

**Committee on International Relations in Psychology  
Spring Meeting April 7—9, 2006  
Minutes**

**Present:** Georgia Chao, PhD (Chair); Lillian Comas-Diaz, PhD; Raymond Fowler, PhD; Thema Bryant-Davis, PhD; Juan Jose Sanchez-Sosa, PhD; Danny Wedding, PhD; Lynn Collins, PhD; Carolyn Zerbe Enns, PhD; Oliva Espin, PhD

**Liaisons:** Pierre Ritchie, PhD; Florence Denmark, PhD; Marilyn Jacobs, PhD (Division 39); John Davis, PhD (Psi Chi)

**Staff:** Merry Bullock, PhD, Senior Director, Office of International Affairs; Sally Leverty, Office of International Affairs

**Guests:** Gerald Koocher, PhD; Sharon Brehm, PhD; Jessica Henderson Daniel, PhD; Carol Goodheart, PhD; Louise Douce, PhD; Olivia Morehead-Slaughter, PhD; Stephen Behnke, PhD, JD; Gary VandenBos, PhD

**Committee on Ethnic Minority Affairs:** Priscilla Dass-Brailsford, EdD; Alvin Alvarez, PhD; Jennifer Manly, PhD; (Bertha Holliday, PhD and Alberto Figueroa, MBA, staff liaisons)

**Committee on Women in Psychology:** Louise Silverstein, PhD; Veronica Thomas, PhD; Sari Dworkin, PhD; Mary Koss, PhD; Helen Coons, PhD; Karen Wyche, PhD; (Leslie Cameron, staff liaison)

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The meeting was called to order by the chair at 10:30, Friday April 7, 2006.

**1. CIRP business**

- (1) Minutes from the September 30–October 2, 2005, meeting were approved with edits.
- (2) The election of chair-elect was deferred until the fall meeting.
- (3) Dr. Bryant-Davis will write an article about the CIRP meeting for a future issue of *Psychology International*.

**2. CIRP Slates**

The committee developed a preliminary list of candidates for three slates to fill the 2007–2009 terms. CIRP decided to finalize the slates after staff requests biographical information on the candidates who were willing to serve.

**3. CIRP annual report**

The committee received as information its annual report to the Council of Representatives.

**4. Council New Business Item**

CIRP discussed the broad intent of the item – to encourage the development of psychologically based curricula on conflict resolution and peace keeping. They noted that there are available web resources with such curriculum information, for example, from the Psychologists for Social Responsibility, or from the Solomon Asch Center at the University of Pennsylvania. CIRP believed that direct development of UN-university relations was not within the purview of APA's activities, but did endorse that APA encourage the use of psychological knowledge about peaceful conflict resolution. CIRP recommended that the item be referred back to Council for development of an appropriate resolution supporting the infusion of psychological knowledge into

conflict resolution and peacekeeping activities and training. CIRP conveyed this minute in a memo to the Board of Educational Affairs (BEA).

## **5. Cross-Cutting Agenda**

### **CC1. Multicultural Leadership follow-up activity**

CIRP discussed the multicultural training and applauded the presenters for raising the visibility of issues of unconscious discrimination, and focused on the importance of ensuring mechanisms to allow the discussion, and to facilitate victims of such prejudice to articulate their experiences in a manner that will allow those who perpetrate that discrimination to hear the message. CIRP discussed concrete ways to do this. During the committee meeting, CIRP agreed to “bookmark” any interactions that struck members as demonstrating unconscious discrimination to be discussed candidly within the group. In addition, CIRP recommended broad dissemination of the multi-cultural training, including a video, and suggested unconscious discrimination as a topic at a future Multicultural Summit.

Dr. Bryant-Davis represented CIRP at the open meeting on the training. An outline of CIRP's diversity action plan will be sent to BAPPI as requested.

### **CC2. Develop strategic plan for workforce analysis**

CIRP took no position on this item.

