Psychology Strides Forward in Kenya

By June W. Koinange

Psychology, as we know it today, is a fairly new concept here in Kenya. Historically, traditional medicine men and healers in the communities practiced caring interventions. They worked in areas pertaining to spiritual and psychosocial matters as well as physical ailments. Given this cultural and traditional setup, the introduction of applied psychology into the community was received initially with skepticism and denial. It was felt that the psychologists would not succeed because what they were proposing to do was already being done within the families and community and that families did not need outsiders to help them solve their problems.

That attitude is now changing rapidly. In a country with a population exceeding twenty-two million people and riddled with problems like poverty, with a political system that is awash with corruption and inefficiency, with a health system that is unable to contain the spread of HIV/AIDS, and with supportive social and mental health systems that are not adequate for the growing population, there is definitely a great and urgent need for psychosocial interventions. Of course, these interventions must take into account the unique customs and traditions of the people, especially with respect to religion and spirituality since this is central to the core being of the African person.

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Nancy Felipe Russo

As I reflect on the activities of APA’s Committee on International Relations in Psychology (CIRP), I am reminded of the words of the legendary Margaret Mead, who once said: “We are now at a point where we must educate our children about what no one knew yesterday and prepare our schools for what no one knows yet.” With globalization proceeding apace, the limitations of our culturally bound psychological knowledge become increasingly apparent. At no time in the history of the field has the need for development and application of an internationally minded psychological science been more urgent.

CIRP’s task is to be a catalyst for the generation and dissemination of psychological knowledge that is informed by an international point of view. At our March meeting, the Committee (a full list of CIRP members can be found on page 2) began a wide range of projects that will not only serve to facilitate and recognize contributions to international research, but are aimed at internationalizing the psychology curriculum, fostering international exchange and networks, and promoting the application of psychological knowledge in the public interest.

CIRP directly facilitates the dissemination of psychological knowledge and research by overseeing the occasional American Psychologist special sections on International Perspectives in Psychology. The most recent section, on international family therapy coordinated by Florence Kaslow, appeared in the journal's January issue. A section on reproductive behavior and international issues, coordinated by Henry P. David, is currently under review. CIRP is particularly interested in the experiences of international authors who seek to publish in APA journals. Committee members

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Jomo Kenyatta University in Nairobi first included psychology as part of the required core subjects for a degree leading to a BA in Education. The course was offered generally for one quarter/semester only, in the four-year academic study. As a rule, Kenyan psychologists studied abroad, usually in the United States and Canada. In the last five years, however, the trend has changed and psychology is now being offered as a degree program in the national universities. Jomo Kenyatta University now offers a PhD in Education Psychology.

The United States International University-Africa (USIU-A), a private institution established three decades ago, offers high quality degree courses leading to a BA in psychology and an MA in counseling psychology at its campus in Nairobi. The PhD program has not yet started, but the university is optimistic that this may happen in the near future. The USIU-A psychology department offerings include marriage and family, drug use and abuse, research methodology, information technology, cross-cultural differences, and effective communication.

As psychology, especially in the area of counseling, has become popular in Kenya, some unscrupulous individuals with inadequate qualifications have gone out and opened offices to give psychosocial counseling and make quick money. Thus, the profession has come up for abuse. At present, there is no institution in Kenya responsible for the regulation of the psychology profession. Nor are there ethical standards in place to guide the application of psychology. The fact that the study of psychology is a fairly new concept here may explain this lack of proper infrastructure.

Efforts are underway to promote a legal framework for psychology through an act of Parliament that would establish a policy on what is expected of psychologists and counselors. It would also set up a board that would regulate the licensing of counseling services, as well as service providers and researchers in all areas that pertain to the wellbeing of the human person and animals.

The Kenya Psychological Association (KPsyA) is the main organization representing the country’s psychologists. There are a few other counseling associations dealing with very specific areas of study (such as HIV/AIDS awareness training). The KpsyA was initially conceived on March 2, 1996, by ten counseling psychologists, all of whom were from USIU-A, who had reached a general consensus on the need to form such a body. With great effort and sacrifice, this founding group, chaired by myself, worked for nearly a year to see the KpsyA officially registered on February 17, 1997. Recruitment of members then began in earnest and elections were held the following February. There are several categories of membership: full member, associate member, student member, out-of-country member, other-country member, affiliate member, and emeritus member. Only full, associate, and emeritus members can vote, hold office, or chair a standing committee.

The objectives of the KpsyA are to promote the advancement of the study of psychology and its application, to maintain high professional standards of education and conduct, to serve the country through community awareness programs, and, possibly, to publish books. In September 1998, KPsyA became an active participant in the preparation of the First National Psychology Conference in Kenya, a joint effort with the USIU-A. This April, the Association began publishing a quarterly newsletter, The Psychology Beat.

Members of the Association have been actively involved in community work, educating the public on issues of national importance such as the HIV/AIDS awareness campaign, responding to disasters (for example, the 1998 US Embassy bombing in Nairobi, the 2000 Kenya Airways air disaster off the coast of Abidjan), guidance and counseling in schools, and marriage and family counseling. The Association’s members have networking contacts with other psychological bodies such as the American Psychological Association, International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies, and the British Psychological Society.
Applied psychology in Kenya has made significant steps forward in the last three years, but we still have a way to go in order to make a difference in the lives of the majority of Kenyans. There is need to devise incentives to motivate good psychologists and counselors to move from the main towns into the provinces and districts. The establishment of a national policy is also crucial to the recognition, growth, and quality of the profession. And, there is need for mental health workers to work hand-in-hand with health workers, social workers, religious leaders, and the government to solve some of these issues.

