APA Delegation Visits Cuba

By Carol D. Goodheart, EdD, APA Past President, Delegation Leader

The American Psychological Association, in partnership with Professionals Abroad, sponsored its first international delegation of members to Cuba for a professional exchange with Cuban psychologists this past March. The meetings and activities were described by both Cuban and U.S. psychologists as historic, intellectually stimulating, and emotionally powerful. It was a wonderful opportunity for members to study psychology practices, services, education and research in Cuba, as well as to meet with our Cuban colleagues who have had limited contact with U.S. counterparts for more than half a century.

Our mission was to represent APA in welcoming collaboration and communication and to lay the groundwork for further collaboration between APA and the Cuban Psychological Society. We brought examples of the work of APA, and in return we received examples of Cuban psychologists’ work, which included their diagnostic classification system (Tercer Glosario Cubano de Psiquiatría: Diagnóstico y Clasificación de los Trastornos Mentales) and research institute monographs.

We met with representatives from the Ministry of Public Health (MINSAP), the National Psychology Group of MINSAP, and the Cuban Society of Psychologists; with the Dean and faculty at University of Havana’s Department of Psychology; with psychologists, students, and professors who teach psychology to medical students at a leading “Policlínico” - a community-based primary and secondary health care facility; with researchers at the Center for Psychological and Sociological Research (Centro de Investigaciones Psicológicas y Sociológicas/CIPS), which is organized under the Ministry of Sciences; with physician and neuropsychology specialists from the Cuban Neuroscience Center (Centro de Neurociencias de Cuba/CNEURO); and with senior faculty and students at The National School of Public Health (Escuela Nacional de Salud Pública/ENSAP). With the able assistance of our translater—who is also a professor of phonetics—we were able to have lively conversations with each of these groups.

OVERVIEW OF PSYCHOLOGY IN CUBA

There are 1,700 psychologists and 800 psychology technicians in Cuba’s health care system. All psychological services are delivered in health and community settings, and psychology is integrated in the Ministry of Public Health. Their system is based on a biopsychosocial concept...
of care, with a health and prevention focus. The policlinico staffs work to modify risk factors in communities. Health teams are multi-disciplinary. Psychology training for practice is now focused on increasing competencies throughout all levels. All research at CIPS is done at the request of the government and is multidisciplinary; psychologists study family, religion, learning, I/O processes, social health, work, youth, and creativity and education. A variety of institutions within the National Health System collectively support the development of neuropsychology research and applications. For example, the Institute of Science and Technology Ministry's Cuban Neuroscience Center (CNEURO) is dedicated to conducting research that improves the quality of life. This research includes developing image processing toolboxes for medical applications, such as the development of neuroformatics, neuroimaging, neurostatistics, and most recently, neurofeedback as a form of treatment for epilepsy.

Dr. Alexis Lorenzo Ruiz, President of the Cuban Society of Psychology, described the goals of the Society as similar to APA: the advancement of science, the quality of the profession, organizational activities for applications of psychology, and research related to social conditions. Dr. Lorenzo trained in the USSR, as did many Cuban psychologists after major links with Soviet psychology were established in the 1970s. He is a disaster specialist whose first experiences in disaster response followed the Chernobyl nuclear reactor accident in 1986. More recently, the national curriculum for psychology has incorporated European, Latin American, and U.S. approaches, although much remains based on the Soviet training model.

The evolution of health psychology in Cuba includes three levels of training: technicians trained for community-level services, master’s level health psychologists, and doctoral-level psychologists specializing in health psychology. This evolution was explained to us by Dr. Jorge Grau Abalo, President of the National Psychology Group (who was instrumental in arranging the psychology meetings for the entire visit); Dr. Alberto E. Cobián Mena, President of the Cuban Society of Health Psychology; and Dra. Isobel Lauro Bernal, Professor at ENSAP. ENSAP’s purpose is resource training in health care. Its lines of research are the promotion of healthy behavior, evaluation of health organizations, quality of life and well-being, human resource management, and family and health. Part of the Latin American network, ENSAP is based upon an integrated public health model that includes psychological science with other sciences.

EXPERIENCES

The APA delegation members described their visit to Cuba as “transformative,” “one of the two or three most profound experiences of my life,” “a powerful experience,” and “a fabulous adventure.”

There was limited free time outside of the psychology meetings, but the delegation made good use of it. Group members managed to squeeze in a visit to the oldest continuously-producing pottery maker in the country, a walking tour of Old Havana, walks or runs along the Malecón (the sea wall), dancing at Ernest Hemingway’s favorite nightclub, and many photo opportunities. The live music was beautiful and played in every restaurant we dined in – from breakfast musicians to the Buena Vista Social Club professionals to the Jazz Café Show.

Two delegation members have family backgrounds in Cuba. One was able to locate his grandfather’s home, where his father was raised, and take photographs of the site to take back to the U.S. Another delegate, who emigrated with his family at the age of seven years old, was gratified to be welcomed back so warmly by the Cubans.

Our Cuban colleagues shared their strengths with us: integrated medical and behavioral science and service, strong
public health prevention and promotion efforts, excellent disaster response systems, and a pervasive sense of the collaborative multi-disciplinary approach to health in families, communities, and workplaces. They have achieved these advances in the face of significant resource shortages of goods/supplies/equipment taken for granted by U.S. professionals. Staff in the APA Office of International Affairs and the Office of Continuing Education are assembling a package of professional materials on topics requested by the Cubans, such as bibliographies, books, and journals. The package will be sent as a token of the delegation’s appreciation.

The full report of the delegation meetings is accessible at www.apa.org/international/outreach/cuba-report.pdf.