### **CC3. 2004 Policy and Planning Report**

CIRP will write P & P to inform them about what CIRP is doing now, its plans to develop new programs, and to suggest expanding the modest programs that exist. Dr. Wedding will draft a letter to be sent to P & P by June 2, 2006.

### **CC4. Equity between divisions and affiliates.**

CIRP read the item with interest but did not take a position on the main motion.

### **CC5. PENS task force**

CIRP was joined by Steve Behnke and Olivia Morehead-Slaughter to discuss the report. CIRP members decided to comment individually on the report (in particular, to address a need for clarification of definitional terms, e.g., cruel, inhuman, degrading) and send their comments to Dr. Behnke by June 30, 2006. CIRP was asked to suggest groups and individuals to receive the report for comments; and to suggest substantive issues to address in the case book that will be developed to provide illustrative examples of the report.

During the meeting, CIRP members and liaisons suggested additional sources of information including discussion of ethical issues for psychologists in NATO activities (research and conference fellowships), CIA activities, USAID activities on the issue of experimentation on human subjects in the guise of psychological treatment; on individuals involved with treating victims of torture; and on individuals involved with the truth and reconciliation process in South Africa and Chile.

### **CC6. Accreditation summit meeting**

CIRP read the accreditation report with interest. Although there are no specific items in the report that require immediate CIRP comments because the report does not cover international issues, CIRP did see the potential for international issues informing future work arising from this report. CIRP supported the goal of working toward generic criteria for accreditation that would be broadly applicable across countries. CIRP agreed that one goal could be the development of an agreement on a common core of accreditation criteria that would also accommodate variance across countries.

Dr. Sanchez-Sosa will draft a letter from CIRP concerning the need for generic criteria. Staff will write a memo to CoA designating him as monitor from CIRP.

- CC7. Zero tolerance task force  
CIRP supported the work of the task force and supported advocacy of psychologically minded approaches to violence in the schools rather than authoritarian approaches. CIRP noted that international students may be particularly vulnerable to falling prey to zero tolerance authoritarian intervention strategies because of reduced language proficiency and SES differences.
- CC8. Revision of APA record keeping  
CIRP had no position on this item.
- CC9. Task force on the sexualization of girls  
In response to a request for reviewers for the Task Force on Sexualization of Girls report, CIRP nominated Thema Bryant-Davis and Lillian Comas-Diaz.
- CC10. Working group on psychotropic medication  
CIRP read the report with interest and supported the main motion for the Council of Representatives to file the report. CIRP did note that future research regarding the concerns raised in this report should continue to emphasize diversity issues, especially as they are relevant to international applications. CIRP believes that the testing of pharmaceuticals abroad and diagnostic issues in international context merit attention in future extensions of this work.
- CC11. Task force on socioeconomic status  
CIRP will approve the draft report but notes that report does not discuss political implications of global poverty. Dr. Bryant-Davis and staff will draft a letter to the task force by April 20.
- CC12. Resolution on opposing discriminatory legislation  
CIRP supports the resolution to reaffirm its opposition to discrimination against lesbians, gay men, and bisexual people and will take a leadership role in opposing the adoption of discriminatory legislation and initiatives. CIRP, however, requests careful attention to the precise wording to avoid unintended consequences, especially in international contexts. In particular, CIRP was concerned about the passage, "Be it further resolved that APA will make deliberate efforts to avoid holding meetings in states *and other jurisdictions* that put members of the organization at physical, emotional, or social risk," which, if read literally, would mean that APA would be not be able to enter into contracts or other relations for activities in foreign countries that have discriminatory laws. Without knowing specifically which these countries might be, CIRP believed that an educational and aspirational approach might be more appropriate in international contexts.