There is need for more literature and research. Literature on Kenyan mental health, especially on psychological issues, is truly lacking. A major reason for this is that where data is available it is in scattered and incomplete form and is, therefore, unreliable. The available literature is currently limited to epidemiological aspects of various mental illnesses. Of late, some studies have focused on the social and psychological basis of mental illness, but there is a long way to go to close the knowledge gap. A major problem is the fact that there is little funding to conduct reliable research.

The Association has identified crucial areas for members to carry out research. These include teen suicide, the psychological consequences and implications of female genital mutilation (still practiced in Kenya by certain ethnic communities), critical incidence stress from an African perspective, reasons and remedies for unrest in our high schools, and prevalence of women in crises (domestic violence, rape, sexual assault, and harassment).

An interdisciplinary approach to mental health—one which would take into account the contemporary and the traditional Kenyan—is needed in Kenya. The recent disasters that required counselors and other mental health experts made it very clear that mental health services need to be given a priority position. Notwithstanding, a good number of individuals, non-governmental organizations, and government bodies have long been aware of this need, and more research and publication is therefore indicated.

June W. Koinange is Chairperson of the Kenya Psychological Association.

In Kenya... there is definitely a great and urgent need for psychosocial interventions. Of course, these interventions must take into account the unique customs and traditions of the people, especially with respect to religion and spirituality since this is central to the core being of the African person.
Paul Pedersen and Fred Leong are designing a survey to gather information from non-US journal authors to learn of their experiences and suggest ways to facilitate the editorial process. If you wish to participate in this survey, please let me know.

In keeping with the need to disseminate an international perspective to the next generation, CIRP has embarked on the development of products to aid in internationalizing the curriculum. This August, at the APA Convention in San Francisco, CIRP will sponsor three lectures by distinguished contributors to the field that focus on how to internationalize teaching in three core areas: clinical psychology, by Anthony Marsella; developmental psychology, by Patricia Greenfield; and social psychology, by Fathali Moghaddam. We hope that these lectures will be the beginning of a series of CIRP-sponsored materials that teachers can use to augment their courses.

The APA Convention provides an important opportunity to meet colleagues, discuss research, teaching, and practice issues, and establish networks for future collaboration. (See pages 5 to 7 for a comprehensive listing of the international program.) One interactive session of particular interest is the CIRP-sponsored Town Meeting on Saturday, August 25, organized by members Diane Halpern and Gary Melton. I also want to extend a special invitation to the CIRP reception for international visitors, taking place on Friday afternoon. There are many social hours at APA, but this is the only annual event that specifically honors international visitors and where we hope many new international friendships will be established.

As part of the ongoing efforts to facilitate scholarly and student exchanges, CIRP is collaborating with the US National Committee of the International Union of Psychological Science (IUPsyS) in a survey of US graduate psychology departments to develop a portrait of the international experiences and links of psychology faculty and students, as well as international coverage in their curricula. In the coming months, the Office of International Affairs website (www.apa.org/international) will post links to outside websites listing potential exchange and funding opportunities for international scholars and students.

Another project involving the Web is led by CIRP member Diane Halpern who is in the first stages of creating an international website to serve as a forum where psychologists can share their knowledge about prejudice. As a beginning, the APA brochure Racism and Psychology will be translated into Spanish and posted on the websites of the APA offices of International Affairs and Ethnic Minority Affairs. Dr. Halpern welcomes your suggestions for links to relevant websites and recommended psychological materials that might be suitable for translation and posting.

The prejudice website is just one example of how the Committee’s commitment to enhancing excellence in psychology includes promoting psychological involvement in the service of the public interest and advancing human rights. In keeping with this commitment, CIRP has developed a resolution (currently under review by the APA governance system) taking a stand against the Bush administration’s decision to reinstate what has been termed the “global gag rule” on international family planning organizations. The gag rule was considered to have far-reaching and severely damaging physical and mental consequences to women, their families, and society, and to be a policy that undermines medical ethics, reproductive health rights, and democratic principles. These are issues of historic and current concern to psychologists and to CIRP.

APA’s recent affiliation with the United Nations provides many exciting opportunities for the involvement of psychologists in activities related to the UN agenda. CIRP member Gary Melton is heading up a working group appointed by CIRP to examine the implications of the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and its optional protocols, and to identify concrete ways to implement the treaty at state and local levels.

On CIRP’s recommendation, the Association has appointed a delegation to attend the UN World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance taking place in Durban, South Africa August 30–September 7. The APA delegation includes former CIRP chair and APA’s main UN representative Corann Okorodudu, CIRP member James Jackson, Willam Parham (member of the Committee on Ethnic Minority Affairs), A.J. Franklin (President-elect of the Society for the Psychological Study of Ethnic Minority Issues), Bertha Holliday (Director of the APA Office on Ethnic Minority Affairs), and Thema Bryant (member of the Association’s UN team). In preparation for the meeting, the APA Board has approved a resolution against racism.

These are but a few highlights of CIRP activities. The Committee’s work is an ongoing effort and involves networking with national and international psychological organizations worldwide, as well as with APA divisions, state associations, and other governance units. The benefits of these networks were dramatically illustrated at the March CIRP meeting, when IUPsyS liaison Pierre Ritchie briefed the Committee on international ethics issues that in turn informed CIRP’s feedback on the proposed APA ethics code revision. And we are doubly fortunate that CIRP member Wanda Rodriguez Arocho also serves as the Secretary General of the Interamerican Society of Psychology. The ability to reach beyond the Committee membership and to turn to experts in a wide variety of areas greatly enhances CIRP’s ability to fulfill its mission.