COMMENTS FROM THE DELEGATION

“Cubans are reputed to be the friendliest people on the planet. My experiences interacting with our Cuban colleagues comport with this reputation. Cubans from all walks of life whom I had the privilege of meeting were remarkably polite, engaging, and genuine. Nobody was staring at the screen of a handheld mobile device. Everybody was interacting and connecting with the people around them. Experiencing the culture in Cuba was as refreshing as a drink of water from a mountain stream after a long day of hiking.” ~Paul Craig, PhD

“APA’s trip to Cuba was a fantastic experience because I met interesting colleagues from both the USA and Cuba. Conversations among the group were stimulating and rewarding. It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience!” ~Susan Lipkins, PhD

“I was very impressed with Cuba’s integrated system of care including health and mental health services with the emphasis on both research and practice. It is especially significant as they achieve this method of service delivery in the face of extreme limitation, resource deficit and many forms of inequalities.” ~Tara Pir, PhD

“I’ve nurtured a curiosity about Cuban people and culture since I was a teenager, which is also when I learned my first Spanish word. My warm, welcoming experiences with the Cuban-American community in New Jersey, where I grew up, catapulted me into intense study of the Spanish language, and within a few years I had become fluent on my own. My passion for everything Cuban made its way into my professional work and led to the relocation of my practice to Miami, where a majority of my clinical focus now is providing bilingual services to the Latino community. The APA delegation to Cuba was, for me, the perfect ‘finishing touch’ to years of dedication and service to this special and dear community.” ~Gregg A. Pizzi, PsyD

“A highlight for me included a spontaneous role-play conversation to demonstrate Motivational Interviewing with a Cuban provider whose patient had expressed fear about getting a routine Pap test. Another highlight was the enthusiasm about our research from psychology graduate students at the University of Havana. Since I’ve returned to New Mexico, I have received several email messages from Cuban colleagues thanking us for the visit and for sharing our work.” ~Carolina Yahne, PhD

THE DELEGATION MEMBERS INCLUDED:

Carol D. Goodheart, EdD, Delegation Leader
2010 President, American Psychological Association
Princeton, New Jersey

Greg Neimeyer, PhD, Melrose, Florida
Associate ED, Office of Continuing Education in Psychology
American Psychological Association

James Baños, PhD, Birmingham, Alabama

Amanda Clinton, PhD, Rincon, Puerto Rico

Paul Craig, PhD, Anchorage, Alaska

Michael Enright, PhD, Jackson, Wyoming

Patricia Hannigan-Farley, PhD, North Olmsted, Ohio

Susan Lipkins, PhD, Port Washington, New York

Irene Lopez, PhD, Gambier, Ohio

Phyllis Marganoff, EdD, Hillsborough, New Jersey

John O’Riordan, PhD, Stanford, California

Otto Pedraza, PhD, Jacksonville, Florida

Tehereh Pir-Soriano, PhD, Los Angeles, California

Gregg A. Pizzi, PsyD, Miami, Florida

Beth Rom-Rymer, PhD, Chicago, Illinois

Richard Waldron, PhD, Closter, New Jersey

Carolina Yahne, PhD, Albuquerque, New Mexico
The Norwegian Psychological Association Visits APA

By Dana Townsend, APA Office of International Affairs

During a two-day “field trip” coordinated by the APA Office of International Affairs in mid-March, staff from the Norwegian Psychological Association (NPA) visited APA headquarters in Washington, D.C. to learn about APA’s communications and public policy programs and to share information about Norway and the NPA.

Gøril Wiker, NPA Chief Communications Officer, and Per Halvorsen, NPA Director of Web Operations, began their first day of meetings with a welcome from APA CEO Norman Anderson, followed by a staff overview of the structure, strategies, and programs in APA’s Public & Member Communications area. The meeting focused on social media policies, public affairs, web management, and development of the Monitor on Psychology and gradPSYCH publications. The second day of meetings covered APA’s Public Policy and Advocacy programs with discussions on each of APA’s directorates—Education, Practice, Public Interest, and Science—about advocating for psychology at the federal level. Staff and the NPA guests also discussed a summary of the services provided by APA’s public education campaigns (e.g. Psychologically Healthy Workplace Awards, Stress in America, APA’s Disaster Response Network, and the campaign on Mind/Body Health and Resilience). Other activities included discussions on telepsychology, design services, and communication forums. “I have been most impressed with the amount of thought that has gone into developing programs at APA,” said Halvorsen. “Everything has been carefully considered and organized to make sure it is of the highest quality.” During the visit, APA staff also had the opportunity to learn about the NPA and psychology in Norway from Ms. Wiker and Mr. Halvorsen.

ABOUT THE NORWEGIAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

NPA was established in 1934 and currently has around 7,000 members, representing 90% of the psychologists in Norway. Unlike APA, the NPA functions as a trade union in addition to providing specialist education in psychology, working to address social responsibility and professional issues, and publishing its journal, Tidsskrift for Norsk Psykologforening, which includes peer-reviewed articles, editorials, and psychology news.

To become a psychologist in Norway, students follow a six-year course of university study after which they are authorized by the government as Health Personnel and able to practice as psychologists. At this point, they have the option of a 5-year specialization process, paid for by the state and their employer—an accomplishment the NPA has worked hard to achieve.

One of the major challenges faced by psychologists in Norway has been the financial and societal cost of focusing on severe mental problems, rather than investing in preventive care and early intervention treatments. “Health expenditures are rising dramatically, and this is not sustainable,” said Wiker. “They need to be cut, and the best way to do this is to prevent problems from arising.” In 2007, NPA introduced and lobbied for a new definition of “low threshold” access to psychology services in Norway. With this access, patients could receive early intervention treatments in primary care, and psychologists could play a central role in planning and implementing individual and systemic interventions. In a recent breakthrough, the Norwegian government has agreed to concentrate on early intervention treatments and has increased funding to recruit and organize psychologists in local communities as part of public primary care services.