Therefore, CIRP recommended that:

1. APA ask the US National Committee for Psychology to suggest a policy stance on anti-gay legislation internationally and to bring this policy stance to the IUPsyS General Assembly for discussion and adoption.
2. APA develop educational materials for dissemination internationally on the issues of anti-gay legislation

CC13-16 Nominations

CIRP will proceed with these items by e-mail. The deadlines for nominations are:

Public Interest: June 1, 2006

Early Career: August 31, 2006

CLGB: August 31, 2006

Fowler Award: October 1, 2006

**6. International Affiliates and Convention**

CIRP reviewed the memo written to the Board of Convention Affairs concerning criteria for waiving the requirement of a sponsor for convention submissions by International Affiliates. CIRP discussed the issue of convention fees for international affiliates, and reviewed convention attendance by international participants for the last 5 years. CIRP noted that the number of international affiliates that have attended convention has been relatively low and constant (around 70-80 per year). CIRP suggested that lowering convention fees to match the fees paid by other affiliates might increase participation, and proposed suggesting a 3-year experiment to the Board of Convention Affairs to create conditions to increase attendance by International Affiliates. The proposal is that:

1. Convention fees be reduced to the level paid by other affiliate members
2. Alternate housing arrangements be promoted, for example, through an initiative to encourage local psychologists to host international attendees

Staff will write a memo to BCA suggesting this initiative.

**7. Increase monetary prize for APA awards**

CIRP supports the main motion to increase the APA award prize money to \$5,000 for senior awardees and \$2,000 for junior awardees with a plan for inflationary increases. Staff will inform the Board of Scientific Affairs (BSA).

**8. Ethics document**

CIRP read the document with interest and will provide comments to the USNC that the contents of the proposed principles are compatible with the APA code of ethics.

**9. Office of International Affairs update**

Dr. Bullock reported on the activities of the Office of International Affairs to broadly promote global psychology and invited CIRP's input on the office's programs and initiatives.

**10. Strategic Planning and Conceptualizing**

CIRP took as input the Policy and Planning Committee 5 year plan and the report from the Board of Director's Subcommittee on APA's International Activities and focused on a big picture view of how it would like to see APA in 5 years. Broadly, the discussion focused on making APA more aware of international issues and making more and deeper connections with psychologists and psychological organizations around the world.

Issues with international implications included: (1) Accreditation, licensing; (2) ethics; (3) public outreach (educating politicians); and (4) Policy framework for interventions in emergency situations on a global scale.

CIRP discussed a need to articulate APA's role with respect to standards in psychology (publishing, ethics, research, education, practice); with respect to national capacity building; and with respect to advocacy training and promotion.

Concrete ideas included:

1. Developing resource links to information on international practices in: accreditation; licensure; psychology education; professional training; ethics.
2. Developing programs to educate politicians about psychology through international public education;
3. Developing a policy for APA for strategic response to international disasters; developing a psychological policy framework for international interventions;

4. Articulate APA's role in supporting the development of psychology around the world. In the past, APA played a large role in promoting psychology internationally; APA developed world-wide standards; models for research and publications; and models of networking. Currently, the enormous growth of psychologists worldwide may require a different role in promoting psychology;

5. Increase the focus on psychology's value in policy contexts and raise awareness with politicians – advocate to include psychology and mental health in outcome documents at the global level (UN, WHO, etc).

6. Continue to increase interaction with divisions on international issues; Internationalize issues pertinent to Divisions, especially clinical divisions;

7. Develop resources to promote the value of non-Western contributions to Western psychology.

**11. Furthering International Psychology**

CIRP charged the OIA to develop new programs and activities. Staff will prepare a summary and report for the next CIRP meeting.

**12. Awards Committees**

The Chair appointed the following awards committees:

David Award: Espin, Collins, Wedding

Scientific Meeting Support Fund: Sanchez-Sosa, Enns, Chao

APA International Awards: Chao, Comas-Diaz, Espin, Bryant-Davis (plus chair-elect). Staff will send International Awards to the committee in June when the call for nominations ends.