So I close on what YOU can do to help us with our work. Respond to our calls for information and assistance. Nominate people for our awards and apply for our grants. Submit your research to APA journals and share your experiences with us. Come to the events we sponsor at APA Convention and give us feedback about what more we can do. I look forward to hearing from you.

Nancy Felipe Russo, PhD, is the 2001 CIRP Chair and Regents Professor of Psychology at Arizona State University. She can be reached by e-mail (nancy.russo@asu.edu).
FRIDAY, AUGUST 24


1:00–1:50 pm  Invited Address: 2001 Distinguished Contributions to the International Advancement of Psychology Award  Division: 1, 3, 7, 8, 12, 25, 48 Moscone Center–South Building, Room 309  Participant: Susan B. Sorenson  Discussant: Lewis P. Lipsitt

3:00–4:50 pm  Symposium: Intergenerational Trauma, Genocide, Race, and Privilege  Division: 48, 1, 9, 32, 42, 45, APA Committee on International Relations in Psychology, San Francisco Hilton and Towers, Yosemite Room C  Chairs: Corann Okorodudu and Florence Kaslow  Participants: Thema Bryant, Jungsik Kim, David Buena, and Diane J. Willis  Discussants: Gloria B. Gottsegen and James Jones

4:00 pm  Social Hour: Reception for International Visitors—Presentation of APA Presidential Citation to Susan Pick  Division: 52, PSI Chi, IAAP, ICP San Francisco Marriott Hotel, Nob Hill Rooms A, B, and C

SATURDAY, AUGUST 25

8:00–8:50 am  Conversation Hour: International Research on Women  Division: 52, 7, 35, 42, APA Committee on International Relations in Psychology, APA Committee on Women in Psychology, APA Committee on International Relations in Psychology, San Francisco Hilton and Towers, Continental Parlor 3

11:00–11:50 am  Symposium: Psychosocial Impact of Globalization—Cultural Perspectives  Division: 27, 8, 9, 13, 17, 42, 52, 55 San Francisco Hilton and Towers, Yosemite Room C  Chair: Jungsi Kim  Participants: Anthony J. Marsella and Fanny M. Cheung  Discussants: Jungsik Kim and Michael Salzman

1:00-1:50 pm
Invited Address: Distinguished Lecture on Internationalizing the Curriculum—Developmental Psychology Sponsors: APA Committee on International Relations in Psychology: 1, 2, 7, 52, APA Board of Educational Affairs, APA Teachers of Psychology in Secondary Schools San Francisco Hilton and Towers, Continental Parlor 1 Participant: Patricia M. Greenfield Chair: Diane F. Halpern

2:00-3:50 pm

3:00-3:50 pm

4:00-4:50 pm
Poster Session: Current Issues in International and Cross-Cultural Psychology I Division: 52 Moscone Center-South Building, Exhibit Hall C Cochairst: Joan C. Chrisler, Susan Dutch

SUNDAY, AUGUST 26

8:00-8:50 am
Symposium: Reconstruction and Sustainable Peace Building—Multidimensional Strategies of Support Divisions: 48, 1, 27, APA Committee on International Relations in Psychology San Francisco Hilton and Towers, Continental Parlor 1 Chair: Steven E. Handwerker Participants: Luisa M. Saffioti, Kathleen Kostelny, Michael Wessells Discussant: Leila Dane

9:00-10:50 am
Discussion: Global Perspectives on Policy and Practice—LBG International Meeting Report Divisions: 44, 52, 9 San Francisco Hilton and Towers, Continental Parlor 8 Cochairst: Jan Schippers and Kristin Hancock Participants: Armand Cerbone, Melanie Steffens, Tony Collins, Clinton Anderson


10:00-10:50 am
Paper Session: Social Identities Across Cultures Divisions: 52, 7, 9, 42, 48, APA Committee on International Relations in Psychology San Francisco Hilton and Towers, Union Square Room 17 Chair: Richard S. Velayo Participants: Judith Torney-Purta, Louise H. Jackson, Julie Spencer-Rogders

11:00-11:50 am

11:00 am -12:50 pm
Symposium: Children and Terrorism—The Impact of Bombings and Programmatic Responses Divisions: 48, 12, 1, 9, 16, 17, 19, 27, 29, 37, 39, 42, 52, 53, 54, APA Committee on International Relations in Psychology San Francisco Hilton and Towers, Union Square Rooms 15 and 16 Chair: Lynne Cripe Participants: Robin H. Gurwitch, Lynne Cripe, Debby Doughty, Shannon Lovgren Discussant: Betty Pfeifferbaum

12:00-12:50 pm
Paper Session: Issues in International Psychotherapy Divisions: 52, 29, 42, 48, APA Committee on International Relations in Psychology San Francisco Hilton and Towers, Union Square Room 17 Chair: Doris Howard Participants: Barbro Giorgi, Ibrahim A. Kira, Pamela A. Hays

Invited Lectures: Lynn Stuart Weiss Lecture on Conflict Resolution—Cross-Community Contact, Sectarian Attitudes, and Forgiveness in Northern Ireland Sponsors: APF Board of Trustees, 48 San Francisco Hilton and Towers, Continental Parlor 7 Participant: Miles R. Hewstone

1:00-1:50 pm
APA Presidential Miniconvention—Invited Speaker: Healthy Sexuality for All—The Role of Psychology Sponsors: APA Board of Directors, 35 Moscone Center-South Building, Room 301 Participant: Susan Pick

