



APA DIVISIONS & INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES

WORKING WITH THE APA OFFICE OF
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND THE COMMITTEE
ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IN PSYCHOLOGY



Introduction

APA's divisions represent the diversity and breadth of the many substantive areas represented across APA.

The Office of International Affairs (OIA) and the Committee on International Relations in Psychology (CIRP) support division activities that involve international members and affiliates and that address international initiatives.

The purpose of this brochure is to provide information to you, as division leaders, on

- Activities of the Office of International Affairs
- Activities of the Committee on International Relations in Psychology
- CIRP's liaison activities with divisions
- Activities of APA's International Division (52)
- International activities at convention
- Division hosting of international visitors at convention
- Opportunities for collaboration and cooperative activity in furthering an international agenda



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About the Office of International Affairs

APA's Office of International Affairs (OIA) coordinates the association's international activities, including:

- representation at major international meetings and congresses;
- exchange with global and regional organizations focused on application and policy;
- communication and exchange with national and regional psychological associations outside the United States;
- staff support to the Committee on International Relations in Psychology;
- support to APA's non-governmental organization (NGO) representation at the United Nations
- collaboration with other US-based organizations on international issues.

The Office of International Affairs publishes a newsletter, *Psychology International*, compiles directories of national and international psychological organizations around the world, develops FAQ pages for students and international colleagues; and maintains web resource pages.

See www.apa.org/international for descriptions of other projects and activities designed to promote an international perspective and international interaction.

The OIA staff welcomes invitations to attend Division Executive committee meetings to explore areas of cooperation.



About CIRP (the Committee on International Relations in Psychology)

Founded in 1944 the Committee on International Relations in Psychology (CIRP) has a broad mission to:

- encourage and support the free circulation of psychologists, ideas and information;
- promote and assist attendance at international meetings, exposure to world psychological literature, and international exchange at all levels of training;
- promote an international perspective in the teaching of psychology;
- increase sensitivity to cultural and linguistic variance;
- encourage the advancement of psychological knowledge that is relevant to international affairs and the application to policy;
- monitor the rights of psychologists, abuse of psychological knowledge and abuses of human rights in the international context;
- initiate and maintain communication with international and regional organizations of psychologists in other countries and with other national and international associations of psychologists.

The Committee consists of nine elected members, and ex officio members and liaisons representing the USNC/International Union of Psychological Science, other international psychology organizations, and APA Divisions.

Visit CIRP's homepage at
<http://www.apa.org/international/cirp>



CIRP and APA Divisions

CIRP maintains a network of liaisons designated by each division president or executive committee to work with CIRP and the Office of International Affairs (see the roster on page 13). Interaction with Division Liaisons takes many forms:

- Liaisons receive the minutes of CIRP's semi-annual meetings;
- Liaisons are invited to participate in CIRP's agenda by submitting written reports on their division's current international activities and proposals for possible division/CIRP collaborations;
- Division liaisons are encouraged to attend CIRP meetings (at division expense);
- CIRP convenes a breakfast meeting for division presidents and liaisons at the annual APA convention; and
- CIRP contacts Division liaisons about special international opportunities for division feedback and interaction



Selecting Division Liaisons

Each year in January division Presidents and executive committees are asked to review and confirm or appoint their division's designated liaison. In making this selection, divisions are encouraged to choose a liaison who will be an active conduit between the division executive committee and division members and CIRP. Each division President will receive an email asking for confirmation/reappointment – please reply at international@apa.org.

CIRP and APA Divisions (continued)



Division Breakfast

During each APA convention, all Division Presidents and Liaisons are invited to a special breakfast meeting for discussion of international activities, challenges and opportunities, and to brainstorm additional ways in which CIRP can strengthen division relations. You can review the minutes from these meetings at www.apa.org/international/division.



Talking Points

After each of its meetings, CIRP publishes its minutes on the Web and makes available Division Talking Points that outline the highlights of the meeting. These are also available at www.apa.org/international/division.



International Activities Across Divisions

Divisions can partner with a number of groups beyond the Office of International Affairs and CIRP to explore international activities.

- Many of APA's 56 Divisions have international sections, committees or special interest groups;
- APA's Division 52 welcomes collaborations with other Divisions;
- The APA graduate student association – APAGS – has an active international committee, and works with the OIA and others to develop resources and information for international students in the US and US students wishing to study abroad.



