



# XXXV International Congress of the Spanish Society for Comparative Psychology (SEPC)



**01.Oct - 03.Oct 2025**

**Cod. P07-25**

**Mod.:**

Face-to-face

**Edition**

2025

**Activity type**

Workshop

**Date**

01.Oct - 03.Oct 2025

**Location**

Miramar Palace

**Languages**

Spanish English

**Academic Validity**

30 hours

**Web**

<https://www.sepc.org.es>

**Organising Committee**



## Description

The **35th International Meeting of the Spanish Society of Comparative Psychology (SEPC)** continues the tradition of being one of the leading European meetings for professionals conducting cutting-edge research on cognition in humans and animals. This event serves as a platform to present, discuss and explore the latest international advances, employing innovative techniques on topics including (but not limited to) classical and instrumental conditioning, memory, attention, motivation, spatial learning and the neuroscience underlying these processes. The meeting fosters the exchange of ideas and facilitates the development and strengthening of national and international collaborative research initiatives.

The meeting will feature invited talks from leaders in Learning Theory and Neuroscience including **Nathan Holmes** (Scientia Associate Professor in the School of Psychology at the University of New South Wales, Australia), **Milagros Gallo** (Professor at the Department of Psychobiology of the University of Granada), and **Laura Corbitt** (Associate Professor at the University of Toronto).

We will also feature a **Symposium** of experts to identify and discuss their vision of the currently important phenomena in Associative Learning and Comparative Psychology in general, including **Andy Delamater** (Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience at Brooklyn College and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York), **Peter Balsam** (Professor of Psychology at Barnard College and Columbia University), and the aforementioned **Nathan Holmes** and **Laura Corbitt**.

See the *Speakers* page of the UIK web for more information.

- **SUBMISSIONS** may be submitted at the link at the end of this paragraph (Submissions). Submission time is open and will finish on June 30<sup>th</sup>. For oral presentations, priority will be given to submissions reporting completed experimental work and not to studies in progress. Posters should be of a reasonably standard size. [SUBMISSIONS](#)

If you want to offer a session on a particular theme (e.g., symposium) we will be including these as 1-hour "Focus Sessions". The session should include four (4) talks, following the guidelines in the submissions form. To propose a talk belonging to a focus session indicate " FOCUS SESSION \_\_\_\_\_ " at the start of the abstract and indicate the name of the session to which the talk should belong in the blank. Questions and discussion will be reserved for the final 20 minutes of the session. All authors can be present at a table for the session.

- **REGISTRATION** is available on the right (Enroll). The fee is **390 euros until June 30th**, and includes daily lunches for each day of the meeting and the three social events. **After June 30th, and** until the start of the Congress the fee will be **490 euros**.

We strongly recommend that you book your accommodation as early as possible. The congress will be held in San Sebastián, a city with a vibrant tourist and cultural life throughout the year, hosting numerous events such as congresses, festivals, and concerts. This means that demand for accommodation is high. If you prefer more affordable options than those available in the city, keep in mind that there are nearby towns very well connected by public transport (such as Errenteria, Pasaia, Lasarte-Oria, or Hernani), where you can also find reasonably priced accommodation.

You can search for accommodation using the following link:

<https://www.sansebastianturismoa.eus/en/sleep/where-to-sleep>

Important!!: Congress attendees will have **free access to Dbus** (Donostia's urban bus service) by showing the **back of their congress identification badge**. Free access will not be available for nearby towns.

**How to get to Donostia:**

<https://www.sansebastianturismoa.eus/en/plan/getting-here>

**Photos and videos:**

<https://www.sansebastianturismoa.eus/en/plan/photos-and-videos>

**Tourist brochures:**

<https://www.sansebastianturismoa.eus/en/plan/maps>

**San Sebastián tourism website:**

<https://www.sansebastianturismoa.eus/en/>

## Scientific Committee

- Antonio Álvarez (University of Barcelona)
- Armando Machado (University of Aveiro)
- Carmen Torres (University of Jaen)
- Charlotte Bonardi (University of Nottingham)
- Concepción Paredes-Olay (University of Jaen)
- Dominic Dwyer (Cardiff University)
- Eugenia Marín (University of the Basque Country)
- Federico Sanabria (Arizona State University)
- Felisa González (University of Granada)
- Fernando Gamiz (University of Granada)
- Fernando Rodríguez (University of the Basque Country)
- Francisco J. López Gutiérrez (University of Malaga)
- Gabriel Rodríguez (University of the Basque Country)
- Gabriela Chotro (University of the Basque Country)
- Geoffrey Hall (University of York)
- Ignacio Loy (University of Oviedo)
- Isabel de Brugada (University of Granada)
- J. Alejandro Aristazabal (Konrad Lorenz University Foundation)
- James Byron Nelson (University of the Basque Country)
- José E. Callejas Aguilera (University of Jaen)
- José Prados (University of Derby)
- Juan Manuel Rosas (University of Jaen)
- Karen Hollis (Mount Holyoke College)
- L. Gonzalo de la Casa (University of Sevilla)
- Maria Carmen Sanjuan (University of the Basque Country)
- Marta Gil (University of Granada)
- Mauricio Papini (Texas Christian University)
- Miguel Angel Vadillo (Autonomous University of Madrid)
- Mirari Gaztañaga (University of the Basque Country)
- Patricia Gasalla (Cardiff University)
- Pilar Flores (University of Almeria)
- Ricardo Pellón (National University of Distance Education)
- Robert Boakes (University of Sydney)
- Robert Honey (Cardiff University)
- Unai Liberal (University of the Basque Country)