2:00-2:50 pm
Invited Address: Distinguished Lecture on Internationalizing the Psychology Curriculum—Clinical and Counseling Psychology Sponsors: APA Committee on International Relations in Psychology: 1, 2, 12, 17, 52, APA Board of Educational Affairs, APA Teachers of Psychology in Secondary Schools San Francisco Hilton and Towers, Union Square Room 17 Participant: Anthony J. Marsella Chair: Gary B. Melton

3:00-3:50 pm
Invited Address: Listening to the Voices of Gods—Balinese Trance and Architecture Divisions: 34, 27, 30, 52 San Francisco Hilton and Towers, Union Square Rooms 5 and 6 Participants: Michele Stephen Discussant: Joseph B. Juhazs

Conversation Hour: Desperate Refugees and Dangerous Infiltrators—Lessons from Tashi Namgyal Divisions: 48, 19, 52, APA Committee on International Relations in Psychology San Francisco Hilton and Towers, Union Square Rooms 23 and 24 Participants: Tashi Namgyal Chair: Jean Maria Arrigo Discussants: Richard V. Wagner, Joanie Connors

4:00-4:50 pm
Symposium: Identity, Conflict, and Social Reconciliation—International Perspectives Divisions: 48, 9, 52, APA Committee on International Relations in Psychology San Francisco Hilton and Towers, Continental Parlor 9 Chair: Richard V. Wagner Participants: Naji Abi-Hashem, Marwan M. Gharzeddine, Carina V. Korostelina, Taher M. Azam

MONDAY, AUGUST 27

8:00-8:50 am

8:00-9:50 am
Symposium: Integrating Peace Research and Theory Into the Psychology Curriculum Divisions: 2, APA Board of Educational Affairs San Francisco Hilton and Towers, Continental
Parlor 7 Chair: Linda M. Woolf Participants: Linden L. Nelson, Michael R. Hulsizer, Virginia Ryan, Marc Martin, Michael R. Van Slyck Discussant: Leila F. Dane


Symposium: Commercial Exploitation of Women and Children—International Research and Policy Divisions: 52, 9, 16, 35, 52, 48, 54, APA Committee on International Relations in Psychology, APA Committee on Women in Psychology San Francisco Hilton and Towers, Continental Parlor 3 Chair: Shelly L. Jackson Participants: Richard J. Estes, Donna M. Hughes, Marsha B. Liss

9:00-9:50 am Discussion: Current Political Climate—Roles for Peace Psychology Divisions 48, APA Committee on International Relations in Psychology San Francisco Hilton and Towers, Continental Parlor 9 Chair: Bianca Cody Murphy Discussants: Anne Anderson, Michael Wessells, Herbert C. Kelman, Corann Okorodudu, Marc Pilisuk

9:00-10:50 am Paper Session: Histories of Psychology Around the World Divisions: 26, 7, 35, 36, 45, 52 San Francisco Hilton and Towers, Union Square Room 22 Chair: Deborah F. Johnson Participants: Oscar F. Cervantes, Wai Fu, Gail Donaldson, Neftali Serrano

10:00-11:50 am Poster Session: Conflict, Violence, Reconciliation, and Peace Divisions: 48, APA Committee on International Relations in Psychology Moscone Center-South Building, Exhibit Hall C Co-chairs: Joan C. Chrisler, and Susan Dutch

11:00-11:50 am Invited Address: Psychology in Worldwide Perspective Divisions: 52, 42, APA Committee on International Relations in Psychology San Francisco Hilton and Towers, Continental Parlor 3 Participant: Bernhard Wilpert Chair: Charles D. Spielberger

12:00-12:50 pm Conversation Hour: Conflict Resolution Educational Programs—Some Current Activities and Future Trends Divisions: 48, 7, 16, 29, 31, 41, 25 APA Board of Educational Affairs, APA Committee on International Relations in Psychology San Francisco Hilton and Towers,

Continental Parlor 9 Participants: Marc Pilisuk, Johanna K. Tabin, Michael R. Van Slyck, Gemma D. Skillman, Marilyn Stern


1:00-1:50 pm Paper Session: International Research on Violence and Victimization Divisions: 52, 9, 18, 35, 37, 42, 48, 51, 53, 54, APA Committee on International Relations in Psychology San Francisco Hilton and Towers, Continental Parlor 3 Chair: William G. Masten Participants: Daniel J. Carragher, Georgia Stathopoulou, Odelya Pagovich

2:00-2:50 pm Symposium: Clinical Issues for Women-Working Across Cultures Divisions: 52, 16, 29, 31, 35, 42, 45, APA Committee on International Relations in Psychology, APA Committee on Women and Psychology Chair: Lynn Collins Participants: Ellyn Kasek, Oliva Espin, Amal S. Winter, Joy K. Rice

3:30 pm Poster Session: Current Issues in International and Cross-Cultural Psychology -II Division 52 Moscone Center-South Building, Exhibit Hall C Co-chairs: Joan C. Chrisler, and Susan Dutch

TUESDAY, AUGUST 28

8:00-8:50 am Symposium: Worldview Research—Implications for Cultural Competency in Training Practice Division: 17 Moscone Center-South Building, Room 272 Chair: Farah A. Ibrahim Participants: Gargi Roysirac-Sadowsky, Hifumi Ohnishi Discussant: Joseph G. Ponterotto

