

IXth BIENNIAL MEETING OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR
COMPARATIVE PSYCHOLOGY
*September 1-5, 1998, South African Museum,
Capetown, SOUTH AFRICA*

INTRODUCTION

The ninth biennial meeting of the International Society for Comparative Psychology was held at the South African Natural History Museum, which was a most appropriate venue in light of the nature of our opening sessions. These first presentations discussed the natural history of South Africa, the anthropological roots of South African peoples, paleogeography, evolutionary history, and the behaviour of the native fauna. This has become the signature practice of our biennial meetings.

As at previous meetings which have also been held in interesting places including Mexico, Costa Rica, Barbados, Australia, Belgium, Brazil and Canada, the program was noteworthy for not just the international representation of the speakers, but the associated breadth of species, topics and applications and indeed comparative approaches intrinsic to the international nature of our speakers. Theories, ideas and empirical data were met with open and vigorous discussion from rich and varied perspectives.

From Presidential addresses, to keynote speakers, to symposia, and to individual presentations, the meeting was characterized by high quality scientific work and open discussion. Allen Gardner, the outgoing President, discussed chimpanzee language and cognitive capabilities and we were treated to some historical filmed footage of the now famous Washoe in the early stages of her linguistic training. Ethel

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