An Interview with 2011 APA President Melba Vasquez

2011 APA President Melba Vasquez, PhD is an independent practitioner in Austin, Texas. Her expertise is in the areas of ethics, multicultural psychotherapy, the psychology of women, supervision and training. Before receiving a doctorate in Counseling Psychology from the University of Texas at Austin, Dr. Vasquez taught English and political science to middle school students. She has since served as a member of the APA Minority Fellowship Program and as a chair of numerous APA boards, committees, and task forces. Major projects included co-founding Division 45—Society for the Psychological Study of Ethnic Minority Issues, Division 56—Trauma Psychology, and the National Multicultural Conference and Summit. Dr. Vasquez has received many awards for her work, including both the Heiser Award and the AAP Advocacy Award for her role in advocating for psychology at the state and federal legislative levels. She has published 3 books and more than 65 articles and book chapters.

PI: Some APA members are excited about the prospects of international outreach and activities; others believe that APA, as a national organization, should focus within its own borders and leave international activities to international organizations. How do you feel about these two perspectives?

Vasquez: The question implies that the two activities could be exclusive of each other; I am a firm believer that APA can do a good job of both focusing on psychology at the national level, within our borders, as well as engage in international outreach. The APA members reflect a wide range of career paths, research areas, applications and interest, and some of those include interest in the use of psychological knowledge internationally. We live in a time where technology facilitates a global understanding in many areas, including psychology. Learning about psychology outside our borders can also enrich our understanding of our discipline within our borders.

PI: In your candidate statement, you wrote that psychology is an increasingly global discipline and pledged to focus APA’s efforts to “increase communication and collaboration with international psychologists, develop student and professional exchange programs, and continue its response during times of disaster.” In your opinion, how has APA succeeded in these objectives, and what can still be done to continue on this path?

Vasquez: The first ever strategic plan conducted by the governance of the APA was finalized in 2010. The process resulted in the development of a mission statement, a vision statement, and the identification of core values. The vision statement of the APA is that it “…aspires to excel as a valuable, effective and influential organization advancing"
psychology as a science...", including that APA serves as:

- a principal leader and global partner promoting psychological knowledge and methods to facilitate the resolution of personal, societal and global challenges in diverse, multicultural and international contexts; (http://www.apa.org/about/index.aspx).

This commitment positions APA to seek a place at the international table. It provides further support to the Office of International Affairs and the Committee on International Relations in Psychology (CIRP) as well as the Division of International Psychology to continue their roles as Learning Partners internationally. Involvement by the Office of International Affairs and key members, including officers of the APA in a variety of activities, such as attendance and presentations at international conferences, development of collaborative agreements with various international psychological associations, collaboration with national psychology associations through Memoranda of Understanding, and various other projects and activities have increased, and will likely continue to increase.

PI: Do you have any advice for psychologists who wish to assume a more international perspective and how APA as an organization might help to foster that?

Vasquez: I would suggest that psychologists join the APA Division 52—International Psychology, which represents psychologists interested in fostering international connections among psychologists, engage in multicultural research or practice, apply psychological principles to the development of public policy, or otherwise address individual and group consequences of global events. Regular review of the APA website, the Office of International Affairs web pages, and the Monitor can also keep one up to date on key issues and events.

PI: Which areas have particular urgency or offer particular opportunities for APA members in the international arena?

Vasquez: A few years ago, three major international associations, the International Union of Psychological Science (IUPsyS), the International Association of Applied Psychology (IAAP) and the International Association for Cross Cultural Psychology (IACCP) endorsed the Universal Declaration of Ethical Principles for Psychologists. This document, which was developed on the basis of broad international consensus, speaks to the common values framework that guides and inspires psychologists worldwide toward the highest ethical ideals in their professional and scientific work. This year, as part of the 12th European Congress of Psychology held in Istanbul, some of the ethics track symposia addressed the importance of finding the overlap between those ethical principles and those of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. I believe that this illustrates an international social justice development that is parallel to APA’s evolution of incorporating human rights and other aspects of social justice in our Ethics Code as well.

The Committee of International Affairs has supported a number of social justice resolutions through the APA Council of Representatives (see the APA website) over time. Those tend to surface when we become aware of the importance of taking an active role in changing the conditions of society, in both the national and global arenas.

PI: One of your stated goals for this year is to promote the development of telepsychology guidelines. Pending these guidelines, how do you think this method might contribute to the internationalization of psychology?

Vasquez: The goal of the Task Force is to develop a document that provides guidance for today’s practitioners, especially focusing on the use of technology and related issues that practitioners face each day in their practices. The Task Force members reflect an expertise and knowledge of the issues that practitioners must address each day in the use of technology, ethical considerations, access to care, mobility, inter-jurisdictional practice, and scope of practice, to name only a few. Attention to the internationalization of psychology is an issue that the Task Force may decide to include.

PI: One of your presidential initiatives deals with the issue of immigration. Did the work of this task force include an international or global perspective? How might this report apply to the experience of immigration outside the US?

Vasquez: The primary goal of the immigration report is to describe, in broad strokes, the diverse population of immigrants in the United States, and then address the psychological experience of immigration considering factors that impede and facilitate adjustment. While mention is made about immigration as a world-wide phenomenon, the length of the report necessitates focus on the experience of immigration in the US. This is not to say that these are not important international issues for APA. Certainly, addressing the immigrant experience in the United States is enriched by understanding people's countries of origin and their social and historical context.

PI: You recently traveled to Colombia for the 33rd Interamerican Congress of Psychology and to Turkey for the 12th European Congress of Psychology. What were you able to take away from these conferences? How might these experiences affect your views on internationalizing psychology?

Vasquez: At both the XXXIII Interamerican Congress of Psychology in Medellin, Colombia, and at the 12th European Congress of Psychology (Istanbul, Turkey), ethics and the importance of social responsibility were major, evolving themes. I was inspired by this, and see that we have a parallel evolution in our country as well.

It is humbling to attend meetings whose contributors and attendees represented so many different countries (100 in Medellin; 70 in Turkey)! It is clearer to me that ever that
much innovation in methods of training, conducting research, practice and attempts to apply psychology to problems in societies occur all over the world. We are more than ever, a global human society and discipline.

Challenges are also comparable, such as that expressed by the president of the Turkish Psychological Association. When I spoke, in one of my talks, about the evidence about the effectiveness of psychotherapy (as an indication that psychology is a thriving discipline), she expressed concern that the previous week, psychiatrists had tried to have the Turkish legislature declare psychotherapy as a medical intervention! Turf wars occur worldwide, unfortunately!

Attendance at international conferences has been one of the highlights of my presidency, and I so appreciate the opportunity! I encourage all who are able to attend and participate in international conferences in psychology at some point!Ψ

Summer 2011:
APA Attends Regional Conferences of Psychology

APA President Melba Vasquez and several other APA leaders and staff were active participants in the two major regional conferences of psychology during Summer 2011 – the 33rd Interamerican Congress of Psychology (SIP) in Medellin, Colombia, and the 12th European Congress of Psychology (ECP) in Istanbul, Turkey.