8:00-9:50 am Symposium: Chinese Personality Assessment Inventory—Factor Structure and Cross-Cultural Relevance Divisions: 52, 5, 42, 45, APA Committee on International Relations in Psychology San Francisco Hilton and Towers, Continental Parlor 9 Co-chairs: Fanny M. Cheung, Frederick Leong Participants: Fanny M. Cheung, Jianxin Zhang, Maria M. Wong, Frederick Leong, Andrew Ryder Discussant: Stanley Sue

10:00-11:50 am Symposium: Diversity Training and Accreditation—American and Canadian Perspectives and Experiences Divisions: 52, 2, 35, 42, 45, APA Board of Educational Affairs, APA Committee on International Relations in Psychology, APA Committee on Women, APAGS San Francisco Hilton and Towers, Continental Parlor 1 Chair: Richard A. Young Participants: Maryka Biaggio, Marilyn L. Bowman, Elizabeth Davis-Russell, Karen R. Cohen Discussants: Beth E. Havercamp, Frederick Leong


12:00-12:50 pm Symposium: Feminist Research, Consultation, and Activism in Eastern Europe and Asia Divisions: 35, 13, 52 San Francisco Hilton and Towers, Yosemite Room B Chair: Kathryn L. Norsworthy Participants: Kathryn L. Norsworthy, Sharon G. Horne, Susan S. Matthews Discussant: Toni C. Antonucci

Symposium: Innovative International Opportunities for Psychology and Other College and University Students Divisions: 52, 2, 31, APA Board of Educational Affairs, APA Committee on International Relations in Psychology, APAGS San Francisco Hilton and Towers, Continental Parlor 3 Chair: Jeanne M. Hinkelmark Participants: Chris E. Stout, Joanie Conners, Marilyn P. Safir

2:00-3:50 pm Symposium: Healing the Person, Family, and Planet—Buddhism and Psychotherapy Divisions: 34, 12, 36, 43, 48, 51, 52, APA Committee on International Relations in Psychology San Francisco Hilton and Towers, Yosemite Room A Chair: G. Rita Dudley Grant Participants: C. Peter Bankart, Maria Guaardo Lucero, Belinda S. Khong, David Loe Discussant: Kathleen H. Dockett

Symposium: Psychotherapy in International Settings Divisions: 52, 42, 45, 54, APA Committee on International Relations in Psychology San Francisco Hilton and Towers, Continental Parlor 1 Chair: Brigitte A. Khoury Participants: Rafael Navia, Narasappa Kumaraswamy, Brigitte A. Khoury, Abdel Sattar Ibrahim Discussant: Mary Abu Saba
INDIVIDUAL PROFILE: M. BRINTON LYKES

M. Brinton Lykes, PhD, recently returned to the Boston College Lynch School of Education from South Africa, where she served as Professor and Chair of Psychology at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. Her research explores the interstices of indigenous cultural beliefs and practices and those of Western psychology, towards creating community-based responses to the effects of war and state-sponsored violence. She is an activist scholar and teacher and has lived and worked among women and child survivors of state-sponsored violence and war in the North of Ireland, South Africa, and, since 1987, in rural Guatemala. She is co-author with the Association of Maya Ixil Women – New Dawn (ADMI) of the book Voces e imágenes: Mujeres Maya Ixiles de Chajul/Voices and images: Mayan Ixil women of Chajul published in 2000.

PI: How did you come to work with the Association of Maya Ixil Women?

Lykes: In 1992, I began to work with a rural woman’s organization in the village of Chajul, in the highlands of Guatemala. I served as a consultant to what was at first a six-woman committee that slowly grew to be an NGO with over 100 members called the Association of Maya Ixil Women–New Dawn (ADMI). They had developed a psycho-educational program for children as well as several economic development projects. My work with them focused on their developing a sense of their own voices as well as feeling able to appropriate tasks that were typically done by men in their communities, many of whom had been killed during Guatemala’s 36-year civil war. Many declined opportunities to talk about their war experiences with the Catholic Church-based and UN-brokered “truth commissions” and I was fascinated as to why they had declined this opportunity, yet were willing to share their stories in our workshops and in the context of building a better future for themselves and their families.

Although my work under conditions of war suggested to me that “telling stories” and “speaking out” may not always be advisable or therapeutic, I was increasingly convinced that some among this group of rural women could contribute importantly to potential for reconciliation through sharing their stories of survival and recovery. I suggested PhotoVoice as one possible methodology for doing this.

PI: What is PhotoVoice?

Lykes: I first encountered this term from the work of Caroline Wang (University of Michigan) who worked with a group of rural women in China and used photography as a resource in storytelling. Although working within very different social and political realities, the women of the ADMI were drawn to this work, and for me it appeared to be a powerful resource for developing a participatory action research methodology where women—most of whom spoke only Ixil and had no more than three years of formal education—could tell their stories of the war, of themselves as rural Mayan women, and of how they were creating a better future.

Although I had been working among them for five years when we began to craft the project that would become PhotoVoice, I had not been conducting research per se. Rather, I was serving as a consultant and deepening my understanding of war and its effects on rural women and children by living among them. It seemed essential that if there were to be “research” developed within this context, it would have to be something that we did together. Over time, a project identified by the women themselves simply as FotoVoz was developed.

PI: What challenges did you and the women face as the project developed?

