved in comprehension, classification and re-classification, generalization, memory, and problem solving. More importantly, knowledge on these processes has been used to develop techniques that are used to help those who struggle with difficulties of learning in these areas. Hence, this knowledge is not only theoretical but can be directly translated into effective applications.

Education and training in behaviour analysis has become an important issue in the field. Training should be accessed through University courses at the appropriate level of practice (Undergraduate or Postgraduate). Obviously, short courses do not suffice to train professionals in any field. No reasonable person would seek the services or condone the hiring of a physician or an engineer who does not have the proper university training and professionally supervised practical experience in the application of the basic science or principles upon which those professions rely. It is a strange and disturbing fact that this sensible requirement is not imposed when persons that are to be responsible for enacting significant changes in the behaviour of people are employed! Too often, no evidence of knowledge of learning principles is required, nor of skills in the professional application of those principles, in persons who are in charge of solving socially significant human problems.

EABA endorses behaviour analyst qualifications as developed and set out by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board ([www.bacb.com](http://www.bacb.com)). There is a shortage of fully educated and trained behaviour analysts across all of Europe. EABA supports BACB standards by disseminating information about approved training courses on the webpages and in the social media. It is high time that we recognize that despite the aforementioned gains of recent years, the citizens of Europe are as yet routinely denied access to the benefits of applied behaviour science in public service and to education about the science. The continent's universities, with but a few exceptions, are failing to provide the scientific advancement and the training of basic and applied behaviour analysts that are essential to enhancing the welfare of its people.

EABA supports students of behavior analysis by offering student fees for membership and conferences, as well as hosting B.F. Skinner Foundation Research Graduate Awards for experimental as well as applied graduate student research.

EABA organizes a bi-annual conference as well as a bi-annual summer school that focus on the dissemination of findings from research and practice of behaviour analysis as well as accurate up-to-date training for professionals. Continued education credits are available at these events.

### **Conclusion**

I urge us all, whether we are teachers, students, administrators, or professionals to work together to try to ensure that a deserving public receives the full benefits of a natural science of behaviour. Let us all become advocates of the science of behavior analysis, not only in any one particular area but of the whole science. Basic science programs in the field should be established and developed as well as programs emphasizing service delivery. The basic science of behaviour analysis needs to exist and grow if the applied science is not to become stagnant. Education and training for future professionals also has to be appropriate and sufficient. Let us advocate the science of behavior analysis for a better world.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO  
DR. MICKEY KEENAN  
FOR THE AWARD HE  
RECEIVED RECENTLY.**

'International Advocacy  
Award'

Professor Mickey Keenan is first ever recipient from outside the USA of the 'International Advocacy Award' by Autism Speaks for 'extraordinary and ongoing advocacy to help provide access to ABA services for individuals with autism'.

The award was presented in Alabama at the Autism Law Summit 2015

**WELL DONE MICKEY!!**



**UPCOMING EVENTS**

The tenth annual conference of the Psychological Society of Ireland division of behaviour analysis will be held on June 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> in Maynooth University, Ireland. Please send abstracts to Julian Leslie, [jc.leslie@ulster.ac.uk](mailto:jc.leslie@ulster.ac.uk) by **May 16th 2016**. Further information: Maeve Bracken, [mbracken@tcd.ie](mailto:mbracken@tcd.ie)

**News from EJOBA**

**European Journal of Behavior  
Analysis**

The European Journal of Behavior Analysis (EJOBA) has been published since 2000 and is published by the Norwegian Association for Behavior Analysis (NAFO).

In 2015, NAFO made an agreement with the Taylor & Francis Group (TFG) about publishing EJOBA.

Earlier this year, TGF made it possible to submit manuscripts on Editorial Manager (<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rejo20/current>).

EJOBA is primarily for the original publication of experimental, applied, and

theoretical or conceptual papers relevant to the analysis of behavior. The Journal appears twice a year.

Erik Arntzen, Ph.D.  
Editor-in-chief

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