33rd Interamerican Congress of Psychology (SIP)
Medellin, Colombia

APA President Melba Vasquez and staff from International Affairs and APA Books joined over 2,000 colleagues from 100 countries at the SIP Congress, whose theme was “Science Serving Humanity.” Spread over 5 days in the Medellin “Plaza Major” Exhibition Center, the Congress provided a forum for psychologists to meet and share experiences, to network, and to gain new professional contacts and ideas. It also provided an opportunity for international organizations and national associations of psychology in Colombia and the rest of the Americas to meet together, exchange information, and develop plans for future collaboration.

APA President Melba Vasquez’s keynote talk on APA’s social justice activities attracted lively discussion, as did round table discussions with leaders of other psychology associations on collaboration and exchange, and on international communication. Vasquez also hosted a welcome reception for the Congress organizers, local universities, invited keynote speakers, student volunteers, and APA members, that was held in Medellin’s botanical garden.

On the occasion of the SIP Congress, APA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Colegio Colombiano de Psicólogos (COLPSIC), an organization of 17,000 psychologists in Colombia. APA and COLPSIC will develop activities under the aegis of the MOU to foster ethics education and training, as well as curriculum development. Colombia joins 6 other associations that have signed an MOU with APA — the Jordanian Psychological Association, the Psychological Society of South Africa, the British Psychological Society, the Australian Psychological Society, the Canadian Psychological Association, and the Norwegian Psychological Association. APA also plans to sign an MOU with the Mexican Psychological Society at the APA Convention in August.

While in Medellin, APA representatives also met with faculty at universities to discuss strategies for international exchange and collaboration, and visited local community projects such as “Buen Comienzo” (Good Beginnings), a preschool program to provide community-based education and support in some of the poorest areas of Medellin.

The next Interamerican Congress will be held in Brasilia, Brazil in July, 2013.
12th European Congress of Psychology (ECP)
Istanbul, Turkey

APA President Melba Vasquez, Board members Carol Goodheart (Past-President), Barry Anton and Kurt Geisinger, and APA staff from the Office of International Affairs, Ethics, Books, and Marketing attended the European Congress of Psychology and participated in symposia on ethics, international collaboration, evidence based practice, and testing.

Along with over 2,200 attendees from 70 countries, the ECP—whose theme was “Understanding & Embracing Diversity”—included special tracks on ethics, tests and testing, and European education (see interview with Melba Vasquez, this issue).

After the Congress, APA staff attended the General Assembly of the European Federation of Psychologists’ Associations (EFPA) as observers. Highlights included reports on the EuroPsy process, a new look to the European Psychologist as it encourages more “big picture” contributions and reviews, and strategic mechanisms for public information and knowledge initiatives. ☜

Global Mental Health:
A Resource Map for Connecting and Contributing
© By Kelly O’Donnell, PsyD

“But the world is not so happy a place...can we really offer justice and freedom from want to a mid-twenty-first-century earth of perhaps nine billion people, one-third of whom may live in squalor and desperation?...the only answer, as I can see it, is by trying...and not giving up.”


When was the last time you were lost—professionally? For me, it was last year. I was trying to better understand a vast, amorphous entity that has recently blossomed into a major social movement—the multi-sectoral and multidisciplinary field of global mental health (GMH). I wanted to explore this strategic health domain and its priority of improving and achieving equality in mental health for all people worldwide (Vikram Patel and Martin Prince. Global Mental Health: A New Global Health Field Comes of Age, Journal of the American Medical Association 2010; 303(19): 1976).

I thought sorting out GMH would be pretty easy going, having lived and worked internationally as a consulting psychologist for nearly 25 years. But it reminded me of trying to grasp the multi-layered reality in movies like Matrix, Syriana, or Inception. It was as intriguing as it was daunting. And I was not alone in this mixed experience.

Over the course of a year, I read, researched, attended conferences, listened to lectures, and met with some of the GMH’s remarkable movers and shakers. I figured that if I could at least identify some recent hallmarks and some major precursors, I could begin a map of GMH.

A Global Map for a Global Movement

A first entry is to map out the resources, priorities, and policies regarding global mental health. This mapping shows a large population of vulnerable people and great disparities in resources. For example, an estimated 450 million humans have some type of mental, neurological, or substance use disorder, accounting for about 14% of the “global burden of disease.” Nearly 75% of neuropsychiatric disorders occur in low- and middle-income countries, with the majority receiving no care. Pouring over such statistical realities from the World Health Organization (WHO) was the most disconcerting part of my GMH mapping project.

The global map for GMH is characterized by missing pieces and shifting, overlapping borders. It is analogous to a 17th century map of the earth—a cartographic work in progress just waiting to be further refined.

APA Presentations

Interamerican Congress of Psychology:

- “Ethics in Psychology” — Keynote, Melba Vasquez
- Symposium: “Colaboración Internacional en la Psicología: Retos y Oportunidades (International Collaboration in Psychology: Challenges and Opportunities)” — Participant, Melba Vasquez
- “Communicating about Psychology Around the World” — Merry Bullock & Judith Gibbons

European Congress of Psychology:

- Symposium: “Ethics in Action: Documents, Decision Making, and Regulation” — Merry Bullock & Stephen Behnke
- Symposium: “Psychoquackery: Discredited Tests and Treatments in Psychology” — Discussants, Melba Vasquez & Barry Anton
- “A Thriving Psychology: Challenges and Complexities” — Keynote, Melba Vasquez

Melba Vasquez gives a keynote speech on the challenges and complexities of a thriving psychology at the ECP in Istanbul, Turkey.
Touring the Terrain: The 60 Minute GMHer

The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes. ~Marcel Proust

Want to get a quick overview of GMH without getting lost? Have a go at exploring this list of 10 concise resources—written and multimedia. Reviewing these materials takes about 60 minutes. This overview is also a great tool to stimulate discussion about ways to connect and contribute to GMH. These materials can also be accessed via the links in the Mental Health section at: [www.ngo-forum-health.ch](http://www.ngo-forum-health.ch).

But beware: It can be both inspiring and unsettling to journey into the core of GMH: the plight of the millions of people with mental conditions. Some courageously overcome their difficulties and lead productive lives via supportive communities and quality care. Most others though live in misery, often marked with social isolation, discrimination, human rights abuses, and increased mortality.

1. **Two initial quotes on mental health and human rights.**

   “Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. Mental health is a state of well-being in which an individual realizes his or her own abilities, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and is able to make a contribution to his or her community.”

   ~World Health Organization, 2010

   “All persons have the right to the best available mental health care, which shall be part of the health and social care system. All persons with a mental illness, or who are being treated as such persons, shall be treated with humanity and respect for the inherent dignity of the human person….Every person with a mental illness shall have the right to exercise all civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights…”

   ~United Nations General Assembly, 1991

2. **Global video tour of GMH, WHO (2009; five minutes)**

3. **Summary statistics from two WHO Fact Sheets (2010):**
   - Ten Facts on Mental Health
   - Mental Health: Strengthening Our Response

4. **GMH overview in the British Journal of Psychiatry (2011):**
   - Movement for Global Mental Health

5. **Brief article in Health Policy and Planning (2008):**
   - 10 Best Resources on Mental Health

6. **World Mental Health Day (WMHD, 1992-2011), World Federation for Mental Health.** Convened annually (October 10) via many events around the world, WMHD over the last two decades reflects many of the historical concerns of GMH. The 2011 theme is *Investing in Mental Health*. [Click here](http://www.ngo-forum-health.ch) to see a list of all the WMHD themes (on the NGO Forum for Health website).