The NPA is one of nine psychology associations with which APA has signed a Memorandum of Understanding.
Each memorandum articulates the associations’ mutual goals and outlines an agreement to communicate regularly and consider developing future projects and collaborative opportunities. For more about APA’s Memoranda of Understanding, please visit www.apa.org/international/outreach/understanding-memorandum/norway.aspx.

After an eventful two-days, Ms. Wiker and Mr. Halvorsen had a chance to sit down with Office of International Affairs staff to talk about their visit:

PI: How was your visit to APA? Do you feel the meetings have been productive?

Wiker & Halvorsen: We were really pleased with the way APA received us, and we want to thank all of the representatives for taking their time and being so generous in sharing important information and thoughts with us.

PI: The past two days included a full itinerary of meetings with a variety of APA’s directorates and offices. What stood out to you the most? Are there any programs or strategies you may like to implement at NPA?

Wiker & Halvorsen: It is difficult to compare our two organizations because of the difference in their size and resources, but we were impressed with the systematic way that APA runs public campaigns like the Healthy Workplace Program, Stress in America Survey and Measuring the Public’s Perception of Psychology. We might be looking at possibilities for implementing similar programs at home. We do believe in educating the public, and we’re impressed with the consistency of APA’s campaigns.

PI: What is the biggest challenge in Norway regarding psychology as a discipline? What is NPA doing to combat this issue?

Wiker & Halvorsen: Telling what the future holds is impossible, so an answer to this broad question is to make sure that psychology will still be relevant for society as a profession and an academic discipline. NPA is addressing this issue both on a national and a European level, working closely within EFPA (European Federation of Psychologists’ Associations).

PI: In what areas have Norway and NPA had particular success in developing psychology as a discipline?

Wiker & Halvorsen: Since 2001, Norwegian psychologists and psychiatrists have had equal status when it comes to making professional decisions, apart from medication, but including compulsory treatment. This was a major breakthrough. These last years we have concentrated on introducing psychologists to primary care in the communities nationwide. Today all political parties support the idea of psychologists being an important part of community health care.

PI: What major differences have you seen between the practice of psychology in Norway and in the U.S.?

Wiker & Halvorsen: The greatest difference may be that in Norway all psychologists are licensed to practice and are regarded as authorized health personnel. Also, Norwegian health care, including mental health care, is overall free for everyone.

PI: In your opinion, what sort of collaborative projects might you like to see develop between APA and NPA?

Wiker & Halvorsen: There are a number of big issues to collaborate on, such as the common challenge of making sure that psychology as a profession and as a scientific field stays relevant and is able to provide relevant services to society. There are also the important technological developments that we think will provide efficient contributions to the health care systems of the future. There are many aspects of this development that we should cooperate on and share. ☉

—from left to right: Nina Levitt (Education Directorate), Diane Elmore (Public Interest Directorate), Ellen Garrison (Public Policy), Steve Breckler (Science Directorate), Per Halvorsen, Gøril Wiker, Merry Bullock (International Affairs), and Katherine Nordal (Practice Directorate)
The Council of American Overseas Research Centers: Facilitating Scholarly Exchange Across the Globe

By Jeanne Marecek, PhD

Are you or your students interested in cultural psychology, global studies, or international psychology? If so, the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) may offer programs, educational resources, and funding opportunities for you. CAORC is a global network of academic centers that supports U.S. scholars and researchers. I’ve worked with CAORC for over 15 years, and I now serve as the chair of CAORC’s board of directors. Only a few U.S.-based psychologists have drawn upon the resources of CAORC and its member centers, and I hope that can change. This column gives a glimpse of what CAORC and its network of overseas centers can offer to researchers, and how these centers can enhance your work.

BACKGROUND

CAORC (www.caorc.org) comprises 23 members, with centers in Afghanistan, Algeria, Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, Turkey, West Africa, Palestine, and Yemen. Around four hundred educational institutions, most of which are American colleges and universities, sustain the centers as institutional members. If you are part of a research university that offers courses of study or advanced degrees in such fields as anthropology, international studies, Middle East Studies, South Asia Studies, classical archeology, or classical history, chances are good that your university is a supporting member of at least one—and possibly several—of these centers. This means that the programs, funding opportunities, library facilities, and logistical support provided by these centers are open to you. Many centers also offer memberships to individuals.

There is no single blueprint for the development of centers and their areas of focus. The American School of Classical Studies at Athens (ASCSA) was established in 1881, while the American Institute for Indonesian Studies in Jakarta was formally inaugurated less than six months ago. The ASCSA, with its extensive library holdings in archeology and ancient history, is a "sine qua non" for archeologists and historians. The American Institute for Indian Studies houses extensive archives of recorded music and archeological materials; it also supports research on contemporary society, politics, and popular culture, as well as linguistic and literary studies. The American Center for Mongolian Studies in Ulaanbaatar extends its reach to studies of nomadic culture and herding societies, environmental degradation, and conservation. In short, the scholarly emphases of each center are particular to its host country.

ACADEMIC EXCHANGE

These centers play a dynamic role in facilitating research by American scholars. Most centers house academic libraries. (For a comprehensive catalogue, see www.dlir.org.) Centers may also help to locate translators, researcher assistants, and language instructors, in addition to providing practical help with housing, transportation, visas, and research permits. For those new to a country, center staff can advise on matters of protocol, proper dress, decorum, and personal safety. In politically turbulent areas, the center personnel will provide information on security to supplement the advisories issued by the U.S. Embassy. Staff at the centers may introduce visiting researchers to local scholars and help them gain entrée to archives, research libraries, and research settings. Perhaps most important, the centers are spaces where scholars meet, forging transnational friendships and collaborations.

