

In Memoriam: John T. Lanzetta

JOZEF M. NUTTIN JR.

*Department of Psychology, University of Leuven,
Belgium*

John Thomas Lanzetta, 63, died on October 6, 1989 in Hanover, N.H. The uncertainty about his initially misdiagnosed condition was considerably reduced just before Christmas 1987. Two months later his youngest son Michael, 26, suddenly died in his sleep. For a long time, in growing and quiet resignation, John prepared a fond farewell to his life long partner Jane, his four daughters and oldest son, his six grandchildren, his close friends, coworkers and colleagues.

After a H.S. in Engineering Physics (Lafayette, 1948) John Lanzetta earned his Ph.D. with a thesis on 'Group Behavior under Stress' (University of Rochester, 1952). In 1956 he became Professor of Psychology at the University of Delaware, where he served as chairman of the Psychology Department (1960-1965) and as director of its Center for Research on Social Behavior. During a quarter of a century, from 1965 until his death, he was Lincoln Filene Professor at Dartmouth, the prestigious 1769 Ivy League College, located amidst the natural beauty and New England charm of the Upper Connecticut River Valley region of New Hampshire and Vermont. There, John's contributions to experimental social psychology continued a tradition of achievement begun in the study of perception by such well known psychologists as Wolfgang Köhler and Adelbert Ames. From 1971 to 1977, John Lanzetta was editor of the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, and served on the Editorial Boards of various other social psychology journals, including the *European Journal*.

John Lanzetta was both a scholar and a scientist. He had a deep commitment to experimental research on basic problems in social psychology, especially those related to uncertainty, information search and decision-making, and, since 1975, the role of expressive behaviour in emotion. The fact that he never authored nor edited a single book stands in sharp contrast with the impressive quality of more than fifty published articles and might be just one symptom of his natural modesty. Fortunately, eight of his former research students (Gregory McHugo e.a.) did prepare a Festschrift pulling together all John's research on emotion done over the past 20 years, soon to be published under the title *The Power of Faces: The Influence of Facial Expression on Emotion and Social Interaction*.

John Lanzetta was not only a prolific student but also a generous practitioner of social interaction. For his wife and family, his students, colleagues and friends, John's massive poise and deep-voiced presence were an unfailing source of strength, solid scrutiny, advice, comfort and effective caring.

For many European social psychologists John Lanzetta will remain the self-effacing initiator of social interactions which were crucial for the early development of the European Association of Experimental Social Psychology and, by implication, of the *European Journal of Social Psychology*.

JOHN T. LANZETTA AND THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF EXPERIMENTAL SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY: A SHORT HISTORICAL NOTE

As a tribute to his seminal role, it seemed appropriate to complete this in memoriam with a short historical note based on the Archives of the Association, kept at the Centraal Archief of the

University of Leuven, and on documents given by John to the present author during the summer of 1988*.

In 1962-1963, John Lanzetta, then director of Delaware's Center for Research on Social Behavior, spent his first sabbatical year in London as a liaison scientist of the Group Psychology Branch of the Office of Naval Research. The head of the Washington Office was Luigi Petrullo, the well known co-editor of the 1958 *Person Perception and Interpersonal Behavior*. The personal congeniality between the Washington and London O.N.R. scientists, probably enhanced by their common attachment to unmistakable Italian roots and to fundamental social psychology, might have been a sufficient condition for funds to be made available for some experimental social and Italian enterprise. Indeed, from 12 to 16 December 1963, Lanzetta and Petrullo were both staying in the famous Tramontano hotel at Sorrento. However, they did not only use U.S. dollars for paying their own travel, board and lodging, but also for the expenses made by 28 fellow social scientists, 21 from Europe (H. Anger, M. Argyle, G. de Montmollin, C. Faucheux, C. Flament, H. Himmelweit, A. Hutte, G. Iacono, J. Israel, G. Jahoda, J. Koekebakker, R. Lambert, L. Meschieri, S. Moscovici, M. Mulder, J. M. Nuttin Ur.), A. Oppenheim, R. Pagès, J. Rabbie, R. Rommetveit and H. Tajfel), two from Israel (U. Foa and S. Herman), four other Americans who happened to be on sabbatical in Europe (F. Fiedler, M. Horowitz, A. Pepitone and J. Thibaut) and Ben Willerman from S.S.R.C.

These 30 academic social psychologists were the participants of what was officially called (the first) 'European Conference on Experimental Social Psychology' (see technical Report No. 1, ONR contract Nonr-421 0(00) Project NR 177-275).