Lykes: Coordinating work outside the home with domestic responsibilities is always a challenge for rural women, and some were not able to participate as fully as they might have liked because of family responsibilities. There were also many initial challenges that had to do with learning the “basic skills” required to gather data. As I mentioned earlier, most of the women were illiterate and none had ever conducted a formal interview, nor did any of them know how to use a tape recorder. With perhaps only one exception, the 20 women of ADMI who elected to participate in PhotoVoice had never used a camera and most had only been photographed once or twice in their lifetimes. Some women discovered that they were too timid to ask permission of people whom they wished to photograph. Others had a hard time grasping the need for spontaneous or informal shots. They asked for permission to take a picture and the subjects immediately ran inside to put on their best clothes and posed formally, eluding the photographer’s desire to photograph, for example, a woman making tortillas or weaving. Once the women identified these problems we were able to work through them, and eventually, they felt more at ease taking pictures and the community members became more relaxed about having their “everyday activities” recorded. Much more challenging to develop were the skills needed to analyze the data.

PhotoVoice...appeared to be a powerful resource for developing a participatory action research methodology where women—most of whom spoke only Ixil and had no more than three years of formal education—could tell their stories of the war, of themselves as rural Mayan women, and of how they were creating a better future.
**PI:** How was the data analyzed?

**Lykes:** First, each woman took a roll of 20 photographs. From these, each selected three to five photos around which she wove a story, based on the information gathered from the people in the photograph and on her own interpretation of the social reality they represented. These analyses were then submitted to the wider group which collaboratively sought to analyze causes and effects of the civil war's violence, as well as solutions for the future.

This process of collection and analysis continued for two years. During the second year, the women concentrated on winnowing through their analyses and photographs and organizing them into what became the four chapters of a photo-text book, *Voices and Images: Mayan Ixil Women of Chajul.* In telling their individual stories of survival, the women focused on the violence and its effects, on women’s daily lives, and on their traditional Maya Ixil culture. Once it was agreed that we needed not only to focus on the sins of the past but also on moving forward, it seemed natural to develop a fourth chapter on the work of ADMI as one example of the many organizational efforts to develop a more just world with a more equal distribution of resources. The themes of the four chapters are deeply significant as they root the present—women’s work and their families—within the past violence and the traditional beliefs and practices. The final chapter reflects a situating of ourselves and the organization (ADMI) towards the future.

**PI:** How has PhotoVoice contributed to the development of ADMI and their role in the community?

**Lykes:** ADMI is enhancing its current programs and developing new community-based projects that respond to the needs of women and children in Chajul and in neighboring villages. The 20 women who were a part of the PhotoVoice team now identify themselves as photographers and historians. As significantly, a core group participated in training that prepared them for roles to strengthen their organization—they have honed analytic skills, developed computer skills, and learned how to balance financial accounts for various projects. Several have written grant proposals to support new initiatives and others have spoken publicly in national and international forums about their work. Others represent ADMI in national efforts to pressure the Guatemalan government to fulfill its promises made to the Maya communities as part of the Peace Accords.

Although the war has ended, the military still staff a post outside Chajul and human rights, religious, and mental health workers continue to be killed because of the work they are doing. The women who participated in the project risked their lives to tell their stories of violence, organized repression, and survival. Ana Caba, one of the participants in PhotoVoice, and the Coordinator of ADMI, tells us why:

“…With the project of PhotoVoice we are observing that we women and others who have suffered from the violence and have lived those experiences of violence are able to remember it, and this is very important, because there are many who are growing up now who did not live this suffering and don’t think it existed because they did not see it. In contrast, there are many people like ourselves who live and suffer this in our own flesh, and we are remembering it. When we interview a person who has suffered this and also seen her family die, well, there is a relief for them to be able to tell their story to another person [in their community]. One thinks that they are also asking for relief and that they are also asking that this violence, that this war never return. Through PhotoVoice we are also seeking a means whereby the international community can offer its help so that this violence, will never happen again. For us then this project is very important.”

All proceeds from the sale of *Voices e Imágenes: Mujeres Maya Ixiles de Chajul* go to ADMI. The book is available from EPICA (epicabooks@igc.org) in Washington, DC.
International Snapshots

Henry P. David Will Receive Lifetime Achievement Award: Henry P. David will receive the 2001 American Psychological Foundation’s Gold Medal for Life Achievement in Psychology in the Public Interest at the 109th APA Convention in San Francisco. David has played an active role in promoting psychology internationally throughout his career. In 1963, he became the associate director of the World Federation for Mental Health in Geneva, Switzerland. He was the first male to be elected president of the International Council of Psychologists (1967-1969). He first served on APA’s Committee on International Relations in Psychology in 1974 and was elected Chair in 1991. Through a donation to the APF, David established an International Travel Award to support a young psychologist who has demonstrated an interest in human reproductive behavior or population studies. In 1972, David founded the Transnational Family Research Institute, an independent nonprofit organization in the behavioral sciences that focuses on reproductive behavior, and he remains its director today. David is the author, co-author, or editor of 17 books and over 300 articles, including a forthcoming book chapter on the history of international psychology.

Fellowships Are Available to Behavioral Scientists For Cancer Research: The American Cancer Society is funding international fellowships for candidates who propose research projects on the psychosocial and behavioral aspects of cancer including, prevention (through detection and screening), treatment, and survivorship and end-of-life issues. Twelve-month fellowships are available for investigators and clinicians who are in the early stages of their careers. The application closing date is December 1, 2001. Application forms and information may be obtained from the Fellowship Department of the International Union Against Cancer/Union Internationale Contre le Cancer, 3, rue Conseil-Général, 1205 Geneva, Switzerland; (4122) 809 18 40 (telephone); (4122) 809 18 10 (fax); fellows@uicc.org (e-mail); http://fellows.uicc.org/(website).