CAORC has played a role in shaping the objectives of international research and scholarly exchange and in securing funds to accomplish these objectives. CAORC and its member centers organize conferences, workshops, and public forums in host countries and the U.S. Most centers offer research grants and graduate student fellowships, and some provide language instruction. CAORC itself offers a unique fellowship for multi-country research projects. For students interested in cultural psychology and for those who hope to engage in international collaborative research, language skills are crucial.
The Critical Language Scholarship Program (clscholarship.org), which CAORC administers for the US Department of State, offers beginning and advanced language training for students. Competitive summer programs offer in-country immersion experiences in such languages as Arabic, Hindi, Japanese, Korean, Persian, Urdu, and Turkish, among others. Few psychology students have taken part in the CLS program thus far; however, the program is an excellent way to develop linguistic and cultural skills.

AT THE GROUND LEVEL: SCHOLARLY EXCHANGE IN SRI LANKA

Let me close by telling you how CAORC and the American Institute for Lankan Studies (the center in Colombo, Sri Lanka) have benefitted me. Through this center I was drawn into a global network of scholars in psychology, as well as in a number of other disciplines. As part of this network, I was offered continual opportunities to learn about the history, culture, and social structure of Sri Lanka, as well about the global flows of labor, capital, and ideologies that are transforming much of the Indian subcontinent. Although my research remains psychological in its focus, it is increasingly anchored in cultural and socioeconomic particularities of the region. The center in Sri Lanka has helped me to find venues for sharing my work with local academics, practitioners, policy makers, and students. The center also has provided funds for several small conferences of local and U.S.-based scholars who share my interests in youth movements, gender relations, gender and development, and the dramatic—albeit uneven—transformations in family life brought about globalization. With the center's help, I’ve been able to build an international community of scholars who share my twin passions for psychology and Sri Lanka and to play a part in bringing forward academic psychology in a country where it has been slow to develop.

Fanny Cheung & Dan Landis: 2012 Recipients of the APA Award for Distinguished Contributions to the International Advancement of Psychology

APA's 2012 Award for Distinguished Contributions to the International Advancement of Psychology has been awarded to two outstanding psychologists in recognition of their unique pioneering contributions to international cross-cultural and intercultural research: Fanny Cheung, PhD, and Dan Landis, PhD.

FANNY CHEUNG, PHD, Chinese University of Hong Kong, is one of China's leading research psychologists, and at the forefront of advancing international cross-cultural research. Her work on personality assessment, psychopathology, and gender issues in Chinese societies, have made significant contributions to international and cross-cultural psychology. When psychology was resumed in Mainland China in the early 1980s, Cheung assisted in the standardization and validation research of the Chinese version of the MMPI and later the MMPI-2. She identified issues that are important to test translation and adaptation in cross-cultural test adaptation.

Based on the experience gained from cross-cultural assessment research, Cheung developed her own indigenous measure of Chinese personality, the Chinese Personality Assessment Inventory (CPAI), the first comprehensive measure of its kind in Asia. CPAI-2 has been translated into Dutch, English, Korean, Japanese, Romanian, and Vietnamese, and the cross-cultural relevance of its structure is being examined. Her leadership in international psychology is illustrated by her many conference presentations and research publications, including a recent co-authored article in the American Psychologist, “Toward a New Approach to the Study of Personality in Culture.”

Cheung is also regarded as a pioneer in gender research in Chinese societies. She founded the first gender research center at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and facilitated the development of the gender studies curriculum. She encouraged and supported the development of gender studies in Mainland China through conferences and a “train the trainers” model. For the last 30 years, Dr. Cheung has been active in promoting rights of and services for women and the disabled in Hong Kong.

Dr. Cheung has served in various leadership positions in international psychology such as President of the Division of Clinical and Community Psychology within the International Association of Applied Psychology (1990-94). Currently, she is serving on the IAAP’s Board of Directors as well as on the Council of the International Test Commission. She has been a Member of APA since 1976, is a Fellow of Divisions 35 and 52, and received an APA Presidential Citation in 2004. Fanny Cheung is a leading figure in the field of international psychology in Asia and the United States.
John Thoburn Receives 2012 APA International Humanitarian Award

APA has awarded the 2012 International Humanitarian Award to John Thoburn, PhD, ABPP, for his extraordinary humanitarian service and promotion of mental wellbeing among underserved populations around the world. Currently an Associate Professor of Clinical Psychology at Seattle Pacific University, Thoburn was first introduced to the field of international and disaster psychology as a graduate student in the late 1980s when he was among a group invited to Uganda shortly after the end of its twelve-year civil war. Thoburn, his mentor, and a classmate taught traumatology skills to a group of priests, who then took the skills to their respective villages. This was his introduction to the idea of training local volunteers in mental health support. Since that time, he has focused on developing structures and culturally relevant curricula for training indigenous volunteers in psychological first aid.

For nearly 25 years, often at his own personal risk and expense, he has promoted the psychological welfare of individuals and groups in Uganda, Bosnia, Sri Lanka, China, and Haiti, as well as in the U.S. after Hurricane Katrina. Thoburn has been highly flexible and adaptive in his approach to training service providers and trainers, and rather than merely providing direct materials, he has created an extensive cadre of individuals around the world who possess disaster relief skills and who in turn, provide services and train others.

Dr. Thoburn has brought his psychological expertise in systems theory and trauma to some of the worst manmade and natural disaster-affected areas of the world, and has personally endured direct threats to his personal safety and wellbeing through extremes of climate, hostile threats, rampant disease, and difficult living conditions. He has nevertheless succeeded in sensitively navigating the various cultural aspects of the many groups and areas where he has worked, and shown a high degree of competence while generating the respect of those with many different languages and traditions.

Thoburn’s most recent work has been in Haiti where he and his students and colleagues developed a mental health support team curriculum to train indigenous and expatriate volunteers in mental health support and triage. They trained around 250 people in basic, advanced, and trained trainer trainings. The first trainings were with Love for Haiti, a group of medical providers including doctors, nurses, dentists and psychologists. Indigenous volunteers were trained in mental health support to provide for friends and family, as were a dozen trained trainers.