**13. Scientific Meeting Support Fund**

CIRP awarded support to conferences in Lebanon (first conference of the Lebanese Psychological Association); Latvia (VII International Baltic Psychology Conference); Puerto Rico (First International Conference on Community Psychology); and China (CyberTherapy 2006). Staff will inform the recipients.

**14. International Travel Grants**

CIRP discussed criteria for awarding the travel grants and supported a focus on graduate students and early career psychologists.

**15. David Awards**

CIRP recommended that Eva Bazant (research) and Mhairi Gibson (travel) receive the David Awards. Staff will forward CIRP's recommendations to the APF.

**16/17. UN Activities and Strategic Planning / UN Oversight**

CIRP applauded the UN activities, especially APA's leadership in NGO committees. CIRP noted that they would like to see even more APA effort to get psychological language into UN documents, and would like to see APA submit papers as documentation to raise the visibility of psychology and APA at the UN. There was a suggestion to prepare briefings for the commissions, which meet on a regular yearly schedule. Dr. Denmark will send a UN calendar to CIRP.

There was also a request to increase interactions with member states to get their support for including language in documentation. CIRP also suggested inviting UN notables and officials to attend the APA convention e.g., Ted Turner, Angelina Jolie, Kofi Annan; for APA members to write white papers; for APA to prepare an international day at the UN.

There was discussion of how to increase interaction of members with the UN team. Denmark noted that individuals can join UN committees as independent persons (but it must be clear that they are not representing APA).

Staff will set up an informational listserv for psychologists interested in UN activities.

**18. APA Advocacy for UN Conventions**

CIRP discussed working with SIOP (Society for Industrial & Organizational Psychology – APA's Division 14) to create a proposal for a trial NGO program in Geneva; this could provide a model for inter-organizational collaboration. CIRP also recommended working within APA to increase awareness of UN advocacy. Ideas included: holding a briefing with the PPO office to discuss advocacy goals *vis a vis* UN priorities; meeting with the Education Directorate to ask about ways of disseminating UN conventions; and posting the conventions on the APA-UN website to raise awareness.

It was agreed that CIRP would write a memo to the PPO office suggesting advocacy for the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

**19. CIRP Convention Activities**

CIRP discussed a number of ideas related to its social activities at convention:

1. Structure the reception for international visitors to facilitate discussion and offer a forum for input;
2. Recruit officers of Division 52 and officers of APAGS to act as greeters/hosts (maximum 5 per group);
3. Ask hosts whether they would be willing to host a dinner group (every one pays their own way; sign up sheets are available at the reception and at the international booth; staff make dinner reservations (trial period – 2 or 3 tables );
4. Target all attendees without U.S. or Canadian addresses;
5. Work with convention office to develop a more formal invitation;
6. Inform division presidents and program chairs about the reception and about social protocol for their international speakers. Ask division meeting planners to invite their international members to become affiliates.

CIRP also discussed inviting international organizations to attend convention. Topics for discussion for the reception and division liaison breakfast will continue by e-mail.

**20. AP Special Section**

CIRP discussed potential topics for special section proposals: psychology education across countries, papers from the immigration expert summit, and human trafficking.

CIRP also noted that successful proposals are seldom the project of a committee but are more typically carried by 1 or 2 individuals in the name of a group.

**21. Follow-up activities for resolution of culture and gender**

CIRP will suggest to past-chair Joy Rice that the special section proposal rejected by the *AP* be sent to other specialty journals such as *Women in Psychology*.

CIRP met with CWP, whose chair noted that the committee was interested in outreach to CIRP to infuse its activities with an international perspective. The groups discussed substantive areas in which an international perspective could be added, including on the report of the Task Force on the Sexualization of Girls, which CIRP noted, did not include cross-national research (or address broader international issues of sexual violence in war or trafficking). CIRP and CWP agreed on a need to better sensitize US-based researchers to potential international implications of research on women, and to encourage researchers to become aware of research in other countries.