Other International Resources within APA



About Division 52 (International Psychology)

Division 52 seeks to develop a psychological science and practice that is contextually informed, culturally inclusive, serves the public interest, and promotes global perspectives within and outside of APA. The Division of International Psychology (Division 52) represents the interest of all psychologists who foster international connections among psychologists, engage in multicultural research or practice, apply psychological principles to the development of public policy, or are otherwise concerned with individual and group consequences of global events.

To encourage the development of a more international perspective in psychology, Division 52:

- Sponsors programming at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association to stimulate interest in and share information about international psychology;
- Provides networking opportunities for psychologists from around the world through the division's newsletter the International Psychology Bulletin, convention programming, and other activities;
- Supports the activities of APA's International Affairs Office and its Committee on International Relations in Psychology (CIRP);
- Provides a welcoming "home base" for APA's international affiliates during conventions;
- Promotes the development of international consulting, training, and research opportunities for psychologists with US based international agencies and exchange programs with international agencies based elsewhere;
- Encourages the internationalization of the psychology curriculum through educational initiatives and resources.

For more information, go to www.internationalpsychology.net.



Convention

Division activity is the lifeblood of the APA convention – with programming, division hospitality activities and social events galore. Convention is also a time to invite and host international colleagues – all of APA’s 7000 international members and affiliates are encouraged to come to convention, and a sizeable number of other international colleagues are invited to participate in convention programs. For example, in 2008, close to 300 international psychologists were invited speakers or had their programs accepted for presentation, and over 600 international psychologists registered for convention.



Hosting International Colleagues

As divisions prepare for the next APA Convention, it is important to make special hospitality plans for your international colleagues. In many parts of the world it is expected that invited speakers and presenters will be treated as honored guests, and it is important to extend that courtesy to visitors to the Convention. This is particularly true for colleagues who may not have previously attended an APA convention, who are unfamiliar with the convention city, or who do not speak English as a first language.

We encourage you to be sure that the division identifies those international colleagues who are part of division programming and makes special arrangements for their convention experience.

Serving as a good host to international colleagues begins with preparation for attending convention, moves through convention, and continues with follow-up after convention.

The following tips may help anticipate some of the expectations and needs that an international presenter may have when preparing for and attending the APA Convention. We hope this information helps you and your speakers prepare for a successful and memorable convention experience.

Convention (continued)



Preparing for Convention

- Notify your international presenters as early as possible that their presentations have been accepted. Travelers to the Convention are advised to apply for a visa at least four months before they need it; for 2009, travellers must obtain a visa for Canada.
- Presenters may need documentation for obtaining a visa, leave from work, or financial support. This can be:
 - o a letter from the program chair
 - o the schedule card
 - o a letter of invitation from APA to Convention

It is not unusual to be asked to prepare individualized letters on the speaker's behalf;

- The Office of International Affairs has prepared a letter of invitation that is available to all international presenters in a generic form on the Web (see www.apa.org/international/invitation.pdf) and that we will personalize when requested. Please inform presenters of this when you accept their submissions. Requests for the letter may be sent to international@apa.org;
- Divisions should feel free to send a letter addressed to international colleagues indicating that their submission has been selected for presentation at convention. Divisions are not advised to send letters to governmental institutions (please contact the Office of International Affairs for these requests);
- APA does not send letters of invitation directly to consulates or other governmental agencies;
- APA registers its annual convention with the International Visitors Office (IVO) of the National Academies Board on International Science Organizations. The IVO shares this information with the US Department of State and it is disseminated to consular offices worldwide. The IVO also offers assistance to those experiencing visa delays; for the 2009 Convention in Canada, APA has established contact with Canadian offices.

Convention (continued)

- Be prepared to field questions from international presenters about grants or other resources to cover the costs of attending convention;
- The Office of International Affairs administers a competitive travel grant that can cover the cost of convention registration – all APA International Affiliates are eligible and are encouraged to apply. Preference is given to those from developing (majority world) countries. See <http://www.apa.org/international/awards>;
- When possible, the OIA makes available information about low-cost housing on the International Office Convention website at: www.apa.org/international/convention.html.



Preparing for Convention (Follow-up)

- Follow up with international presenters to see that they receive their schedule card from the Convention Office, and if needed, have ordered equipment for their presentation;
- Make sure your presenters are familiar with the basic Convention structure and organization. Be prepared to answer general questions about Convention – about registration and housing – and to contact the Convention Office and Office of International Affairs on their behalf.



Just before Convention

- Communicate with your invited speakers and international colleagues to confirm their arrival dates and that they have secured Convention housing, and ask whether they have any questions;
- Encourage your international attendees to look at online convention information – from the Office of International Affairs to APA's directorates and APAGS to your division programming to the online APA program.