Dr. Thoburn is a member of APA’s ad hoc advisory group for APA’s response to international disasters, chaired by Dr. Gerard Jacobs. He is a Fellow and past president of Division 43—The Society for Family Psychology, and a representative on the ABPP Board of Trustees.
Psychologists Obtain Advanced Training on Human Rights Law and Evaluations of Torture Survivors

By George Hough, PhD, ABPP

The Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) Asylum Program hosted a workshop offering basic and advanced training for mental health specialists on the subjects of human rights law and forensic evaluation of torture survivors. The workshop, titled “Aiding Survivors of Torture & Other Human Rights Abuses: Physical and Psychological Documentation of Individuals Seeking Humanitarian Protection in the U.S.”, was held March 31—April 1, 2012 in Boston, MA. The first full day of basic training was held at Tufts University School of Medicine in downtown Boston, and the second half-day of advanced training was held at the PHR headquarters in Cambridge. Workshop participants represented a broad array of the helping professions, including social workers, psychologists, psychiatrists, and physicians from various specialties (e.g., anesthesiology, family practice, pulmonology, rehabilitation medicine, psychiatry), as well as medical students from PHR student chapters.

This specialized training included: an overview of the PHR Asylum Network; immigration and legislative updates; case law and trends in asylum testimony; basic and advanced interviewing techniques with asylum clients; aspects of physical and psychological evaluations and documentation of the pathologies resulting from torture (i.e., evidence of “tribal markings,” female genital mutilation, and evidence of ritualistic torture); mock cross-examinations; an overview of the U.S. immigration detention system; and the foundations of scientifically-based evidence collection and documentation. All training was anchored in the Istanbul Protocol and in PHR’s Guide to Medical and Psychological Evaluation of Torture.

The purpose of the training was to address a central problem occurring within the asylum system—that the current number of immigrants arriving in the United States who are seeking asylum from torture and persecution in their country of origin continues to rise. Accordingly, the population of asylum seekers formally detained in American detention centers rises at a proportionate rate. Approximately 1.2 million immigrants have passed through detention in the past three years, with the average length of stay at 30 days. Most detention centers are constructed far from an urban area, which adds to this population’s invisibility within American culture. Detainees have a right to legal representation, but not at the government’s expense. Eighty-four percent of detainees are thus legally unrepresented. As of September 2011, approximately 298,000 cases were pending resolution in Federal Immigration Courts.

A number of detainees are asylum seekers who arrive from countries where they have been subjected to the practice of torture and persecution for their political beliefs, or because of their membership within a discriminated group (i.e., race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation). As observed in The Istanbul Protocol: “Although international human rights and humanitarian law consistently prohibit torture under any circumstance, torture and ill-treatment are practiced in more than half of the world’s countries.” For some detainees, deportation to their country of origin places them at high risk for further harm. For those individuals seeking asylum due to prior persecution or the credible threat of future persecution and/or torture, obtaining a comprehensive medical and psychological evaluation that can objectively document and correlate current evaluation findings with reported trauma history is often vital to obtaining asylum in the U.S. To help address this need, PHR’s Asylum Network is comprised of over 450 health care professionals throughout the United States who provide pro bono psychological and physical evaluations to document evidence of torture and other human rights violations for men, women and children fleeing persecution in their home countries. The weight of these evaluations can often tip the balance between life and death.

Four core members of PHR’s training faculty provided the training. Christy Fujio, JD, MA is the Asylum Program Director for PHR and manages oversight of the Asylum Network and PHR’s efforts to protect the human rights of asylum seekers in the
United States through research, documentation and advocacy. Mike Corradini, JD, MA, is the Asylum Advocacy Associate at PHR. Mr. Corradini works with PHR’s asylum program and policy team to develop and advocate for positive changes to asylum law and the immigration detention system. Dr. Coleen Kivlahan, MD, MSPH, is senior Director of Health Care Affairs at the American Association of Medical Colleges and has extensive experience conducting forensic evaluations of political asylum seekers. She is also the recipient of the 2005 Pride in the Profession award from the Board of Directors of the American Medical Association Foundation. Dr. Joanne Ahola, MD is a board certified psychiatrist in New York City and is on the voluntary faculty of the Weill Cornell Medical College, where she serves as Medical Director of the Weill Cornell Center for Human Rights. Dr. Aloha’s special interests include evaluation and research with LGBT/HIV+ asylum clients. Ms. Kelly Holz is the PHR Asylum Coordinator and arranged all logistical details and training. Psychologists interested in learning more about the PHR Asylum Network should contact asylum@phrusa.org.

REFERENCES


   Note: The Istanbul Protocol is a United Nations document published in numerous languages that is recognized as setting the international standard for such investigations. The Istanbul Protocol provides a set of guidelines for the assessment of persons who allege torture and ill treatment, for investigating cases of alleged torture, and for reporting such findings to the judiciary and any other investigative body.


   Note: PHR’s evaluation and data collection techniques are grounded in the Istanbul Protocol, which is the internationally recognized standard for evaluations of torture and cruel and degrading treatment and is an official document adapted by the United Nations for such investigations around the world.


   Article 2 of the Convention defines torture as: “...any act intentionally performed whereby physical or mental pain or suffering is inflicted on a person for purposes of criminal investigation, as a means of intimidation, as personal punishment, as a preventive measure, as a penalty, or for any other purpose. Torture shall also be understood to be the use of methods upon a person intended to obliterate the personality of the victim or to diminish his physical or mental capacities, even if they do not cause physical pain or mental anguish.” Cited in Manual on the Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Submitted to the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights 9 August 1999” (p.7).


* Special Acknowledgements to PHR staff Christy Fujio, Kelly Holz, and Mike Corradini for their helpful comments on drafting this article.

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International Presidents Initiative at the 2012 APA Convention!