International Psychology Division Seeks Award Nominees: The APA Division 52 Mentoring Award is presented annually to a member or affiliate of Division 52 who plays an exceptional mentoring role in an international context. Mentoring may be defined as any of the following activities: (1) mentoring students or faculty in or from other countries; (2) mentoring students who contribute to international research or who go on to work in international settings; (3) promoting projects that advance the education of psychologists with respect to international aspects of psychology; (4) contributing to the development of psychology abroad; and (5) assisting in research and the application of psychology as a profession internationally. Nominations should include a curriculum vita and at least two letters attesting to the mentoring activities of the nominee. Nominations should be sent by March 1, 2002, to Lynn P. Rehm, PhD, Department of Psychology, University of Houston, Houston TX, 77205-5341, USA.

Social Science Research Council Announces New Program: The Global Security and Cooperation Program focuses on issues of peace and security and seeks to nurture innovative research and collaboration across geographic regions. Fellowships on Conflict, Peace, and Social Transformation are now available to help scholars (doctoral and postdoctoral) and practitioners acquire the skills necessary to ask new questions and generate new knowledge about conflict and insecurity. Fellowships have both collaborative training and research components. The next competition deadline is December 1, 2001. There are no citizenship, residency, or nationality requirements. Detailed application information is available from the Program on Global Security and Cooperation, Social Science Research Council, 810 Seventh Avenue, New York, NY 10019, USA; 212-377-2700 (telephone); 212-377-2127 (fax); gsc@ssrc.org (e-mail).

Fulbright Scholar 2002-2003 Awards Are Still Available: The Fulbright Scholar Program offers opportunities in all disciplines and professional fields. Opportunities for lecturing or advanced research in nearly 130 countries are available to college and university faculty and professionals outside academe. US citizenship and the PhD or comparable professional qualifications are required. For lecturing awards, university or college teaching experience is expected. Foreign language skills are needed in some countries, but most lecturing assignments are in English. Deadlines are: August 1, 2001, for lecturing and research grants; November 1, 2001, for international education and academic administrator seminars; and January 1, 2002, for NATO advanced research fellowships and institutional grants. For more information, contact the Council for International Exchange of Scholars, Fulbright Scholar Program, 3007 Tilden Street, NW, Suite 5L, Washington, DC 20008-3009; 202-686-4000 (telephone); 202-362-3442 (fax); http://www.cies.org (website).

Grant Funds Are Available For Conflict Resolution Research: Funds are available from the United States Institute of Peace, which offers support for research, education and training, and the dissemination of information on international peace and conflict resolution. The next deadline for unsolicited grants is October 1, 2001, and notification of awards will be made in February 2002. Application materials are available from the United States Institute of Peace, Grant Program Unsolicited Grants, 1200 17th Street, NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20036; 202-429-3842 (telephone); 202-429-6033 (fax); grant_program@usip.org (e-mail). Applications are also available on-line at http://www.usip.org (website).
International Meetings Calendar

July 29–August 3, 2001
28th Interamerican Congress of Psychology Santiago, CHILE. Contact: Congress SIP 2001, Casilla 216V correo 21, Santiago, Chile. Tel: 56-2-209 61-52 Email: inscripcion@sip2001.org Website: http://www.sip2001.org

July 31 - August, 4, 2001
14th World Conference on Gifted and Talented Barcelona, SPAIN. Contact: World Council for Gifted and Talented Children, Administration Office, 18401 Hiawatha St., Northridge, CA 91326, USA Tel: 1-818-368-7501; Fax: 1-818-368-2163 Email: worldgt@earthlink.net Website: http://www.worldgifted.org or/and www.tds.es/e_h_rey

August 1–4, 2001

August 2–5, 2001
“Trauma Across Cultures”–2001 Conference of the Australasian Critical Stress Association Brisbane, Queensland, AUSTRALIA. Contact: Sally Brown, Conference Organizer. Telephone: 617 3201 2808; Fax: 717 3201 2809 E-mail: sally.brown@uq.net.au Or Leonore Meldrum, Conference Coordinator, at acsajld@hotmail.com

August 9–16, 2001
7th Minnesota International Counseling Institute Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA. Contact: Dr. Thomas Skovholt, Counseling and Student Personnel Psychology Program, College of Education and Human Development, University of Minnesota, 129 Burton Hall, 178 Pillsbury Drive, SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455 USA. Telephone: 612-6827; Fax: 612-625-4063 E-mail: csp-adm@tc.umn.edu Website: http://www.education.umn.edu/edpsych/mici

August 13-17, 2001
South Africa Psychology Congress (PsySSA) Johannesburg, SOUTH AFRICA Contact: PsySSA, Lakeside Place, 1 Ernest Oppenheimer Ave., Bruma, South Africa Tel: 27 11 616 9373; Fax: 27 11 616 9377 Email: psyssa@psyss.co.za Website: http://www.psyss.co.za

August 19–22, 2001
20th International Human Science Research Conference Tokyo, JAPAN. Contact: Japan IHSRC Planning Committee, Counseling Institute, Tashio University, Nishisugamo 3-20-1, Toshima-ku, Tokyo 170-8470, Japan. E-mail: IHSRC@mail.tais.ac.jp Website: http://www.tais.ac.jp/ihsrc

August 20–24, 2001
International Congress for Psychotherapy–"Psychotherapy: Dialogues Between East and West" Kunming, CHINA. Contact: Prof. Ille Oelhaf, German–Chinese Academy of Psychotherapy, Kunming Kongress 2001, Agathenstr. 3, 20357 Hamburg, Germany Tel/Fax: 040 41355196 E-mail: KunmingCongress@aol.com Website: http://www.dcap-psychotherapy-china.de