7. **Journalistic articles and personal accounts of mental conditions.** Here is an example from Nepal: (Lamichhane, Jagannath (2011). An Uncharacteristic Happy Ending. *The Kathmandu Post*.)


9. **Intervention guidelines for priority conditions (2010):** mhGAP Intervention Guide for Mental, Neurological and Substance Use Disorders in Non-Specialized Health Settings (See the introductory materials on pages 1-8).

10. **Video from the Banyan in Chennai, India**
    This is one of the many organizations that have inspired me during my research. This five-minute video about their work with homeless women who have mental disorders, is an aesthetic and encouraging reminder of the *raison d’être* for our GMH efforts—improving the lives of fellow humans in dire need. For more information, please visit the Banyan website at [www.thebanyan.org](http://www.thebanyan.org).
Charting Your Course: Suggestions for Connecting and Contributing to GMH

“The capacity to cause change grows in an individual over time as small-scale efforts lead gradually to larger ones. But the process needs a beginning—a story, an example, an early taste of success—something along the way that helps a person from a belief that it is possible to make the world a better place. Those who act on such a belief spread it to others. They are highly contagious. Their stories must be told.”


Would more people consider GMH as a career, or as a significant part of one’s career, if the path were clearer? Definitely. Is it possible for people to get a better idea about how to access GMH-related updates and core resources? Definitely. Could GMH perspectives/practices be included more as part of health-related training programs, professional conferences, collegial interactions, and work activities? Definitely. And above all, would the wellbeing of the most vulnerable people drastically improve, as a result of the greater integration of GMH into the lives and practices of health care workers, policy makers, and government leaders? Definitely! Here now are seven items to help people from a variety of backgrounds further connect/contribute to GMH.

1. Enjoy Exploring GMH. Review GMH via reading/discussing, taking the time to explore several of the links and materials. Identify a few core newsletter updates and information places (web sites) to which you want to regularly connect.

2. Find Your GMH Passion(s). What are you already interested in or involved in, such as a specific disorder, population, language group, region, organization, network, issue, service, project, or media form? Stay current and focused in your area(s) of GMH passion—your “global niche.”

3. Stretch Yourself. Be prepared to expand your personal and professional GMH boundaries. Take some risks and keep growing in your GMH mindset and involvement. Follow a continuum as you plot your GMH course, reflecting the extent (breadth) of your “global stretches,” from Globe-small to Globe-all.

4. Stay Sane. Maintain your work-life balance and avoid being overwhelmed with the expansive and almost “multi-everything” nature of GMH. Consider a GMH involvement continuum, with its two reference points, to help identify the degree (depth) to which you want to connect/contribute to a specific area: Informed to Immersed.

5. Persevere. It will take time and effort to find your flow in GMH. You may feel lost, unappreciated, or alone, at times. This is certainly true of those who do GMH advocacy or pioneer new GMH areas. It’s like learning a language—it takes time and effort and social contexts to learn it well. Don’t go alone but try to find a “caravan of colleagues” to help you on your journey.

6. Get Involved. Join a GMH-related organization—join the Movement for Global Mental Health (MGMH). There are GMH-related social networks, blogs, web sites, and groups of which you can be part. Be part of World Mental Health Days in October. Introduce GMH-related items/topics into your setting. Conferences—yes! A part of a commitment to lifelong learning can be to take advantage of informal training available on line. Keep going with GMH, in spite of obstacles.

7. Do life well. Be open to the ongoing exploration of your lifestyle choices, values, and barriers in our own minds including fears and prejudices in light of GMH realities. Continue to explore and refine this global map as you connect and contribute to GMH. Celebrate life in spite of its hardships. I finish now with a short video to guide us further: mhGAP: Mental health care in low resource settings.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Kelly O’Donnell PsyD, is actively involved in GMH as Coordinator of the Mental Health-Psychosocial Working Group of the Geneva-based NGO Forum for Health. He is also a consulting psychologist and the CEO of Member Care Associates, Inc. and an APA International Affiliate. Together with his wife Michèle, also a psychologist, he provides member care internationally for personal, team, and organizational health. Kelly’s publications include over fifty articles in the member care field, and four books including Doing Member Care Well: Perspectives and Practices from Around the World (2002) and Global Member Care: The Pearls and Perils of Good Practice (2011). He also enjoys providing a steady stream of “reflections and resources for good practice” via the Member Care Associates websites.

NOTES:

1. This article is based on a longer working paper that highlights the last two decades of GMH developments. It collectively forms a “global resource map” to a) help people from a variety of backgrounds to better "navigate the GMH world" and b) consider meaningful ways to further connect and contribute. The working paper explores six overlapping GMH areas: organizations, conferences/events, publications, human rights, training, and the humanitarian sector. To review the working paper and to send suggestions, contact the author at: MCAresources@gmail.com.

2. All the links in this article are available in the Mental Health section at: www.ngo-forum-health.ch.
Mental Health in Nepal: The Voices of Koshish

By Matrika Devkota, Founder & Chair of Koshish

Matrika Devkota is a mental health advocate who lives in Kathmandu, Nepal. After experiencing the discriminatory attitudes toward mental illness and the lack of mental health resources in his country, Matrika founded Koshish as a “self help” organization where those with mental disorders are given a voice and an opportunity to advocate on their own behalf.

Nepal is a country full of different cultures and traditions; but when it comes to mental illness, each of these cultures shares the same concepts. In Nepal, most of the people think that suffering from mental illness is the same as being mad, becoming unfit to remain in society and the family due to loss of control over self, or even being possessed by a holy spirit or a black magic. Individuals with severe mental disorders, as well as their family members, are targets of stigma and discrimination to the point where they hesitate to come forward for appropriate treatment. Even patients with neurotic disorders do not like to consult mental health professionals because of the stigma of mental disease. Although Nepal’s constitution regards health as a basic human right, the system’s definition of health and its exclusion of psychological care has led to a faulty understanding of this right, and the Nepali Health Care System neglects this aspect of people’s health care treatments.

In terms of financing, less than 1% of healthcare expenditures by the government are directed toward mental health. Although as yet there is no separate mental health legislation, a final draft of mental health legislation has been prepared and under review in the ministry of health. The law in Nepal continues to define mental illness as a madness. In the civil code, the legal definition of mental illness is not clarified, but the language of the legislation refers to someone with a broken mind. As noted above, this attitude is reflected in everyday practice.

The number of mental health care professionals in Nepal is low. According to a report by the World Health Organization Assessment Instrument for Mental Health Systems (WHO-AIMS 2006), the breakdown according to profession is:

- 32 Psychiatrists (0.129 per 100,000 population),
- 6 Psychologists (0.024 per 100,000 population),
- 16 Other medical doctors, unspecialized in psychiatry (0.0645 per 100,000 population),
- 68 Nurses (0.274 per 100,000 population),
- No social workers, No occupational therapists.

STRENGTHS:

Despite its challenges, attention to mental health in Nepal is increasing. The country has a national mental health policy, and human resource development is gradually taking place. In addition, there is a network within the general health service system where mental health can be integrated. There is a gradual increase in awareness of mental health in the general population, and the number of people seeking treatment in the mental health institution has increased. Psychotropic drugs are widely available, and are included up to the primary health center in the “essential drug” list.