APA’s 2012 President Suzanne Bennett Johnson has invited the presidents of national psychology associations outside the U.S. to attend the 2012 APA Convention in Orlando, Florida on August 2-5. This initiative will include a Symposium where the presidents discuss psychology’s role in health, psychology as a major, and opportunities for international collaboration. The presidents (more than 25, to date) will receive special recognition at the Convention’s opening ceremony and participate in APA’s special Convention events.
CIRP Convenes for its Annual Spring Meeting

In late March, APA’s Committee on International Relations in Psychology (CIRP) joined its fellow boards and committees in Washington, D.C. for the spring consolidated meetings. CIRP spent an exciting and productive three days generating new projects and initiatives, and developing concrete programs to support its strategic plan.

The first of these projects is the further development of CIRP’s brochure series, *Going International: A Practical Guide for Psychologists*. This series aims to guide psychologists in their ventures abroad by providing information and perspectives that focus on specific activities relevant to international education, research, and exchange. CIRP members agreed to work on two brochures. One will address international testing, including training on the use of translated instruments, the ethics of testing internationally, and qualifications for administering and assessing tests internationally. The second will address issues and on-the-ground details of conducting research internationally. These brochures will join the first in the series, “Academic Going Abroad,” which may be found online at [www.apa.org/international/resources/academics-abroad.aspx](http://www.apa.org/international/resources/academics-abroad.aspx).

CIRP also finalized its new Division International Activities Grant (DIAG) Program. Consistent with its and APA’s strategic priorities, CIRP will provide support for Division-initiated programs aimed at fostering internationalization and international member outreach, particularly for projects that are innovative and unique with regards to other programs in APA Divisions and offices. The expectation is that these grants will serve as seed funding for the development of sustained international initiatives. Applications for 2013 projects are due by September 3, 2012. Please see the web for more details: [www.apa.org/about/awards/international-diag.aspx](http://www.apa.org/about/awards/international-diag.aspx).

Other projects CIRP has decided to take on include developing a proposal to create a special journal section that deals with international issues, and review of APA’s “Resolution on Culture and Gender Awareness in International Psychology,” which was first adopted by the Council of Representatives in 2004.

One of CIRP’s ongoing programs is its International Scientific Meeting Support Award, which provides funds for scientific meetings to foster the exchange of knowledge among psychologists around the world. The 2012 recipients of this award are: the Interamerican Society of Psychology (SIP) to fund organizational activities at the IV Regional Congress of Psychology in Santa Cruz, Bolivia; the International Neuropsychological Society (INS) to provide meeting registration and travel assistance for students to attend the INS Mid-Year Meeting in Oslo, Norway; the International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development (ISSBD) to assist early-career scholars’ participation in workshops at the 22nd Biennial ISSBD Meeting in Edmonton, Canada; and CES University for its 3rd International Symposium on School Harassment in Medellin, Colombia.

After a lively spring meeting, CIRP is now gearing up for the APA Convention where they will welcome presidents from national psychology associations outside the U.S. The presidents, traveling to Orlando from more than 25 countries, will join APA President Suzanne Bennett Johnson for a special symposium on health, education, and global partnerships. We hope to see you there!Ψ
CIRP PROGRAMMING AT THE 2012 APA CONVENTION!

SOCIAL HOUR: Reception for International Visitors
Thursday, August 2, 7:00 pm—8:50 pm
Peabody Orlando Hotel—Peabody Grand Ballroom V

2012 Award for Distinguished Contributions to the International Advancement of Psychology—
Dan Landis, PhD: *What We Don’t Know About Intercultural Training, and Why Not?*
Friday, August 3, 12:00 pm—12:50 pm
Convention Center, Room W103A
Chair: Dharm P.S. Bhawuk, PhD

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: Psychology Without Borders—Discussions on International
Teaching, Service, and Research
Friday, August 3, 12:00 pm—1:50 pm
Convention Center, Valencia Ballroom D
Co-Chairs: Chandra Mehrotra, PhD; Eleanor McMahan, MEd
- **Table 1: Teaching**, Moderators: Oliva Espin, PhD; Fred Leong, PhD
- **Table 2: Research**, Moderators: Bonnie Nastasi, PhD; Lawrence Gerstein, PhD
- **Table 3: Service**, Moderators: Laura Johnson, PhD; Eleanor McMahan, MEd

SYMPOSIUM: Vulnerable Peoples Worldwide—Psychology and the UN Agenda: Reports from
APA’s NGO Representatives
Friday, August 3, 2:00 pm—3:50 pm
Convention Center, Room W103A
Chair: Janet Sigal, PhD
Participants:
- Janet Sigal; Deborah Vietze, PhD: *Two Sides of Vulnerability—the UN Perspective and Ours*
- Magdalena Galazyn, MA; Susan Nolan, PhD; Juneau Gary, PsyD: *The Effects of Climate
Change on Women in the Developing World: A Role for Psychology and Psychologists*
- Neal Rubin, PhD; Sherry Dingman, PhD: *Stateless: Responding to Vulnerable People Without
a National Identity*
- Christina Kirkman, MA; Deborah Vietze; Janet Sigal: *A Story that Needs Telling:
The Impact of Poverty on Children’s Development*
- Deanna Chitayat, PhD: *The Psychological Perspective on the Empowerment of Rural Women
and Girls Living in Poverty*
- Janet Sigal: *The Work of APA’s NGO Representatives at the United Nations*

DISCUSSION: International Psychology Presidents on Health, Education, and Global
Partnerships
Saturday, August 4, 2:00 pm—3:50 pm
Convention Center, Room W312C
Chair: Suzanne Bennett Johnson, PhD

2012 APA International Humanitarian Award—John Thoburn, PhD: *A Systems Approach to
International Disaster Psychology*
Saturday, August 4, 4:00 pm—4:50 pm
Convention Center, Room W304B
Chair: Terence Patterson, PhD
APA Announces Professional Delegation to China

Members of APA can join an APA-sponsored delegation to China and travel to Beijing and Xi’an, with an optional cultural trip to Tibet. APA is working with Professionals Abroad to sponsor the delegation, led by Barry Anton, PhD, and Carol Goodheart, EdD, which will take place October 9-16, 2012. Members will explore psychological research, education, and interventions in China as well as the integration of behavioral and physical health; and applications of psychology across different sectors of society. The visit includes meeting with Chinese colleagues in Beijing and Xi’an.