## Organizing Committee

University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU):

- Chair: María del Carmen Sanjuán
- Co-Chair: Naiara Arriola

Members:

- Gabriel Rodríguez
- James Byron Nelson
- Gabriela Chotro
- Mirari Gaztañaga
- Unai Liberal
- Fernando Rodríguez
- Eugenia Marín
- Borja Nevado
- Estíbaliz Muñoz
- Ixone Badiola
- Nataliya Dianova
- Paula Vicente
- Yeray Mera

On the day prior to the Congress, a symposium titled "**Comparative Psychology: Understanding Ourselves Through Other Species**" will be held, open to the general public.

This event will explore the fascinating connections between animal and human minds. It will be an opportunity to learn, reflect, and question our ideas about behavior and human psychological processes. **Date:** Tuesday, September 30, 2025. **Time:** 16:00 h. **Venue:** Aula Magna, Faculty of Psychology, UPV/EHU

**Free admission until full capacity is reached.**

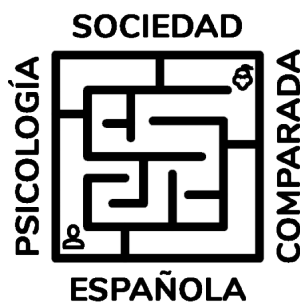
**SYMPOSIUM:** [Psicología Comparada: entendernos a través de otras especies](#)

## Objectives

The first objective of the meeting is to disseminate current leading-edge advances in experimental research on cognition in humans and animals. The dissemination will take place through three invited plenary speakers and a symposium regarding opinions of the most important and upcoming issues related to comparative cognition, along with multiple oral and poster presentations submitted by members of the organization.

The second objective of the meeting is to foster collaborative relationships between different laboratories from across the world. This objective is facilitated by planned social activities through which persons with strong common interests, identified during the meeting presentations, can socialize and refine common research questions.

## Organised by



## In collaboration with



Oinarritiko Psikologia  
Prozesuak eta haien  
Garapena Saila  
Departamento de  
Procesos Psicológicos  
Básicos y su Desarrollo



## Directed by



**María del Carmen Sanjuán Artegain**

UPV/EHU

---

I hold a PhD in Psychology from the University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU), where I work as an Associate Professor in the Department of Basic Psychological Processes and their Development. My career combines teaching, research, and educational innovation, with over 20 years of experience in university education and the development of competitive scientific projects. I am a member of the consolidated research group Learning and Cognition. My research focuses on the study of learning, perception, and attention processes, with particular interest in how we learn to differentiate similar stimuli through mere exposure—especially after experiencing only one of them—and how context and prior experience influence the acquisition and extinction of associations. I teach courses on cognitive processes, integrating active methodologies to promote practical and autonomous student learning and the development of their scientific competencies. I also teach in the research master's program at the Faculty of Psychology and have coordinated several educational innovation projects.



**Naiara Arriola Garicano**

UPV/EHU

---

Degree in Psychology and PhD from the University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU), I am an associate professor in the Department of Basic Psychological Processes and their Development where I teach subjects on cognitive processes in different Degrees. I belong to the consolidated research group “Learning and Cognition” which develops competitive scientific projects in the field of basic processes. My research work within this group focuses on transferring the knowledge acquired in the learning of basic processes to a more applied framework also collaborating with the Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorders Association

## Teachers



**Peter Balsam**

---

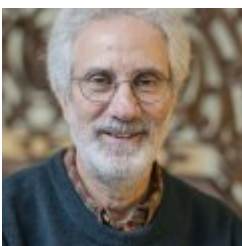
Peter Balsam is a Professor of Psychology at Barnard College and Columbia University. He is perhaps best known by members in the society for his fundamental research in timing (C/T) and associative learning. More generally, his work is aimed at understanding how animals and humans perceive and utilize temporal information to guide behavior. He has also contributed to our understanding of the role of context in learning and performance. More recently he has investigated neural mechanisms of how dopamine influences reward and motivational states. He has served on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Animal Learning and Cognition*, *Animal Learning and Behavior* and the *Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior*. He has also edited two books: *Context and Learning* (with A. Tomie) and the *Behavioral Neuroscience of Motivation* (with E. Simpson). His work aims to understand basic cognitive and behavioral processes so they can be translated into new strategies for diagnosis and treatment of psychiatric disorders.