CHALLENGES:

Although increased awareness of mental health and mental disorders is to be welcomed, there are important challenges in access to mental health care in Nepal. These include:

- Lack of adequate mental health professionals and treatment facilities. There is only one mental health hospital in the country, and mental health services are not easily available in rural and remote areas.
- Mental health infrastructure is poor and human resources are not sufficient to meet the need. At present, most psychiatric wards are staffed and run by general nursing staff without specialized training in mental health or disorder.
- Governmental structures to address mental health are not yet in place. Although legislation is planned, there is presently no division for mental health under the Ministry of Health, and there is not an adequate budget for mental health services.
There are no consumer or professional organizations that advocate for mental health issues.

Given the lack of services and medical infrastructure, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have been working to provide mental health and other services. One such organization is Koshish Nepal.

ABOUT KOSHISH

Koshish is a non-governmental organization registered in the District of Kathmandu, with the approval of Nepal Social Welfare Council in 2008. The organization evolved from the commitment of a few people who used mental health services in Nepal and recognized the need for improved systems and reduced stigma. The word “koshish” means “making an effort” in Nepalese, and this new organization decided to make an effort to mainstream mental health and psychosocial disability. These efforts began in 2004 by providing support for homeless persons with mental illness. Koshish is a pioneer mental health self-help organization working with a rights-based perspective for persons with mental disability in Nepal. The organization is lobbying to get public and policy attention for persons with mental disability and has been involved in the rehabilitation of dozens of people affected by mental illness. One case story, repeated here with permission of those involved, will help illustrate Koshish’s activities.

SETI'S STORY

Seti’s reintegration in the family is one of the successful case stories. Seti is a 43-year-old woman who lives in the western part of Nepal. Three years ago, her husband—who worked as an agent for foreign companies seeking employees—passed away, and Seti entered a prolonged period of mental disorder. She traveled to Kathmandu, stayed at the Pashupatinath temple, and then began living out on the streets. Her family tried to find her in every possible way, but they failed. Seti lived in the street for three months. She had no knowledge of herself or her family. People called her Boulahi, meaning “insane woman,” and Seti faced an overwhelming amount of cruel behavior from even the most respected people who saw her.

Seti was rescued from the street in October 2010 with the support of police. With the support of Koshish and police, she was taken to a private rehabilitation center. For more than one month, Seti still suffered from her mental disarray. She didn’t know who she was and didn’t like to wear clothes or sandals. Over the next months, her health showed gradual improvement. She regained her memories, and her illusions and hallucinations were gone. She realized the importance of taking medicine and started behaving normally. Seti shared information about her family, and Koshish was able to find her relatives. Seti’s son came to take her home and was given consultations on his mother’s care so that possible relapse could be avoided.

This story, and others like it, are important to illustrate in Nepal and to the local population. To learn more about the work and mission of Koshish, please visit the website at www.koshishnepal.org.

Seti experienced extreme mental distress after the death of her husband. Having lost her memory, she left her family and moved to Kathmandu, where she lived on the streets for 3 months.

A recovered Seti poses with her son. With the rehabilitative assistance of Koshish, she was able to regain her memory and reunite with her family.

The Committee on International Affairs in Psychology is developing a database of international psychology experts. The ROMEO database (Roster of APA Members with Expertise Outside the U.S.) lists psychologists with expertise in substantive areas and expertise working outside the U.S. To nominate or self-nominate for this resource, please see www.apa.org/international/governance/cirp/experts.
Introducing ORTHO: The American Orthopsychiatric Association

By Natallia Sianko, 2010-2011 Washington Fellow, American Orthopsychiatric Association

ABOUT ORTHO

The American Orthopsychiatric Association (Ortho) is a multidisciplinary association of professionals interested in the intersection of mental health, social justice, and human rights. Since its inception more than 85 years ago, Ortho has provided a common ground for individuals from a variety of disciplines attempting to generate and advance the knowledge relevant to issues affecting children, adolescents, adults, families, schools, community mental health, and life span development. In developing policies and practices to promote mental wellbeing and advance social justice, Ortho has placed a particular emphasis on the protection of human rights — an internationally recognized strategy to prevent mental disorders.

ORTHO MEMBERS

Ortho is the second, third or fourth professional affiliation for the majority of its members. Professionals from psychology, psychiatry, social work, nursing, epidemiology, public health, education, law, justice studies and other allied disciplines converge in Ortho. This diversity manifests itself not only through various academic affiliations, but also in geographical terms — members of Ortho live all over the world. Students and junior scholars are a growing part of Ortho’s membership. Ortho’s members embody a breadth of viewpoints and perspectives that cannot be incorporated in any single discipline or orientation.

HISTORY

Ortho got its name in 1924, when a small group of psychiatrists with a common cause — to unite the work force of those engaged in the study and treatment of human behavior — blended the prefix “Ortho” (from the Greek “to straighten”) with “psychiatry”. Since its founding, Ortho has been a leader in advocating for a “simple but revolutionary idea: The mental health of individuals depends on their social context.” Ortho’s goal has been prevention, particularly in community settings, based on the belief that fostering mental health in family, school, and community contexts will reduce risk for mental disorders.

Ortho has been at the forefront of new approaches to enduring problems: it has provided a scholarly platform for new theories and modalities. Family therapy, group therapy, the community mental health movement and a range of initiatives in services and treatment for children were born in Ortho.

Today, Ortho continues to affirm the importance — and complexity — of understanding how aspects of the social and cultural context affect mental health and well-being.

ORTHO IN ACTION

AMERICAN JOURNAL OF ORTHOPSYCHIATRY

Ortho’s main publication, the American Journal of Orthopsychiatry (AJO), provides a forum for an exchange of ideas related to theory, practice, research, and social action, from psychological, biological, social, and cultural perspectives. With a distinguished history of more than 85 years, the AJO reflects Ortho’s purpose: “to facilitate the generation and exchange of knowledge relevant to the development and implementation of policies and practices consistent with the promotion of mental health and social justice, including the protection of human rights.” Consistent with that mission, AJO publishes articles that clarify, challenge, or re-shape the prevailing understanding of factors related to the prevention and correction of injustice and the sustainable development of a humane and just society. A unique feature of AJO is its magazine-in-a-journal section called The Community — a title that not only signifies the content of interest, but also suggests an intent to generate exchange of ideas, as in website “communities” for social networking. In addition, readers can take part in Ortho’s continuing education (CE) program and earn a CE credit by reading designated articles in the AJO. Ortho members receive the journal free as a membership benefit. To learn more about journal submission and guidelines, visit http://www.wiley.com/bw/submit.asp?ref=0002-9432&site=1.

CONFERENCES

Ortho organizes and supports professional meetings around themes related to mental health research, policy, and practice. Such events provide members an opportunity to delve into issues of interest and to develop strategies for addressing relevant social issues, often at reduced costs.
AWARDS
Ortho has a distinguished history of supporting outstanding contributions to mental health research and related professional service to the public interest. Ortho seeks to recognize exemplary work consistent with its values and, in particular, to give encouragement to students in the mental health disciplines who are engaged in creating humane social policy, promoting human rights, improving existing polices especially in relation to disadvantaged populations, and many more. Awards include: Blanche L. Ittleson, Max Hayman, Marion Langer, Vera Paster, and Presidential Awards. For descriptions of these awards, visit www.aoa.com/award.