Congress Bureau for Asian participants: Prof. Zhao Xu Dong, First Affiliated Hospital for Kunming, Xi-Chang Road 153, 650032 Kunming, China. Fax: 008671 5336015

August 22–26, 2001
10th European Conference on Developmental Psychology Uppsala, SWEDEN. Contact: Uppsala Kongress & Konferens AB “ECDP,” Dragarbrunnsgatan 35, SE-753 20, Uppsala, Sweden. Telephone: 46-18-15 00 60; Fax: 46-18-13 40 50 E-mail: kongress@ukkab.se

August 24–29, 2001
16th World Congress on Psychosomatic Medicine Goteborg, SWEDEN. Contact: ICPM 2001, c/o Congrex Goteborg AB, PO Box 5078, SE 402-22 Goteborg, Sweden Website: http://www.icpm.org

August 26–September 1, 2001
International Lesbian and Gay Association Global Summit Oakland, California, USA. E-mail: ilgaokaland2001@aol.com Website: ilgaokaland.org/

August 27–31, 2001
3rd International Conference on Cognitive Science (ICCSS2001) Beijing, CHINA. Contact: E-mail: iccss2001org@mail.blcs.ac.cn Website: http://www.blcs.ac.cn/iccss2001

August 30–September 2, 2001
Suicidality - Psychoanalysis International Congress: The Current State of Research and Treatment - Future Perspectives Hamburg, GERMANY Contact: CCH Congress Organization, St. Petersburger Str. 1, D-20355, Hamburg, Germany. Tel: (040) 35 69 23 47; Fax: (040) 35 69 22 69 E-mail: suicidality@cch.de Website: http://www.suicidality.de/congress

September 1-5, 2001
6th European Conference on Psychological Assessment Aachen, GERMANY Contact: Website: http://www.eapa.rwth-aachen.de

September 20–22, 2001
World Association for Public Opinion Research (WAPOR) Annual Conference Rome, ITALY. Contact: Dr. Connie de Boer, Associate Professor, Amsterdam School of Communication Research, University of Amsterdam, Oude Hoogstraat 24, 1012 CE Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Telephone: 31-20-525-3978; Fax: 31-20-525-3681 E-mail: cdeboer@pscw.uva.nl

September 21–25, 2001
36th Annual Conference of the Australian Psychological Society (APS) Adelaide, AUSTRALIA Contact: Conference Team, Australian Psychological Society, 1 Grattan Street Carlton VIC 3053, Australia. Telephone: 61 3 8662 3300; Fax: 61 3 9663 6177 E-mail: confer@psychsociety.com.au Web: http://www.aps.psychsociety.com.au

September 26 - 29, 2001
VII National Congress of Social Psychology Oviedo, SPAIN Contact: Website: http://www.uniovi.es/~Psi/csocial/index.html

October 8 -10, 2001
ISLM 2001- International Seminar on Learning & Motivation Tanjung Bungah, Penang, MALAYSIA Contact: Rosna A.Hashim, Institute for Child & Adolescent Educational Advancement (IKRAK), Northern University of Malaysia, 06010, Kedah Darul Aman, Malaysia. Tel: 04-928-3412; Fax: 04-928-5750 E-mail: rosna@uum.edu.my Website: http://www.ium.edu.my/sbps/ikrak/islm

Additional international meetings can be found on the Office of International Affairs Homepage at http://www.apa.org/international, on the IUPsyS Homepage at http://www.iupsys.org, or in the International Journal of Psychology available at many libraries.
October 12–16, 2001
3rd Pan-Asia-Pacific Conference on Mental Health (PAPCMH) Beijing, CHINA Contact: The Third Pan-Asia-Pacific Conference on Mental Health, No. 5, Ankang Hutong, Deshengmen Wai, Beijing 100088, China. Telephone: 86-10-82085465; Fax: 86-10-62012742 E-mail: PAPCMH2001@psycn.com or adrdlzj@public3.bta.net.cn

October 25–27, 2001
Feminine Ways: International Conference on Women’s Health and Psychopathology Oporto, PORTUGAL. Contact: Teresa McIntyre or Barbara Figueiredo, Departamento de Psicologia, Universidade do Minho, Campus de Gualtar, 4700 Braga, Portugal E-mail: feminino@iep-uminho.pt

November 13–16, 2001
4th International Workshop on Latin American and Caribbean Psychology Santiago de Cuba, CUBA. Contact: Marazul Tours, Tower Plaza Mall, 4100 Park Avenue, Weehawken, NJ 09087. Telephone: (800) 223-5334 E-mail: info@marazultours.com Website: http://www.marazultours.com

November 28–30, 2001
Spearman 2001 - Extending Intelligence: Enhancement and New Constructs Sydney, NSW, AUSTRALIA Contact: Spearman Seminar, c/o Gerry Pallier, Department of Psychology, The University of Sydney, Sydney, NSW 2006, Australia Tel: 61 2 9351 3770; Fax: 61 2 9351 2603 E-mail: spearman@psych.usyd.edu.au Website: http://www.psych.usyd.edu.au/spearman

December 2001
South Asia Regional Conference on Scientific and Applied Psychology: Enhancing Human Potential Mumbai, INDIA Contact: B.L. Barness, President, BPA, Department of Psychology, SNDT Women’s University, Mumbai 400020 Tel: 91-22-2052970; 91-22-3640846; 91-22-3878787 Email: bb7d@hotmail.com Website: http://www.iaapsy.org/Mumbai.htm