**Laura Corbit**

---

Laura Corbit is an assistant professor at the University of Toronto who studies the behavioral and neural control of instrumental and reward-seeking behaviors. She examines how different brain circuits contribute to distinct forms of learning (e.g., action-based goal direction vs. habit) and how experiences like drug exposure or diet alter learning and behavioral control. Her work on prediction-error based learning uses state-of-the-art optogenetics, fiber photometry, and behavioral analyses, to examine how locus coeruleus neurons contribute, showing that noradrenaline may play a role in specific aspects of prediction error and could offer insights into treating learning disabilities. She has also studied how an obesogenic diet impairs goal-directed control and may promote habit-like behavior.



**Andy Delamater**

---

Dr. Delamater is a Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience at Brooklyn College and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York (CUNY). His area of expertise is the study of associative learning. In addition to his recent textbook on the subject, *The Essentials of Conditioning and Learning*,

co-authored with Michael Domjan, he has served as the Editor of Journal of Experimental Psychology: Animal Learning and Cognition and President of both the Eastern Psychological Association and the Pavlovian Society. His grant-funded research focuses on the psychological and neurobiological foundations of associative learning, with approaches at computational, behavioral, and neural circuit levels. He employs sophisticated behavioral methods, including reward devaluation, differential outcome, peak timing, and Pavlovian-to-instrumental transfer tasks, alongside neurobiological techniques, to identify the neural representations and pathways responsible for encoding distinct sensory and temporal features of reward, to understand the underlying mechanisms of behavioral sequence learning, goal-directed actions and habits, and, more generally, to understand the mechanisms of neuroplasticity.



---

### **Milagros Gallo**

Milagros Gallo is Full Professor at the Department of Psychobiology of the University of Granada (Spain) and coordinator of the Research Group "Neuroplasticity and Learning (NEPLE)" <http://neplegroup.com/>. The research team brings together psychobiologists and learning psychologists performing interdisciplinary research in human and animal models in order to fully understand the mechanisms and processes involved in learning and memory. She has been former director of the Institute of Neurosciences "Federico Olóriz" (UGR), president of the European Chemoreception Research Organization (ECRO) and member of several scientific societies. She contributes to the scientific endeavor participating in scientific congresses, ethics and expert committees of Spanish and foreign agencies as well as being editor of scientific journals and supervising young talented researchers. Her research is focused on a developmental approach in rodent models, with special interest in adolescence and aging. As principal investigator of several consecutive projects she combines chemogenetics, immunohistochemistry, neuroimaging, and epigenetics to study how the individual brain is shaped by neural plasticity along the life.



---

### **Nathan Holmes**

Nathan Holmes is a Scientia Associate Professor in the School of Psychology at the University of New South Wales (Australia) and recipient of an Australian Research Council Future Fellowship and an American Psychological Association Early Career Award for Distinguished Contributions to Research in Psychology. Nathan is interested in how the mammalian brain processes different types of information; and how motivational states, like fear, affect that processing. Specifically, he examines how fear influences the processing of innocuous information (e.g., the relation between a sound and a light), how fear spreads across a network of linked memories, and how an established fear memory is updated to include new information. The aim of his research is to develop a theory of how fear influences information processing in the brain, with a particular focus on cells and circuits of the medial temporal lobe.

## Registration fees

### GRANTS:

Grants will be awarded to cover registration fee and meals. The opening cocktail reception, dinner at Cider house, and gala dinner are not included. Grants are for students **under 30 years of age** who present an oral presentation or poster at the conference. Authorship is not sufficient; it is essential requirement that the applicant is the attendee who will present the presentation. **Grants will be awarded based on budget availability.**

To apply for the grant, please submit:

- Copy of ID
- A **copy of the current registration** in an undergraduate, master's, or doctoral program.
- A **Sworn statement** stating that you have no other source of funding to attend the Conference for the same purpose.

Applications should be sent by email to: [SEPC2025dudas@gmail.com](mailto:SEPC2025dudas@gmail.com)

Application deadline: May 31. The resolution will be received the week of June 2 to 8.

REGISTRATION	UNTIL 30-06-2025	UNTIL 01-10-2025
General	390,00 EUR	490,00 EUR
Attendee with grant accepted	0 EUR	0 EUR



## **Place**

### **Miramar Palace**

Pº de Miraconcha nº 48. Donostia / San Sebastián

Gipuzkoa