Jacob Massaquio accepts the 2008 Max Hayman Award—in honor of distinguished mental health scholarship contributing to the elimination of genocide—for his work with the African Refuge in Staten Island, New York.

TASK FORCES
In the interest of informing professional practice and public policy, Ortho organizes periodic study groups and joins other task forces related to these goals. Consistent with Ortho’s values, Ortho encourages an interdisciplinary dialogue among members of task forces that include mental health professionals, child advocates, academicians, policymakers, service providers, and others interested in promoting a specific aspect of mental wellbeing or advocating for a social change. Recently, Ortho task forces have focused on issues related to addressing the mental health needs of children of homeless families, promoting a more humane approach to meeting the needs of immigrants, and developing a framework for understanding the right to benefit from scientific progress in the context of mental health research.

WASHINGTON POLICY NEWSBLASTS
Ortho Washington NewsBlast is a monthly online bulletin from the Washington Policy Fellow that provides an overview of relevant policy developments in Washington, D.C., highlights research and other resources in the areas of interest to Ortho members, and reviews upcoming symposia and research and advocacy events consistent with Ortho’s values. The most recent NewsBlast can be found at www.aoatoday.com/news.

AND MUCH MORE!
Ortho has many opportunities for everyone at every stage of their professional development. To explore more potential benefits and to learn more, please visit the website at www.aoatoday.com.

Going International:
A Practical Guide for Psychologists
The APA Committee on International Relations in Psychology has recently published a practical guide for psychology academics going abroad. This guide includes tips on developing a culturally competent attitude, exploring professional activities, becoming familiar with educational systems, and adjusting to a new setting. A web version of this brochure can be found at: www.apa.org/international/resources/links.
The Division held its mid-winter Board meeting in March 2011, in Cambridge, Massachusetts — in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association (EPA). As usual, we packed a lot of activity into a five hour meeting, and even had a chance to share an extended coffee break with EPA Executive Officer Fred Bonato, EPA Program Chair Diane Finley, and several of the EPA Board members.

Among the highlights of the Board meeting was our vote to expand the Division 52 Board to include a voting student member, as well as a voting Early Career Psychologist (ECP). Each of these items requires a change in the bylaws and therefore has to be approved by the membership. We also voted to change the name of our mentoring award to the Henry David International Mentoring Award, to honor one of the division’s founders who died last year. Henry was a wonderful person, a terrific mentor to so many people, and a great friend of international psychology. We’re pleased to honor him in this small way.

At the suggestion of the Division President-Elect, Neal Rubin, we encouraged each of our committees to include a Student member as well as an ECP member. We are also creating a column for students and ECPs in our newsletter, the International Psychology Bulletin (IPB). Neal proposed a “Heritage Mentoring Project,” through which we will encourage students to write articles for the IPB about significant international figures in psychology, past and present. The students will be supervised by senior members of the Division. We hope that students and ECPs will find some of these activities attractive and become active members of the Division. We are very aware of our need to encourage our younger members and to provide leadership for the next generation.

In addition to the Board meeting, the Division organized a full program related to our international mission. We presented posters, individual papers, and several symposia on topics ranging from “Psychology in Russia Today” and “Publishing Opportunities in International Psychology” to the impact of human and natural disasters. We also had the chance to share a symposium with Psi Chi, the renowned honor society in psychology which is in the process of transforming itself from a national honor society to an international one. Attendance was strong at all of our events.

Our “regular” program for the APA Convention in August has long been completed. We had more submissions than we could handle in the limited time made available to us and only half of the submitted symposia could be accepted. Fortunately, the program chairs — Senel Poyrazli and Mark Terjesen — were able to turn many of the paper submissions into posters; otherwise the bulk of them would have been rejected for the convention. The Division will host a suite again this year at the Convention, with extensive programming there. A list of programs should be available from the Division booth at the convention. We invite attendees at the convention to drop by, if only for a brief visit. We always have some light refreshments available, and we would enjoy chatting with you.

I’ve saved one of the most important items for last. In January, 2012, the Division will launch its new journal – International Perspectives in Psychology: Research, Consultation, Practice — which will be edited by Judith Gibbons. The editorial board consists of 43 scholars representing 33 countries. This journal is an important extension of the Division’s mission, and we are very excited about its future. ☁
2011 Psychology Day at the UN - A Rousing Event

April 14, 2011 was a full day for psychologists in New York City who attended the 2011 Psychology Day at the United Nations. Beginning with a morning briefing sponsored by the UN Department of Public Information and the permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations, Psychology Day attendees learned about psychology's role in UN activities, initiatives and advocacy. The 2011 Theme “Reach Them to Teach Them” illustrated the focus on one of the UN Millennium Goals – access to education for women and girls. Co-chaired by Deanna Chitayat (APA) and Mary Berry (IAAP), the event included the morning briefing, followed by an afternoon plenary, work groups, and a final “call to action” session. Attendees then adjourned to a local restaurant for a reception and opportunity to continue lively discussions begun during the day.

Psychology Day was begun in 2007 as a way to showcase the activities of psychology in the UN context. It provides an opportunity to share psychology’s role in addressing concerns of global importance to both the UN Mission Diplomats and staff and the psychology community as a whole. The themes have focused on the intersection of psychology’s expertise and UN issues. Psychology Day is a collaborative effort across the several psychology organizations and individual psychologists who are active within the UN headquarters in New York. In addition to APA, these organizations include the International Association of Applied Psychology (IAAP), the International Council of Psychologists (ICP), the International Union of Psychological Science (IUPsyS), Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI), Zonta International, the World Federation for Mental Health, and the World Council of Psychotherapy. Planning begins up to a year in advance, as the organizing group develops a focus and begins to engage the UN community in supporting the effort. To view photos from 2011 Psychology Day, please visit www.flickr.com/photos/62787600@N02.

2011-2012 APA Interns—Students at the United Nations

APA United Nations Representative Janet Sigal, PhD, introduces APA’s new student interns. The UN intern program solicits applications from full-time graduate students in the New York City area with an interest and relevant experience in international psychology issues. The interns work on planning events and assisting the APA team in its NGO committee work.

JOANA KYEI is entering her second year in the Clinical PsyD program at Rutgers University's Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology (GSAPP). She was born and raised in Ghana and attended the University of Ghana for her undergraduate training in Management & Psychology, and her Master’s training in Clinical Psychology. Her professional interests include crisis and trauma interventions, the influence of personality and religious belief systems on coping, female empowerment, and systemic approaches for developing a structured mental health delivery service in Ghana. She is currently working with Dr. Monica Indart, a GSAPP assisting professor, on a pilot initiative to introduce trauma-informed care into the public mental health system in New Jersey. Joana’s motivation for working with APA at the United Nations is to contribute to APA’s advocacy efforts and to gain invaluable experience with an organization dedicated to alleviating suffering and promoting global peace & development.