The groups also discussed the importance of recognizing that there are major knowledge gaps in psychology in the developing world, however, it is important to develop resources to support dissemination of literature from the developing world. CIRP and CWP discussed working together to identify sources of literature and promoting its access (perhaps for PsychExtra).

CIRP and CWP will continue its dialog at the fall meetings.

**22. CIRP-CEMA Subcommittee Report**

CIRP received as information a report on the follow-up activities from the fall 2005 to the spring 2006 meetings, including development of a convention symposium.

CIRP suggested that APA should focus on developing materials on what psychology can contribute to international issues of racism, poverty, migration issues (awareness of research issues; training for therapists), and had the following recommendations for action:

1. That the *AP* focus on the international implications of the Dovidio and Sue presentations as a policy and policy development opportunity.
2. That APA devote efforts to educate policy makers on the impact of racism, poverty, and migration on human well-being (especially an issue because many countries are struggling with the issues of poverty and racism as a result of migration shifts).

The CIRP-CEMA subcommittee met briefly on Sunday, April 9. They discussed possible *AP* articles on the topics of Education & Poverty; Racism & Health; and Racism and the Internet. Georgia Chao read an e-mail from UN representative Corann Okorodudu which outlined plans for Durban +5 which will be held in 2007. (Staff will provide additional information about this conference and the preparatory conferences to CIRP and CEMA).

The CEMA members of the subcommittee raised three items they would like the joint subcommittee to address:

1. Move forward with an *AP* article based on the forthcoming convention symposium, with the goal of developing Human Rights workshops;
2. Empower the central office to disseminate information on Human Rights issues through *Monitor* articles describing the WCAR resolution and its relation to APA activities;
3. Write a letter to Rhea Farberman reminding her of the WCAR resolution and asking her to pursue instances where press releases might mention the resolution; and
4. Use the Dovidio presentation to develop materials: for classes to train practitioners on multicultural issues, liberation, and social justice issues; conduct training for state psychological meetings; and make politicians aware of what psychology can contribute to racism issues.

**23. Division – CIRP Interaction**

CIRP received as information written reports from its division 43, 52, and 55 (supplemental) liaisons.

**24. LGB International Activities**

CIRP received as information an update on the APA International Network for Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Concerns and on the APA oversight group appointed to oversee the work of the network.

**25. Working Group on Internationalizing the Undergraduate Curriculum**

BEA chair Louise Douce visited CIRP and provided the report and recommendations by the working group. Dr. Douce invited CIRP to join BEA in sending the working group's report to other APA governance groups for comments, and to groups outside the U.S.

Drs. Enns, Collins, and Sanchez-Sosa will prepare CIRP's comments to BEA and will continue to work on curriculum issues as a CIRP subgroup for the CIRP-BEA collaboration.

**26. Membership Summit**

Dr. Chao attended the Membership Summit and reported that 60 per cent of the world's psychologists are outside of the U.S. The summit generated a number of ideas to maintain and grow APA's membership.

**27. APAGS international initiative**

CIRP reviewed the report from the APAGS international subcommittee on developing an international students' handbook and endorsed the project. CIRP offered to help write these sections:

1. U.S. culture – Oliva Espin, Sandy Fowler
2. International student resources – Danny Wedding
3. Teaching – Carolyn Enns
4. Research – Georgia Chao
5. Visas – Sally Leverty

Lynn Collins offered to help with publishing and disseminating the handbook.

CIRP suggested that the students be listed as first author. CIRP also suggest including stories about international experiences. CIRP (Collins) offered to help with personal stories. A film from the 1980's about international exchange students, *Cold Water*, was mentioned.

There was a suggestion to arrange a meeting between CIRP and APAGS at the next consolidated meetings to explore joint activities.

CIRP also requested that its members be invited to participate in the breakfast activities *Food for Thought*.

