
Preface

The volume editors and the majority of the authors of chapters in this book spent several days together in the summer of 1998 at a workshop entitled “Advances in Analogy Research: Integration of Theory and Data from the Cognitive, Computational, and Neural Sciences,” which was held at the New Bulgarian University in Sofia, Bulgaria. The researchers in attendance included those studying analogy from a wide variety of perspectives: cognitive, developmental, and comparative psychology; artificial intelligence; cognitive linguistics; brain studies and neuropsychology; and philosophy. They spanned a wide geographical range, bringing together eastern and western Europeans with North Americans and Pacific Rim dwellers. This pooling of research insights from all over the world was extremely rewarding. The researchers spent four days (July 17–20) in intensive discussions, starting in the early morning and finishing late at night. About 60 papers were presented at the workshop, which were published in the conference proceedings (Holyoak, Gentner, and Kokinov 1998).

The Sofia workshop served as a launching pad for this more focused volume. A limited number of the workshop participants were invited to write extended chapters for the current volume, and a few other major researchers who had not been able to attend also joined in the book project. Many ideas that emerged during the discussions held at the workshop were incorporated into the chapters of this volume. We would therefore like to thank, first of all, the participants who made this endeavor possible.

Art and science have always needed the support of generous patrons. We wish to thank our sponsors for their contribution to the success of

the Sofia workshop on analogy as well as of this book project. These sponsors include the Cognitive Science Society, the United States Air Force European Office of Aerospace Research and Development, and the Fulbright Commission-Sofia. We also wish to thank the Soros Open Society Fund in Sofia and the Open Society Institute in Budapest for supporting the International Summer School in Cognitive Science, which ran in parallel with the analogy workshop at the New Bulgarian University. The overlapping summer school provided many young students with the opportunity to immerse themselves in the analogy workshop, and also allowed some of the authors represented in this volume to teach at the summer school.

We would also like to thank the hosts and local sponsors of the workshop—the Central and East European Center for Cognitive Science and the Department of Cognitive Science and Psychology at the New Bulgarian University, Sofia. Their staff and students made the stay in Sofia pleasant and enjoyable for all the visitors and provided a creative and stimulating environment. We are especially grateful to Guergana Erdeklian and Iliana Haralanova, as well as the members of the AMBR research group, for organizing the workshop.

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Reference

Holyoak, K., Gentner, D., and Kokinov, B., eds. (1998). *Advances in analogy research: Integration of theory and data from the cognitive, computational, and neural sciences*. Sofia: New Bulgarian University Press.