“The APA-UN internship will provide a unique experience toward my professional goal of restructuring the mental health system in Ghana (where there is no formal recognition of psychologists in the mental health sector) to include other helping professions beside psychiatry in the provision of mental health care. A collaboration with other NGOs in giving psychology a voice will also enable me to transfer this model to other developing countries, beginning with the West African region and helping the millions of people who choose to suffer in silence rather than be labeled a ‘lunatic.’”
CHRISTINA KIRKMAN, a New York City native, is a doctoral student in Developmental Psychology at the City University of New York (CUNY). Christina received her B.A. in Psychology and Italian from Georgetown University and her Master's in Developmental Psychology from Columbia University, Teachers College. Christina is an Enhanced Chancellor's Fellow at CUNY and has taught undergraduate courses in Human Development and Child Psychology at Hunter College since the fall of 2009. Her primary areas of interest and research are human development in atypical contexts, developmental pathways of risk and resilience, processes of decision-making, self-regulation and cognition in context, and theoretical and methodological approaches to measuring global human development. Christina is honored to be joining the APA team at the United Nations for the next year. Her primary interests in working at the UN lie in the promotion of psychological science and research as fundamental information for our increasingly globalized world and for the opportunities inherent in psychologically informed policies, education, and programs of prevention and intervention, on both national and international levels.

FAHAD RAHMAN is a Fulbright Scholarship recipient currently pursuing his Master's degree in Clinical Psychology at Columbia University Teachers College and plans to continue his education and training to the doctoral level. He received an undergraduate degree in social sciences from the Lahore University of Management Science (LUMS), specifically focusing on Anthropology, Sociology and Psychology. Fahad is particularly interested in gender, violence and prejudice against minority groups, as well as cross-cultural differences in mental health. He also serves as a peer counseling fellow at the International House in New York City and conducts research on emotions at the Teachers College. Though he is originally from Islamabad, Pakistan, Fahad has also lived in the UK, Yemen, Texas, and California before moving to New York.

While conducting research work in Pakistani mental health institutions, Fahad discovered a dire need for research on the cross-cultural differences between psychological concepts and practices. He believes this internship is ideal because it enables him to learn and apply psychology to cross-cultural and international issues. He is passionate about the global study of social ills related to gender—such as domestic violence, discrimination against gender non-conformists, and gender-based inequalities in social institutions—and believes the APA at the UN program provides an ideal setting for him to not only apply his education to the issues he feels strongly about, but to also learn more about these issues in a professional setting.

MAGDALENA GALAZYN is a third-year doctoral student in Developmental Psychology at the City University of New York Graduate Center. She received her M.A. from Columbia University in Applied Psychology. At Columbia, she conducted her master’s thesis research on affluent mothers' life satisfaction, their parent-child relationship satisfaction, and their role orientation. Additionally, Magdalena has worked in several research labs, conducting research and publishing in areas such as loss and trauma, addictions, mental illness, and social perception. Currently, Magdalena is teaching Abnormal Psychology at Hunter College and conducting research on issues of development and learning, particularly those of immigrant children and families, with a broader understanding of the nature of contemporary globalization processes. With this diverse experience she hopes to contribute to the United Nations mission, but more importantly, Magdalena hopes to gain additional experience on international policies, practices, and research on behalf of children and youth.
APA and the United Nations: A Reciprocal Relationship

By Juneau Gary and Neal S. Rubin, APA Representatives to the UN Department of Public Information

Both psychology colleagues and members of the UN community have often asked, “What are psychologists doing at the United Nations?” This question often reflects widely held assumptions regarding the traditional roles of psychologists. Psychologists at the UN reach beyond traditional roles and advocate for global social justice by applying behavioral science perspectives to social justice and human rights issues before this world body. Gaining wide acceptance for the value of psychological science and best practices to advance 21st century human rights issues has occurred slowly, yet steadily. When issues requiring a psychological/behavioral perspective come before the General Assembly, psychologists may provide expertise in particular content areas. The team of psychologists representing APA has provided leadership on a range of topics such as climate change, gender equality, STEM education for girls, and global human rights. Psychologists may also lobby ambassadors of Member States (i.e., countries) to assert the necessity of including wording in documents that is consistent with current psychological research and best practices. For example, by providing research findings that underscore the psychosocial impact of HIV and AIDS, emerging documents have included specific references to addressing both health as well as mental health issues in intervention programs. Additionally, psychologists may work with other non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and others in the UN family of organizations (e.g., UNICEF, WHO) to collaborate on a range of pressing issues, as our team actively supports the human rights of all persons throughout the life cycle and around the globe. Through these activities, psychologists at the UN are expanding the traditional roles of our profession while contributing to the meaningful application of behavioral science to improving the lives of the world’s most vulnerable people.

With this as background context, the purpose of this regular column is to provide information about how psychologists are engaged in addressing global social justice and human rights issues at the UN. We hope to engender an understanding of the complexities of the UN system and an appreciation of our strategic initiatives as we advocate for the inclusion of the behavioral dimensions of human rights issues. What has made it possible for the APA Team to influence UN programs and activities in this way?

NGO STATUS: A BRIEF HISTORICAL ACCOUNT

As representatives of nations were drafting the Charter of the United Nations in San Francisco in 1945, there were approximately 100 official participating “consultants.” These “outsiders” successfully lobbied for a consultative role for civil society via non-governmental organizations (NGOs). In other words, these consultants successfully lobbied that ordinary citizens of member nations, people like ourselves, would have a role in the UN system. This collaboration had never been promulgated in documents from the 1944 Dumbarton Oaks Conference, which established the framework for the UN Charter, nor did any ordinary citizen have a role in the structure of the earlier League of Nations in 1918. A portal was created by the consultants in drafting Article 71 of the UN Charter, which permitted the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to provide an avenue for NGOs to consult with UN officials and diplomats on matters presented before the UN world body. “The Economic and Social Council may make suitable arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations which are concerned with matters within its competence. Such arrangements may be made with international organizations and, where appropriate, with national organizations after consultation with the Member of the United Nations concerned” (Charter of the United Nations and Statue of the International Court of Justice, Ch. I, Article 71). With these words, organizations (such as APA), which do not represent governments, but rather represent members of civil society, were given a voice in the UN system.

In 1999, APA was granted Special Consultative status as an NGO with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the UN. ECOSOC is a principle organ of the UN, coordinating fourteen specialized agencies which focus on issues such as standards of living, social and health concerns, international cooperation and fundamental human rights. In this context, APA presents itself as an international organization. APA is also associated as an NGO with the UN’s Department of Public Information (DPI). Established in 1946, DPI is the public voice of the UN, promoting global awareness of the work of the organization. DPI facilitates the work of the NGO community by disseminating information regarding ongoing developments at the UN. Therefore, through our association with DPI, APA endeavors to inform the psychological community of current developments at the UN. This aim is accomplished in numerous ways including this regular column, our newsletter reports, yearly symposia at APA, as well as at other regional and international conferences; and other venues throughout the year.
Along with representatives of other psychology NGOs (including International Union of Psychological Science, International Council of Psychologists, International Association of Applied Psychology, Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues and others), the APA team has provided leadership roles on ECOSOC issues such as the following:

- Ageing
- Children and families
- Disability access and accommodation
- Gender equality
- Habitat and climate change
- Health and mental health
- HIV/AIDS
- Human rights
- Multiculturalism
- Peace and conflict resolution
- Racism and xenophobia
- Universal primary education
- Women

**APA’s UN TEAM: A RECIPROCAL RELATIONSHIP**

APA supports five volunteer representatives to ECOSOC and two volunteer representatives to DPI. Together with some very capable graduate student interns and associate representatives (who work on specialized issues), we comprise the APA UN NGO Team. One might summarize our responsibilities as comprising a reciprocal relationship to the UN. Namely, the ECOSOC representatives advocate for the inclusion of psychological perspectives that shape human rights issues before the UN, and the DPI representatives inform the psychological community regarding global human rights issues before the UN.