**28. USNC Report**

Dr. Bullock explained the function of the USNC. CIRP will be asked to recommend candidates to USNC in response to the call for nominations that will be made this fall.

**29. IUPsyS Report**

Dr. Ritchie briefed CIRP on current projects of the IUPsyS, particularly those concerned with capacity-building.

**30. Psi Chi Report**

John Davis represented Psi Chi and briefed CIRP on its history and activities. The Psi Chi charter allows for chapters outside the U.S. and Psi Chi is working to establish chapters in Canada and Mexico.

**31. IAAP Report**

Dr. Fowler reported on the activities of the IAAP, particularly, its preparations for the 2006 International Congress of Psychology in Athens.

**32. WFMH Report**

CIRP endorses the OIA's efforts to increase APA's involvement with the WFMH, in particular, the annual World Mental Health Day. The theme of the 2006 day is suicide prevention.

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**33. New Business**

Gary VandenBos met with CIRP to discuss an issue raised in the Council of Editors concerning submissions by foreign authors. He introduced the topic by noting that a large number of these submissions were being rejected by APA editors because they were not appropriate to the journal. A smaller number of foreign submissions are appropriate but cannot be judged because the written English is insufficient and poor.

The Council of Editors would like CIRP to take the lead on a program to match senior mentors with the authors of manuscripts from 3 geographical areas (Eastern Europe, Middle East, the Western-Pacific Rim). CIRP discussed the proposal and concluded that such a referral program is not within its purview. It suggested that the Council of Editors propose to each editor that he or she develop such a list in the specialty area of the journal.

CIRP discussed strategies for further ameliorating the submissions issues from foreign authors and suggested that instructions for authors be translated into local languages and that the Council of Editors and CIRP work on instructional materials that would demystify the manuscript submission and editorial process. CIRP recommended a letter to the Board of Directors recommending that an international editor be added to the Council of Editors. Staff will draft a letter to Dr. VandenBos.

CIRP did suggest that one mechanism for providing editors with substantive international expertise is to put Division international contacts in a database. CIRP offered to suggest this to Divisions and will identify Division liaisons to Council of Editors as mechanism for finding expert assistance.

### **Supplemental Item 1**

Jessica Henderson Daniel and Carol Goodheart met with CIRP and described the Mentoring task force and invited CIRP to partner with the task force to provide an international component. There was discussion of mentoring international students and of a special edition of *Professional Psychologist*.

Discussion covered international mentoring by: bringing international students to convention; hosting colleagues at convention; and providing a convention mentoring model for APA; CIRP could provide a list of contact persons for students who are overseas.

There was discussion of the importance of mentoring as a two-way process, especially in the international arena (e.g., Americans need to be mentored as well as being mentors). There was discussion of "points of connection" in developing welcoming structures to build a grass-roots constituency in other countries. One "point of connection" is the UN. Another is to develop products for people who span two countries (for example, mental health care needs for people who are half time in two countries). There also was a suggestion to develop a list of country experts (a roster of psychologists by country).

Other topics discussed included a project on immigration and mental health and a curriculum for practice with immigrant populations.

### **Supplemental Item 2**

Dr. Bullock met with the Committee on Disability Issues in Psychology (CDIP) and updated them on the ICD work with WHO, and on issues of services for individuals made disabled through war and violence. After discussion, CDIP and the OIA raised issues of disability status of international congress venues. The OIA and CDIP will work to develop a list of questions for international conference organizers about access for persons with disabilities. CDIP suggested contacting Division 22 for others to work on this initiative.

### **Supplemental Item 3**

Staff will develop an item for the fall agenda on promoting international journals and authors. This will include a request to the Board of Directors that the Council of Editors include an international editor. CIRP also discussed promoting internationalism by including foreign language abstracts. There was discussion that a trial period might begin with including Spanish abstracts to enhance communication and effectiveness.