Convention (continued)



At Convention

- Once in the convention city, call at the hotel to be sure that the visitor has arrived, is comfortably established in the hotel, and knows how to get to and from the convention center;
- Encourage all international attendees to visit the APA International booth located near the registration area – the booth will provide them with a wealth of information about APA’s international programs as well as a list of international attendees, a special badge ribbon for international guests, and sign-up forms for newsletters and membership;
- Encourage all international attendees to attend the annual Reception for International Visitors. This hour-long event is a terrific place for making contacts and finding like-minded colleagues. It is listed in the program;
- Especially for Invited Speakers: Arrange to meet invited speakers for coffee or a meal on the day of their presentation. If you are not planning to take them to the session, be sure that they understand where the meeting room is located;
- Personally invite all international visitors to your division social hour and other events where they will be able to meet colleagues with shared professional interests;
- Encourage international colleagues to visit the Division 52 (International) hospitality suite for programming and socializing;
- Be sure that the person responsible for introductions can correctly pronounce the international speaker’s name, university affiliation, and other data.

Last but not least, please don’t hesitate to contact the APA Office of International Affairs (international@apa.org or by phone at 202.336.6025) for any questions or assistance.



Information from Divisions About Programming

Once your Division programming is entered into the data base, please send a list of all your programming with international participants OR on an international theme to the Office of International Affairs (international@apa.org).

Each year, the OIA publishes a booklet with all programming on international topics and with a directory of all international presenters organized by country. This booklet is available on the web and at the APA International Booth at convention.



International Opportunities



Below are current opportunities for the direct involvement of divisions in ongoing international activities. The OIA and CIRP welcome ideas for division collaboration and initiatives.

Membership Activities

The Office of International Affairs serves as a central point of contact for most of APA's 7,000 or so international members and international affiliates. Many divisions have instituted an international affiliate section for international colleagues with substantive division interests. The Office of International Affairs is prepared to work with divisions on joint membership programs (APA and division affiliate status).

Please contact the international office to plan joint international membership outreach!

UN Speakers' Bureau

In 2007 CIRP established a speakers' bureau for psychologists to provide expert input in presentations organized by APA's representatives to the United Nations. In describing the new initiative 2007 CIRP chair Thema Bryant-Davis wrote:

... Among its activities, CIRP has oversight for APA's representation at the United Nations. The work of the APA UN representatives is very important to advancing psychology as a field and to enhancing lives globally. The APA UN representatives are charged with advocating for psychological issues, educating the UN body, other Non-governmental organizations,

International Opportunities (continued)

and members of APA concerning global issues that have psychological implications, and monitoring the work of the UN in terms of implementing psychologically healthy initiatives.

APA's UN representatives are in a position to nominate speakers for conferences at the United Nations. These nominations are often time sensitive and if we can have speakers readily available we can use these valuable opportunities for the voice of psychology to be represented.

The CIRP Speakers Bureau is a list of APA members living in the New York, New Jersey, Connecticut area who would be willing to speak without charge at the UN and who are both (1) experts in their field, and (2) effective communicators.

There are several categories or topic areas that often come up at the UN. These include but are not limited to: children's mental health, women's mental health, disarmament, Indigenous People, racism and related intolerances, physical health (especially HIV/AIDS), aging, disaster relief, human rights, sustainable development, refugees, peace and security, humanitarian affairs, poverty, and family.

Divisions are asked to send endorsed names, contact information and substantive areas of expertise of division members who could speak on topics central to the UN goals. Nominations for the Speakers Bureau may be sent to the OIA at international@apa.org or submitted via the link to the Speaker's Bureau form at www.apa.org/international/divisions.



International Experts' Database

For 2009, CIRP is developing a listing of substantive experts with international experience. For more information, please see www.apa.org/international/cirp/experts.html.

International Opportunities

(continued)

UN Brochures

As part of its information dissemination at the United Nations, the Office of International Affairs has coordinated the development of brochures outlining psychological research on issues relevant to the UN mandate. These brochures are made available to UN NGOs and diplomatic missions. The goal in the brochures is to provide a short, easy-to-read summary of psychological research and application. To date there are brochures on Forgiveness and on Research-based approaches to HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment (for examples, please see www.apa.org/international/resources/links.html).

Areas for which UN brochures would be welcome include topics represented by the UN Millennium Goals: promoting healthy ageing, gender equality, universal primary education and literacy, empowering women and families, maternal health and reducing child mortality, eradicating violence and poverty, and combating HIV/AIDS. Divisions are welcome to work with the Office of International Affairs on developing research brochures. Please contact the Office of International Affairs for further information.



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