**PSYCHOLOGY DAY AT THE UNITED NATIONS: THE INTERSECTION OF RECIPROCITY**

The APA UN NGO Team, along with partnering psychology NGOs has established an annual and successful Psychology Day at the United Nation. The goal of “Psychology Day” is to bring together all segments of the UN community, as well as psychologists and psychology students, to examine the breadth, depth, and ramifications of and identify solutions for a global issue. In this way, the reciprocal responsibilities of advocacy for pressing global issues and dissemination of information to psychologists are integrated into the vision of this exciting event. In 2011, the theme for the Fourth Annual Psychology Day, “Reach Them to Teach Them: The Role of Psychology in Achieving Universal Access to Education,” incorporated many of the social and human rights issues previously mentioned. This theme also addressed the UN’s millennium development goal #2 (i.e., achieving universal primary education by 2015). We were fortunate to have two APA Past-Presidents, Florence Denmark (1980) and Carol Goodheart (2010) as speakers at Psychology Day, as well as the current CIRP co-chair Florence Kaslow.

In this regular column, we will keep you informed about a range of current developments at the UN, including the details for the Fifth Annual Psychology Day, as those plans emerge. (See www.apa.org/international/united-nations for more information).

**ABOUT THE AUTHORS:**

Juneau Gary, Psy.D. and Neal S. Rubin, Ph.D., ABPP, are APA UN representatives and co-editors of this column. Dr. Gary is Professor in the Department of Counselor Education at Kean University in New Jersey, and Dr. Rubin is Professor at the Illinois School of Professional Psychology of Argosy University in Chicago.

Ψ
A Shift in Paradigm: When East Meets West in Psychology

A review of

The Oxford Handbook of Chinese Psychology

Edited by Michael Harris Bond

ISBN 978-0-19-954185-0. $125.00

Reviewed by

Alex C. N. Leung

In my graduate school days decades ago, I never had the opportunity to learn anything about Chinese psychology. In fact, during my graduate school years, I was never even in contact with another faculty member or fellow student from Asia, let alone China. Everything I learned about psychology had to do with Western-based theories. The idea of using psychological skills to work with different ethnic groups was never mentioned. It was assumed that I would not be using my skill set learned from the graduate program to treat any non-Caucasian clients, or, if I did, whatever I had learned could be directly transferred to working with a different ethnic group. Things have changed drastically in the past couple of decades. I recently attended the 2010 American Psychological Association (APA) Convention, and at the exhibition area there were a large number of publishers displaying textbooks on working with various Asian ethnic groups, Chinese in particular. It seems that Asian psychology has become popular, and numerous graduate programs in the United States now include it as part of their core courses.

The Oxford Handbook of Chinese Psychology traces back the first sign of interest in psychology among Chinese scholars to the translation of Joseph Haven’s Mental Philosophy by Y. K. Yen (1889, as cited in Kodama, 1991), which told the important and interesting story of how interest grew and more research was done on Chinese psychology. Chapters in this book showcased theories and research on traditional Chinese beliefs and their significant psychological underpinnings. For instance, researchers proposed that the three major philosophical systems of the Chinese, namely, Buddhism, Confucianism, and Taoism, might serve psychotherapeutic functions, given their emphasis on self-improvement and humanity (Leung & Lee, 1996; Wallace & Shapiro, 2006).

Several other similarities between Eastern and Western mental concepts have also been noted. Lee (1982) and Yang (1982) suggested that the indigenous Chinese concept of yuan, the belief that interpersonal outcomes are determined by fate or supernatural forces, could function as a defense mechanism as defined by Western psychology; yuan helps to shield one from unpleasant emotions associated with negative interpersonal outcomes, such as breaking up a relationship.

Even among Chinese medical practitioners who practice traditional Chinese medicine, “psychology” and “psychotherapy” are not considered as knowledge and skills outside their practice paradigm. A strong relationship between physical illness and emotional distress was mentioned in ancient literature as far back as 2,000 years ago, and the concept of psychotherapy appeared in classical literature (Li, 2006; Xu, 1996).

Compatibilities between the cognitive approach to therapy, such as cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT) and Buddhism have been acknowledged by its originator (Kwee & Ellis, 1998). Beck (2005) concluded that CBT aimed at achieving the Buddhist objective of alleviating mental distress by guiding the patient to examine his or her own thoughts and focus on the logical. Also, a modified form of Western CBT that incorporates elements of Chinese Taoist philosophy used in combination with medication has been found to be effective in the treatment of depression (Wang & Xu, 2005; Yang, Zhao, & Mai, 2005).

Despite similarities between Eastern and Western psychological concepts, some researchers have reported that there are still culture-specific traits and phenomena. This is particularly true in the area of clinical diagnoses of psychological/psychiatric disorders.

Since European American influences principally dictate the formulations of both the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders and the International Classification of Diseases, a majority of Asian mental health professionals view both systems as posing difficulties in cross-cultural applications (Zou et al., 2008). In order for nosological systems to be
internationally useful, cultural variations in the presentation of different disorders and their relevance in the cultural context need to be defined and these variations incorporated into the nosological systems (Tandon, 2010). In order to accomplish such a goal, Chinese mental health professionals started their own Chinese Classifications of Mental Disorders (CMCD), which is now into its third edition (Chinese Psychiatric Society, 2001). It contains several symptom categories, including neurasthenia, mental disorder due to qi gong, koro, and traveling psychosis that are specific to the Chinese or Asian cultures.

After reading the various excellent chapters in The Oxford Handbook of Chinese Psychology, one realizes that Chinese and Western psychological concepts can be complementary and used to generate new ideas. To make the best of this combined knowledge pool, perhaps psychologists could consider following an approach proposed by Chang Chih-tung in his book Exhortation to Study, summarized in his slogan, “Chinese learning for fundamental principles and Western learning for practical application” (Ayers, 1971).

In conclusion, The Oxford Handbook of Chinese Psychology certainly belongs on the must-read list for graduate training. It is a fascinating compendium that covers not only the groundwork of Chinese psychology but also research on Chinese language development, personality traits, psychotherapy approaches, psychiatric diagnoses, and consumer mentality, just to name a few notable chapters. It is an invaluable desk reference for all students, faculty members, and practitioners interested in working with Chinese populations.

REFERENCES


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Visions in Conflict: International Perspectives on Values and Enmity

Edited by Brian C. Alston

In March 2007, APA Division 36—Psychology of Religion hosted two symposia entitled “Visions in Conflict” at the mid-year conference held at Loyola College in Maryland. Eight speakers addressed topics of understanding, forgiveness, and creative conflict resolution with respect to national and international crises. Since this conference, the division has organized a series of symposia for the national conferences of APA and Division 36 mid-year conferences. This newly published volume contains some of the recent symposium presentations, as well as essays written by other experts from around the world regarding the different vehicles of conflict resolution—namely, religion, psychology, education and training, psychotherapy, and sports. The essays aim to shed light on the process of peace and reconciliation in venues from South Africa and the Congo to Rwanda, Iraq, and Kosovo.

