



APA Divisions & International Perspectives

*Working with
the APA Office of International Affairs and the
Committee on International Relations in Psychology*



Table of Contents



| | |
|---|-----------|
| Introduction | 1 |
| About the Office of International Affairs..... | 2 |
| About the Committee on International Relations in Psychology (CIRP)..... | 3 |
| CIRP & APA Divisions..... | 4 |
| Other International Resources within APA..... | 6 |
| Convention..... | 7 |
| International Opportunities..... | 12 |



About CIRP (APA's 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 liaisons representing the USNC/International Union of Psychological Science, other international psychology organizations, and APA Divisions.

VISIT CIRP'S WEB PAGES:

<http://www.apa.org/international/governance/cirp/index.aspx>



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 CIRP liaison roster at <http://www.apa.org/international/governance/cirp/liasons.aspx>).

Interaction with Division Liaisons takes many forms:

- Division liaisons receive the minutes of CIRP's semi-annual meetings;
- Division 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 receive a request 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, division members and CIRP.

The Division Liaison appointment form may be found at: <http://www.apa.org/international/governance/cirp/liason-form.pdf>

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 Divisions can collaborate on international projects and in which CIRP can strengthen division relations. You can review the minutes from these meetings at <http://www.apa.org/international/governance/cirp/division-minutes.aspx>.



Talking Points

After each of its meetings, Division Liaisons are sent the CIRP minutes for use in developing talking points for Division international activities.



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 in APA



About Division 52 (International Psychology)

The Division of 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 represents the interest of all psychologists who foster international connections, engage in multicultural research or practice, 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 convention to stimulate interest in and share information about international psychology
- Provides networking opportunities for psychologists from around the world;
- 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;
- Provides a welcoming "home base" for APA's international affiliates during conventions.

See 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. Typically, around 300 international psychologists are invited speakers or have their programs accepted for presentation, and around 600 international colleagues register 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

Serving as a good host to international colleagues begins with preparation for attending convention, hosting during convention, and follow-up afterwards.

Convention (continued)

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, and may assist you and your speakers in preparing for a successful and memorable convention experience.



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 plan to travel to the US.
- Presenters may need documentation for obtaining a visa, leave from work, or financial support. APA provides a generic letter of invitation posted on the Web, and international attendees may also request a personalized letter from the Office of International Affairs (see <http://www.apa.org/international/resources/convention/further.aspx>). Please inform presenters of these resources when you accept their submissions.

In addition, it is typical for presenters to request a letter from the program chair concerning their presentation.
- 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. Please see <http://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/biso/visas/index.htm> for information on this office.

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/about/awards/convention-registration-grants.aspx>;
- When possible, the OIA makes available information about low-cost housing on the International Office Convention website. See <http://www.apa.org/international/resources/convention/further.aspx>.



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 likeminded 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.

*Please do not hesitate to contact the APA Office of International Affairs for any questions or assistance.
+1-202-336-6025; international@apa.org*



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 presenters **or** on an international theme to the Office of International Affairs (international@apa.org).

Each year, the OIA publishes an international program 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. Your participation in sending information about your Division programming (including Suite programs) will help make this resource as comprehensive as possible, and will generate publicity for your programs.



International Opportunities

There are frequent opportunities for the direct involvement of Divisions and Division members in ongoing international activities. The OIA and CIRP welcome ideas for division collaboration and initiatives. Here are some current opportunities:



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!



ROME0: International Expertise Database

APA's Committee on International Relations is seeking nominations for a roster of psychologists with international expertise outside the US. Information in the roster (Roster of Members with Expertise Outside the US – ROME0) will be used to nominate colleagues as speakers, reviewers, and contacts for substantive issues from an international perspective. The roster will also cross-reference psychologists by area of expertise and geographical area

For more information, see
<http://www.apa.org/international/governance/cirp/experts.aspx>

International Opportunities (continued)

UN Speakers' Bureau

The CIRP-UN Speakers Bureau is a list of experts who are willing to be nominated to speak at UN events organized by APA's NGO representatives to the UN. The UN Speakers Bureau includes APA members living in the New York, New Jersey, Connecticut area who are willing to speak without charge at the UN and who are both experts in their field, and effective communicators.

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. Categories of expertise relevant to UN opportunities 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.

Nominations for the Speakers Bureau may be sent to the OIA at international@apa.org.

UN Brochures

As part of its information dissemination at the United Nations, the Office of International Affairs coordinates 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. The OIA welcomes collaboration with Divisions on the development of brochures on topics represented by the UN millenium development goals such as healthy ageing, gender equality, education, eradicating violence and poverty, combating HIV/AIDS, global climate change, migration, early child development. Please contact the OIA for further information.

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