International Association of Applied Psychology – Division 4 Environmental Psychology

Occasional Newsletter – October 2026

New Board



The Division 4 Environmental Psychology Board entered a new phase at the conclusion of the 2026 International Congress of Applied Psychology (ICAP). Board members are now: President, Marino Bonaiuto, Italy; Past President, Sabine Pahl, Austria; President Elect, Kathryn Williams, Australia.

We thank Terry Hartig, who concluded his 12 years' service on the board. Terry has been part of many important steps to nurture environmental psychology as an international field, including the establishment of the International Conference of Environmental Psychology (ICEP), which is organised under the auspices of Division 4. Terry now ends his formal involvement in the Board, but his wisdom, institutional knowledge, scholarship, and friendship will remain important to Division 4 over the coming years.

Photo: Marino Bonaituto, Sabine Pahl and Terry Hartig at ICAP, Florence (Italy), July, 2026

ICEP conference 2027

The **International Conference on Environmental Psychology (ICEP)** is organized under the auspices of Division 4. The 2027 ICEP 'Environmental psychology beyond the academic walls' will be held in Wrocław, Poland. The local organising committee is being led by Katarzyna Byrka from SWPS You can submit an abstract from October 15, 2026.

SPARK - call for Division 4 submissions

Division 4 is taking part in an IAAP pilot scheme SPARK: Supporting Psychology Application, Research and Knowledge. Each participating division is able to award one or more small grants (up to $1000 USD) to support research- or practice-oriented projects that promote global impact.

Calls for proposals for 2027 has now closed, if you submitted a proposal, stay tuned for an answer!

Regional Spotlight

This is the first in an occasional series shining light on environmental psychology around the globe. We want to encourage, support and celebrate regional and local groups working to develop environmental psychology in their area. In this first instalment we find out what is happening in Canada. If you would like to share what is happening in your region, please get in touch with the board!

New Division 4 President Elect **Kathryn Williams** reached out to some environmental psychologists in Canada to share news of meetings, publications, milestones and achievements, and policy and practice impact. A lot is happening! Here are a few highlights.

Meetings

The Environmental Psychology Section of the Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) has been an important and active home for the field in Canada for many years. The current chair is **Natalia Cooper**, while **Fred Grouzet** will step into this role in 2027. The group meets every June at the CPA convention. In 2026 they invited Holli-Anne Passmore to speak on "Why all of psychology - applied and research - needs to pay attention to the human-nature relationship".

Jordana Composto, as part of BIG difference BC, is organising a free online conference this November on Building Resilient Futures with Behavioural Insights. Jordana notes there will be many presentations with an environmental focus.

Publications – some recent books

- **Elizabeth Dunn** and **Jiaying Zhao** from University of British Columbia published *Leave the Lights On* in 2026. This book inspires people to choose climate actions that bring joy to their lives, and brings together positive psychology with an understanding of pro-environmental behaviour.
- In 2026 **Robert Gifford** published the 6th edition of his textbook *Environmental Psychology: Principles and Practice* (Victoria, BC: Optimal Environments).
- **Lindsay McCunn** (Vancouver Island University) edited Becoming an Environmental Psychologist: Autobiographical Career Paths Toward Applied Social Science, published by Anthem Press in 2025. It's a great read – full of autobiographical reflections on the development of environmental psychology as an applied field.

Achievements

Lindsay McCunn has commenced a huge project to establish the Historical Repository for Environmental Psychology at Vancouver Island University. The goal is to preserve and document the history of environmental psychology through archival materials, interviews, and other resources, and it is continuing to grow through contributions from scholars in the field. This is a project that we hope will benefit environmental psychology everywhere. Please get in touch with Lindsay if you would like to contribute.

Impact

When people think about impactful environmental psychology in Canada, **Jennifer Veitch** often comes to mind. In her work with the National Research Council of Canada, Jennifer has been key in ensuring environmental psychology informs practice and standards, especially around lighting, buildings, occupant well-being, and environmental design.

Lindsay McCunn also points to the CPA Environmental Psychology Section's position paper, Addressing Climate Change in Canada: The Importance of Psychological Science, as a good example of Canadian environmental psychologists contributing to a national policy conversation.