There can be no doubt that it was John Lanzetta who has to be credited with the initiative and the organization of this conference. He formed and chaired a Planning Committee, with M. Mulder, R. Pagès and H. Tajfel, which met in March 1963 in London and - from then on also with R. Rommetveit and J. Thibaut - in May 1963 in Paris. 'This committee itself was a case in point of one of the major premises motivating the conference: although active in research in their respective countries and frequent visitors to the U.S.A., none of the European members had previously met' (*ibid*, p. 6).

In an undated invitation letter to potential participants, mailed in April 1963, the general objectives of a European Conference were formulated as follows:

(a) To present an opportunity for a small group of European social psychologists to share their experiences and views on the use of experimental methods in the study of important social problems.

(b) To provide for the exchange of information on current experimental research in social psychology and on facilities and personnel in different European centres engaged in experimental social psychological research.

(c) To permit informal discussion of common problems and some measure of personal contact both of which could facilitate the establishment of a 'permanent' international committee to encourage and assist in the development of experimental social psychology.

The major themes of the invited and submitted papers (read in either English or French) discussed during five full days, were in order of presentation: methodological and theoretical issues in the development and testing of hypotheses in social psychology, experimental studies of socialization, methodological and theoretical issues in experimental cross-cultural studies, mathematical models of social interaction, social perception, comparative psycholinguistics, influence and power in group relations, communication processes, inter- and intra-group conflict, competition and group action, experimental studies of organization. In the final evening session, the participants unanimously made a very positive evaluation of the conference and expressed the hope that arrangements be made to continue the exchange of information and to provide opportunities for their students to receive, in Europe, more advanced training in specialized research

areas and methods. Three months later, in March 1964, the same Sorrento Planning Committee met again in Paris. John Lanzetta wrote an U-page 'Proposal for Contributions to the Development of Experimental Social Psychology in Europe', to be submitted to various agencies for financial support. This 1964 proposal included the following (in order of presumed feasibility and priority): (1) A second European Conference in Experimental Social Psychology; (2) a 4-6 weeks Summer Research Training Institute, to be held at a central European location, for middle level and advanced students who have difficulty in obtaining training in experimental methods at their home university; (3) an Exchange Program of Personnel within Europe, for short visits permitting lectures and research consultation; (4) Specialized Seminars, Assistance in obtaining Research Support, System of Information Exchange and (5) An International Centre for Research and Training in Social Psychology.

The Sorrento Planning Committee decided that it was most appropriate first to submit this ambitious proposal to the Social Science Research Council for financial support. As a matter of fact, Ben Willerman - a Kurt Lewin assistant at M.I.T. - had already attended the 1963 Sorrento conference in his capacity of staff member of S.S.R.C., since Sorrento eventually was co-sponsored by both S.S.R.C. and O.N.R. More important, in early April 1964, S.S.R.C. appointed a Committee on Transnational Social Psychology, consisting of L. Festinger (chairman), L. Ancona, I. de Sola Pool, J. Lanzetta, R. Rommetveit, S. Schachter and B. Willerman (J. Koekebakker and S. Moscovici joined the committee a few months later). Its major objective would be the stimulation of international cooperation and developments in experimental social psychology.

Both as chairman of the Sorrento Planning Committee and as a member of the S.S.R.C. Committee on Transnational Social Psychology, John Lanzetta participated in the 3-4 June 1964 meeting of the latter committee in New York. Understandably, at this very first meeting of the new S.S.R.C. Committee, there was time to review only the high priority items of John's 'Proposal'. In his July 22 'Memorandum to the former Participants at the Sorrento Conference' John Lanzetta was happy to inform his European colleagues that the S.S.R.C. Committee had (1) enthusiastically approved sponsoring a further conference and a summer research training institute; (2) recommended a.o. that the second conference should not be extended to more than about 25 people - since the success of the first conference was in large part attributed to the small size of the group - and that if possible, a number of younger social psychologists be invited. In the same Memorandum, John Lanzetta announced the decision of the Sorrento Planning Committee (late June 1964 in Paris) to organize a second 5-day conference. Already in July 1964 invitations were issued for more extensive and for briefer research reports. All communications had to be addressed to Mauk Mulder - then at Utrecht - who apparently had become the secretary of the Sorrento Planning Committee.