The final delegation itinerary and focus will be determined with input from delegation members. The preliminary topics for consideration (which will be eligible for CE credit) include:

- Cultural norms and the treatment of the mentally ill and the psychological stressors of medical illnesses
- Public and private treatment options
- Integration of mind, body, and spirit in education, training, and treatment approaches
- Use of evidence-based practice, as culturally applicable, in inpatient and outpatient settings
- Psychological research, education, and treatment of adults, adolescents, children, and family caregivers
- Traditional and modern Chinese approaches to health and mental health

The APA China delegation will convene in Beijing on October 10, 2012 (departures from the U.S. on October 9) and will return on October 16. There is an optional cultural extension to Tibet. Please see the website for itinerary details, costs, and logistics. Questions may be addressed to the Program Representative at Professionals Abroad at 1-877-298-9677. Interested individuals should RSVP as soon as possible and no later than August 25, 2012.

APA President Meets with Spanish Colleagues at the International Congress of Clinical Psychology

In late April, 2012 APA President Suzanne Bennett Johnson attended the V International Congress of Clinical Psychology in Santander, Spain and met with colleagues from the Consejo General de Colegios Oficiales de Psicólogos (COP) to discuss developing projects and recent advances regarding psychology in the U.S. and in Spain.

Dr. Johnson and the COP Governing Board agreed on the need for active participation of psychologists in primary care services, as well as the need for psychology organizations like APA and COP to provide resources that make the contributions and potential benefits of psychologists’ participation more visible to other professionals working at the primary level of care. Dr. Johnson has focused her presidency on this subject by initiating a task force that aims to increase the representation of psychologists on interdisciplinary teams in science and practice. Her second presidential task force addresses high obesity rates in the U.S. —a trend that is also occurring in Spain.

Dr. Johnson and her colleagues also discussed the possibility of further collaboration between APA and COP. The associations will further explore this partnership at the 2012 APA Convention in Orlando, Florida.
Are LGBT Rights Human Rights? Recent Developments at the United Nations

By Juneau Gary, PsyD, and Neal S. Rubin, PhD, Column Co-Editors, APA Representatives at the UN Department of Public Information

With the increased global media attention on violent acts of persecution inflicted on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender (LGBT) persons, a crucial question before the world community today is whether gay rights are included under our basic human rights. At the United Nations, this question is slowly taking center stage, but it is not at all clear what the U.N. deliberations will yield from the linkage between gay rights and human rights. Foundational U.N. documents appear to provide guidance. For example, the Charter of the United Nations (1945) encourages “respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction” in Chapter I, Article 1, #3. Similarly, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1945) states in Article 2: “Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind.” Regardless, among a substantial percentage of Member States that have sworn to protect the human rights of their citizens, same sex relations remain illegal. This article will outline recent developments at the United Nations and discuss the progress that has been made with regards to including gay rights under the legal protections of human rights.

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY, DECEMBER 2010 & 2011

Marking the occasion of Human Rights Day on December 9, 2010, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon spoke at a Ford Foundation event in New York City entitled, “Speak Up, Stop Discrimination.” The event honored human rights defenders – those courageous women and men who strive to make human rights a reality for everyone, everywhere. In this speech, Mr. Ban called for individuals to stand up for the rights of all and specifically referred to defending the rights of people jailed for their sexual orientation. This statement clearly identified his advocacy for the issue of gay rights in the context of human rights, and in so doing, placed this issue on the agenda of the United Nations.

The following year, in a Human Rights Day address to the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland on December 6, 2011, the United States Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, stated that one of the remaining human rights challenges before the world today is guaranteeing the equality and dignity of members of the LGBT community. She spoke of this “invisible minority,” whose human rights were in jeopardy throughout the world, and in this way, she called for greater protection of LGBT persons. She asserted that gay rights and human rights are not distinct, as some have argued, and referred to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a foundational U.N. document guaranteeing gay rights as human rights. She outlined how violence against the LGBT community in any form is a violation of human rights, including the withholding of life-saving care or the denial of access to equal justice. Finally, Ms. Clinton argued that, despite the due respect for cultural and religious traditions, these traditions do not trump human rights and therefore should not serve as a pretext for denying fundamental rights to citizens based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

A few days later, Mr. Ban offered his own Human Rights Day message at U.N. Headquarters in New York City, focusing on homophobic bullying. On December 8, 2011, he identified homophobic bullying as a form of violence endangering the human rights of LGBT persons and encouraged Member Nations to protect their citizens from discrimination based on sexual orientation. Mr. Ban articulated the profound psychological suffering that ensues from bullying, including depression and suicide. He also underscored the responsibility of local communities – including individual citizens, community leaders, teachers, religious and public figures – to share in the challenge of ending violence against LGBT persons and protecting their own neighbors from persecution.

