

To many people, visual ergonomics is a foreign concept. When I tell people socially that I work in visual ergonomics, I am frequently asked “What’s that?” or given a blank look of incomprehension.

However, when I give a practical example of visual ergonomics, the response often changes from bewilderment to excitement e.g. “You should see the lighting in my office...” or “What do you think about those new Google glasses?”

The theme of next year’s IEA2015 congress is “Reaching Out”. There are many opportunities each day for us to reach out and tell people about visual ergonomics. This is important at work, socially, and in the ergonomics community as it increases the demand for our work.

As the year draws to a close, I would like to thank Hans Richter (co-chair of the IEA Visual Ergonomics Technical Committee) and Magne Helland and Marino

Menozzi (committee members) for their behind-the-scenes assistance in helping our TC reach out to the wider community. I would also like to thank all who have contributed to this newsletter which documents our collective achievements.

I hope you have a safe and enjoyable holiday season and a happy new year.

Jennifer Long

IEA Visual Ergonomics TC  
Chairperson

## Conference Report—ODAM-NES2014

### *Report and photographs by Magne Helland*

In mid-August (17th to 20<sup>th</sup>) more than 230 professionals from almost 30 countries gathered at the ODA-M-NES conference in Copenhagen, Denmark. This year’s joint conference was organized in collaboration between the IEA ODA-M Technical Committee on Human Factors in Organizational Design and Management (ODAM), and the Nordic Ergonomics and Human Factors Society (NES).

This year’s program included five keynote presentations and more than fifty single sessions organized in eight parallel sessions. Visual ergonomics (VE) was a significant topic with oral presentations, a poster and a workshop “Lighting, visual ergonomics and health implications”. Sessions were well attended. This year, instead of grouping all VE activities into one or two parallel sessions, VE activities were deliberately spread out within the program. An open VE network meeting was also held during the conference, and delegates interested in VE were invited to attend.

*Camilla Zetterberg giving practical instruction during a workshop (top right), delegates reading Magne Helland’s poster (far right), and Hillevi Hemphälä giving an oral presentation (right).*



## Upcoming Events

International Ergonomics Association World Congress, Melbourne Australia 9-14 August 2015. [www.iea2015.org](http://www.iea2015.org) (will include visual ergonomics sessions)

Nordic Ergonomics Society Annual Conference, Lillehammer, Norway 1-4 November 2015 (will include sessions on visual ergonomics)

## Updates from previous newsletters

☞ The July 2013 newsletter announced the publication of Isabella Steffan's book in Italian "Il progetto per tutti" (Design for All). This has now been edited in English and is available online through the editor's (Maggioli) website:

<http://www.maggiolieditore.it/ebook/tecnica/design-for-all-the-project-for-everyone-first-part.html>

<http://www.maggiolieditore.it/ebook/tecnica/design-for-all-the-project-for-everyone-second-part.html>

☞ The December 2013 contained a short article by Jeff Anshel speculating about possible problems with wearable technology such as Google Glass. A recent publication in *JAMA* reports that Google Glass may partially obstruct peripheral vision in wearers. The authors call for further research to determine if wearing the device has any effects on visual function. <http://jama.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=1920958>

## Watch this space

A 3-year project commenced in January 2014 in Sweden investigating a method for assessing visual ergonomics risks. The research team includes Hillevi Hemphala, Camilla Zetterberg, Per Lindberg and Per Nylén. The aim of the project is to develop a valid and reliable computerized risk assessment method for visual ergonomics, mainly to be used by practitioners, but also usable for research purposes.

## Recent publication

"Visual ergonomics standards for contemporary office environments" was presented as a conference paper by Jennifer Long at the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society of Australia (HFESA) Annual Conference in November 2014. An accompanying paper was published in the peer-reviewed journal *Ergonomics Australia* (Long J, Rosenfield M, Helland M, Anshel J. Visual ergonomics standards for contemporary office environments. *Ergonomics Australia* 2014; 10:1) and can be accessed via

[http://www.ergonomics.org.au/downloads/EA\\_Journals/EA\\_2014/Long\\_Sept2014.pdf](http://www.ergonomics.org.au/downloads/EA_Journals/EA_2014/Long_Sept2014.pdf)

## Fellowship opportunity, UK

Sheffield University in the UK is offering 20 research fellowships (over the entire university) starting October 2015. Steve Fotios, Professor of Lighting and Visual Perception, School of Architecture, is interested in offering one of the 4 year fellowships in his laboratory. Successful candidates are guaranteed a lecturer post at the conclusion of their fellowship.

The main selection criteria are:

- ☞ You must have at least one publication without the participation of your PhD supervisor
- ☞ You must have a track record of high-impact publications, including significant publications (as main author) in major international peer-reviewed multidisciplinary scientific journals, or in the leading international peer-reviewed journals of your field
- ☞ You must be able to demonstrate a record of presenting at well-established conferences
- ☞ You must be able to demonstrate a record of applying for grants, awards or prizes from public or private funding bodies (for example, from Research Councils UK)
- ☞ It must be less than nine years from the date you completed your PhD on the 1st October 2015.

The opening date for applications is 05.12.14, and the closing date is 29.01.15

For further information see <http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/ris/vcfellows/vcf2015> or contact Professor Fotios at [steve.fotios@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:steve.fotios@sheffield.ac.uk)

**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: 30th MARCH 2015**  
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