The primary purpose of the Visions in Conflict series is to express much of the good work being done in the field of conflict resolution and peace building around the world. This is especially relevant in the arenas of acknowledgement and understanding of the “other” (including interfaith dialogue), and communication through conflict and forgiveness. This series also aims to open up the field in order to invite dialogue with other practitioners engaged in similar work. The works of practitioner-scholars have been published as a means of illustrating practical, in-the-field operations and processes that have been successful, so that others working in such arenas may be more effective in the creation and building of peace and understanding within and between the diversity of peoples.

For more information on this symposium series, please visit www.visionsinconflict.com.

IACCP 21st International Congress

Nurturing Diversity for Sustainability

July 17-21, 2012, Stellenbosch, South Africa

Sponsored by the International Association for Cross-Cultural Psychology (IACCP)

Abstracts due by December 1, 2011
www.iaccp2012southafrica.co.za

The 8th Conference of the International Test Commission

July 3-5, 2012
Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Abstracts due by December 15, 2011
www.conference.intestcom.org
Call for Applications:

**APA Travel Grants for International Conferences**

The APA Office of International Affairs awards travel grants to U.S.-based psychologists attending international conferences held outside the United States and Canada. The award will cover or partially cover registration fees for all eligible conferences. Deadlines for application are September 1, 2011 and December 1, 2011. For information on eligibility and how to apply, please visit the website: www.apa.org/about/awards/international-conference-grant or contact the APA Office of International Affairs at international@apa.org.

**Special Travel Grants to Attend the 2012 International Congress of Psychology (ICP2012)**

With support (pending final approval) from the National Science Foundation, APA will provide travel stipends ($1500) and conference registration grants to student and early career scientists, and travel stipends ($500) and registration grants to mid-and senior-career mentors to attend the 2012 International Congress of Psychology and participate in an APA-ICP mentoring program. Details about the program will be posted in September at www.apa.org/international/programs. ICP2012 will take place in Cape Town, South Africa. Learn more about the congress at www.icp2012.com.

**2012 International Congress of Psychology’s Emerging Psychologists’ Programme**

The ICP Executive and Scientific Programme Committees announce the Emerging Psychologists’ Programme (EPP), to take place during the ICP2012 in Cape Town, South Africa. This program is a 3-day intensive training colloquium running from July 20-22, 2012 and aims to facilitate the interaction of young and potentially influential psychologists. Early career psychologists who have completed or are currently completing their PhD are invited to apply. Transport, accommodation, and registration costs will be covered for all attendees. Applications are due by September 30, 2011. For more information on this program, please visit the ICP website at www.icp2012.com/index.php/bodyhtml=program-emerging-scientists.html.

**Invitation to APA’s Division 17 Mentoring Program for International Students in Counseling Psychology**

The International Mentoring and Orientation Committee (IMOC) of APA’s Division 17—Society of Counseling Psychology invites you to join its mentoring program. The IMOC, currently chaired by Jean Tzou, was established in 2007 as a network to promote communication and dialogue about issues facing international students in counseling psychology, to provide mentorship in their professional development as counseling psychologists, and to organize convention activities tailored to the needs of these students (e.g., orientation programs, roundtable discussions). IMOC currently has memberships of international students from more than 26 countries receiving mentoring assistance from volunteers in various practices of counseling psychology. The goals of the mentoring program are to provide international students with social support, career exploration and development, and professional exchange or collaboration. To join the IMOC or to learn more about the program, please visit the website at http://apadiv17imoc.wordpress.com/imoc_membership/ and fill out the membership registration form.

**IUPsyS Launches New Web Resource: “Psychology Resources Around the World”**

The International Union of Psychological Science (IUPsyS) and Psychology Press launched a new global web resource. **Psychology Resources Around the World** is the “go to” site for information on the institutions, organizations, and structure of psychology in every country around the world (see bit.ly/pratw). In addition, there are pages with links to networks of psychology, a compendium of ethics codes of psychology organizations, country overview articles, links to data and publication archives, and more! Readers are welcomed to browse the site and suggest entries.

**Call for Nominations: IUPsyS**

The International Union of Psychological Science (IUPsyS) is currently accepting nominations for 4 of their psychology awards. These include the Mattei Dogan Prize for contributions representing a major advancement in psychology; the Young Investigator Award for significant contributions by young post-doctoral scientists; the Achievement Against the Odds Award for success in conducting research under extreme circumstances; and the Lifetime Career Award for distinguished and enduring lifetime contributions. The deadline for nominations is September 30, 2011. For more information, visit www.iupsys.net/index.php/prog-awards.
Call for Volunteers:
Health Volunteers Overseas

HVO, a non-profit organization focused on providing teaching and training to health professionals in developing countries, is seeking volunteers to teach and train a full range of mental health providers in Thimphu, Bhutan for assignments lasting three months. Volunteers must be licensed to practice psychiatry, psychology, psychotherapy, or clinical social work in the US, Canada, Australia or the UK, and have at least five years of clinical experience. Volunteers, depending on clinical background, will have teaching opportunities in basic psychology, clinical assessment of psychiatric disorders, family and social support system problems, therapy modalities, psychopharmacology, cross-cultural psychology, mindfulness and mediation techniques, community and clinical liaison psychiatry, forensics and addiction treatment. Please contact the program department (d.stonehirsch@hvousa.org) or visit the HVO web site at www.hvousa.org for more information.

Request for Proposals:
2012 Psychology Beyond Borders Mission Awards

Psychology Beyond Borders (PBB), an international non-profit organization focusing on the psychosocial impacts of terrorism, armed conflicts, and disasters, is seeking proposals for the 2012 PBB Mission Awards. These awards will fund research and service-oriented projects focused in one of the following areas: repetitive exposure to disaster and traumatic events, disaster preparedness and societal resilience programs, economic loss and empowerment, and nonviolence conflict resolution. Projects of $5,000—$15,000 (USD) will be funded with an expected project duration of one year, beginning May 2012. Proposal applications are due by September 30, 2011. For more information about the requirements and application, visit the PBB website at www.psychologybeyondborders.org/missionawards, or send an email to awards@pbbmail.org.

Vacancy Announcement:
ICSU Executive Director

The International Council for Science (ICSU) is seeking to recruit a qualified and experienced candidate to the post of Executive Director of the organization. The Executive Director reports to the elected Officers of the Executive Board and has overall responsibility for implementing the strategic goals and plans of the organization, managing the Secretariat, and overseeing the day-to-day operations of ICSU. The ICSU central Secretariat is located in Paris, France and has overseas Regional Offices in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America, and the Caribbean. The incumbent should be prepared to conduct world-wide travel. Applications are due by September 10, 2011, and appointment will begin on January 1, 2012. For more information on the position, please visit www.icsu.org/news-centre/jobs-at-icsu/executive-director.

AAAS “On-Call” Scientist

The “On-Call” Scientist program is an initiative of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and its Science and Human Rights Program. This initiative seeks to connect scientists with human rights organizations that are in need of technical expertise. With the help of volunteering scientists, these organizations can gain access to important technical assistance, enhance their effectiveness, and help contribute to a more accurate understanding of human rights. Currently, the organizations Physicians for Human Rights and Survivors of Torture International are requesting a roster of board-certified psychologists, psychiatrists, and licensed social workers to document torture and abuse in asylum cases. For more information, please visit the website at oncallscientists.aaas.org.

Psychology International is a publication of the APA Office of International Affairs.

Please visit www.apa.org/international or email the office at international@apa.org

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