

Michael Cole elected to National Academy of Education

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A University of California, San Diego professor of communication and psychology was elected to membership in the National Academy of Education at its recent meeting in Stockholm, Sweden, according to academy president Robert Glaser.

Michael Cole, also the director of UCSD's Laboratory of Comparative Human Cognition, said he was pleased by the election, which includes being assigned to a section of the academy called, "The Psychology of Education."

"The academy is a very select group," Cole said, "with a total membership of only 75 persons. It's quite an honor."

Cole's work with LCHC is innovative and, basically, compares how people of different cultures think. "This works itself out in such areas as development of learning skills in children; cultural variations in learning skills; learning disabilities; and models of learning," he said.

UCSD's Chancellor Richard C. Atkinson is also a member of the academy. Fifteen of the members are elected on the basis of outstanding leadership in education, and the remaining 60 members are elected on the basis of their scholarly and scientific writings.

The prestigious group convenes semiannually for papers, symposia, and discussion. It sponsors committee inquiries and two fellowship programs for younger scholars. Recently, it has established a Commission on Education and Public Policy. The next meeting is scheduled for Oct. 26-27 at the University of California, Berkeley.

Cole joined the UCSD faculty in 1978 as a coordinator of the communications program, a post he held until 1981. In 1978, he was also appointed the director of the Laboratory of Comparative Human Cognition.

Prior to 1978, he had been a professor at The Rockefeller University; an associate professor at the University of California, Irvine; an associate professor at Yale University; and a lecturer and research associate at Stanford University. He received a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1959, and in 1962 he received a doctorate in psychology from Indiana University.

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