'The Second Conference on Experimental Social Psychology in Europe' took place in Frascati, near Rome, from 11 to 15 December 1964, in the magnificent XVIth century palace 'Villa Falconieri', which had become the European Centre of Education of the Italian Government. Of the 28 invited participants, nine had not attended the Sorrento conference (L. Ancona, G. Cohen, A. Duflos, N. Frijda, M. Irle, E. Spaltro and L. Thomas from Europe, L. N. Diab from Lebanon and E. Schild from Israel). Eighteen of the 23 non-American participants of Sorrento also came to Frascati (M. Argyle, G. de Montmollin, C. Faucheux, C. Flament, U. Foa, S. Herman, H. Himmelweit, G. Iacono, J. Israel, G. Jahoda, J. Koekebakker, R. Lambert, S. Moscovici, M. Mulder, J. M. Nuttin (jr.), R. Pagès, J. Rabbie, and H. Tajfel). Besides J. Lanzetta and L. Petrullo (from O.N.R.), L. Festinger, B. Willerman and S. Schachter (from S.S.R.C.), L. Berkowitz was the only American 'sabbatical participant'.

The conference was organized in 10 sessions, seven of which were centred around an invited paper. The last session consisted of an evaluation of the conference, during which a unanimous decision was taken immediately to elect a 'European Planning Committee'. G. Jahoda, S. Moscovici, M. Mulder, J. M. Nuttin (jr.) and H. Tajfel thus were charged (a) to plan some form of

organizational structure for the continuing activities; (b) to plan the detail of these activities; (c) to explore the possibility of finding funds in Europe; (d) to report to the next conference. The official 'Report on the Second Conference on Experimental Social Psychology in Europe' was written by Henri Tajfel and John T. Lanzetta, but edited by the Psychology Department of Dartmouth College where John had moved just after the Frascati Conference.

A few weeks after Frascati, the European Planning Committee had its first meeting in Leuven 5-7 of February 1965. Serge Moscovici was appointed as chairman, Mauk Mulder as secretary. Within one week, stationery was distributed with the first name of the new association: *European Association for the Advancement of Experimental Social Psychology*. Le Président Moscovici had the privilege to also use the French stationery of the 'Association Européenne pour l'Avancement de la Psychologie Sociale Expérimentale'. On February 25, 1965, the secretary reported the major conclusions of the Leuven meeting to the Sorrento and Frascati participants. They were related to the formal structure of the Association, a third conference, short exchange visits, research training seminars, a newsletter, an inventory of research activities and, most important, sources of financial support in Europe.

A second (1-3 May in Oxford) and third (15-17 October in Royaumont) meeting of the Planning Committee resulted in the 'Third European Conference on Experimental Social Psychology' which was held in the medieval Royaumont Abbey near Paris, from 27 March to 1 April 1966.

Halfway through this Conference, the 'General Assembly' held its first 'business meeting'. One of the primary problems was that of extending membership, both in Western and Eastern Europe. The main criteria for being coopted as a member was active participation in research. All members of the European Planning Committee were re-elected and together with M. Irle and R. Rommetveit, they became the formal 'Executive Committee' of what was from now on named 'The European Association of Experimental Social Psychology'.

It should be stressed that President Serge Moscovici had been successful in obtaining a grant from the Royaumont Foundation for board and lodging and another grant from the Ecole des Hautes Etudes for travel expenses for each of the 30 participants. In technical Report ONRL-C-I0-66, John E. Rasmussen unambiguously describes the new 'independent' association: 'If the Sorrento and Frascati Conferences are considered the first major milestones in the development of European experimental social psychology, the Royaumont Conference well might be considered-the second... The Royaumont Conference was totally planned and funded by Europeans, and only two Americans attended as invited guests' (*ibid*, pp. 2-3).

John Lanzetta's brainchild had reached independence in less than three years. Ever since, John cherished the development of both the 'European Association of Experimental Social Psychology and its own offspring, the *European Journal of Social Psychology*.

*Gerold Mikula, current President of the E.A.E.S.P., invites all past and present members of the Association to forward any relevant documents concerning the history of the Association, its General Meetings, the European Journal, Summer Schools, East-West-European meetings and other activities of the Association, to Professor Jan Roegiers, Head of the Centraal Archief of the University of Leuven, Centrale Universiteitsbibliotheek, B 3000 Leuven, Belgium. Strictly confidential documents can be sealed in an envelope mentioning 'Archives of the European Association of Experimental Social Psychology' and the deadline of the embargo imposed by the owner of the documents and/or the date of the most recent document in the envelope.