THE UNITED NATIONS SPEAKS OUT, APRIL 2011

In April 2011, the U.N. Office for the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP), the Joint U.N. Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), and the World Health Organization (WHO) collaboratively published a brochure titled The United Nations Speaks Out: Tackling Discrimination on Grounds of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. This brochure cites statements that have been made by U.N. senior officials and human rights experts regarding LGBT rights—including statements from the U.N. Secretary General and the U.N. High Commissioner on Human Rights. The quote from Mr. Ban followed his 2010 Human Rights Day speech and avers: “But let there be no confusion: where there is tension between cultural attitudes and universal human rights, rights must carry the day.” The U.N. High Commissioner, Navi Pillay, was quoted on February 2011: “Laws criminalizing homosexuality pose a serious threat to the fundamental rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals.” These statements strongly and clearly advocate in favor of human rights protections for LGBT individuals. By jointly issuing this brochure, OHCHR, UNDP, UNAIDS, and WHO showed that the United Nations partners speak together on this matter. The brochure can be found on the OHCHR website at www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Discrimination/Pages/LGBTBrochure.aspx.
UNHCR REPORT, DECEMBER 2011

On December 15, 2011 OHCHR released its first report on the human rights of LGBT persons. This report details the worldwide manifestations of discrimination based on sexual orientation, noting that violence against LGBT persons has a history of hate-motivated violence, such as discrimination in work, health care, education, detention and torture. The publication of this report followed two historic developments of the Human Rights Council. First, 85 countries signed on to a statement calling for the de-criminalization of homosexuality in March 2011. Subsequently, a resolution initiated by South Africa was passed in June 2011 and became the first U.N. resolution calling for support of gay rights.

Concurrent with the OHCHR report, Navi Pillay of South Africa, the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, appealed to U.N. Member States to de-criminalize homosexuality and enact comprehensive anti-discrimination laws. The OHCHR report documents that same-sex relationships are illegal in 76 countries, and the death penalty may be invoked as punishment in at least 5 countries. The report carefully links anti-homosexuality laws with the legitimacy of violence against nations’ citizens based on sexual orientation and gender identity. When persons are formally and legally devalued, it follows that designating their status as second rate may lead to “acceptable” persecution.

The OHCHR report encourages nations to institute public information campaigns to educate citizens about ensuring the rights of LGBT persons. Additionally, those sworn to protect individual rights, such as police and law enforcement officers and public officials, should receive appropriate training in this subject. The report emphasizes the shared community responsibility in combating homophobia and transphobia, and to that end, calls on nations to:

- Repeal laws that criminalize homosexuality,
- Abolish the death penalty for offenses involving consensual sexual relations,
- Enact comprehensive anti-discrimination laws,
- Standardize the age of consent for homosexual and heterosexual conduct,
- Investigate all killings or serious violence against sexual orientation or gender identity,
- Ensure that asylum laws recognize sexual orientation and gender identity as a basis for claiming persecution, and
- Enable LGBT persons fleeing persecution to avoid returning to countries or territories where their freedom is threatened.

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL, MARCH 2012

The OHCHR report was released in anticipation of a Human Rights Council meeting scheduled for March 2012. Ban Ki-moon opened the Council meeting by stating:

The High Commissioner’s report documents disturbing abuses in all regions. We see a pattern of violence and discrimination directed at people just because they are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender. There is widespread bias at jobs, schools and hospitals, and appalling violent attacks, including sexual assault. People have been imprisoned, tortured, even killed. This is a monumental tragedy for those affected—and a stain on our collective conscience. It is also a violation of international law. You, as members of the Human Rights Council, must respond.

To those who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender, let me say: You are not alone. Your struggle for an end to violence and discrimination is a shared struggle. Any attack on you is an attack on the universal values of the United Nations I have sworn to defend and uphold. Today, I stand with you, and I call upon all countries and people to stand with you, too.

CONCLUSION

The United Nations has been working with Member States to reject discrimination and criminalization based on homophobia and transphobia. While the denial of human rights for LGBT persons persists throughout the world today, over 30 countries have de-criminalized homosexuality in the past 20 years. In the face of resistance, determined efforts from the U.N., associated NGOs, and representatives of Member States to guarantee the human rights of LGBT persons have been gaining momentum. Today, under the leadership of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, there is no doubt that the U.N. is making progress toward the global inclusion of LGBT rights in our basic human rights.

REFERENCES


ABOUT THE CO-EDITORS

Juneau Gary, PsyD (main representative to DPI) is Professor in the Department of Counselor Education at Kean University in New Jersey, and Neal S. Rubin, PhD, ABPP (representative to DPI) is Professor at the Illinois School of Professional Psychology of Argosy University in Chicago. Both are associated with the United Nations Department of Public Information and are co-editors of this column.

International Updates from APA’s Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Concerns Office

In July, the International Network on Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Concerns and Transgender Issues in Psychology will be active at the 30th International Congress of Psychology (ICP) 2012 in Cape Town, South Africa. Representatives to the International Network from the Psychological Society of South Africa are coordinating a pre-conference workshop on practice guidelines for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) clients in an African context. There will be a follow-up symposium on the same topic open to all conference attendees, a meeting of the representatives to the International Network to provide information to conference attendees about the Network, and another meeting of the representatives to assess accomplishments, challenges, and make plans for the future.

Since its formation in May 2005, the International Network has had two main areas of focus: 1) expanding programming about LGBT people and issues at international psychology conferences, and 2) advocating for LGBT inclusive and affirming policies in international psychology and beyond. There has been significant progress in both areas. Concerning the first, the ICP 2012 will include more than 60 programs related to LGBT people and issues, which represents the most ever at an international psychology conference. Concerning the second, in September 2011, the International Council for Science revised its University of Science statement to include gender identity and sexual orientation, and in July 2010, the International Union of Psychological Science revised its policy on the Free Circulation of Scientists to include sexual orientation. The International Network is currently advocating for the removal of the diagnosis Ego-Dystonic Sexual Orientation from the World Health Organization’s International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems.

APA’s Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns Office, with the support of the Office of International Affairs, provides the secretariat for the International Network. In August 2011, the Office secured a grant from the Arcus Foundation for $150,000 for a two year project. Half of the grant is to support the International Network. The other half is going to the Psychological Society of South Africa and the Psychological Association of the Philippines to build their capacities to bring psychology to bear on LGBT human rights in their countries and, to the extent possible, in their regions of the world. For more information, see the LGBT Concerns Office website at www.apa.org/pi/lgbt/resources/international.aspx.

Psychology Day at the United Nations Addresses Human Rights for Vulnerable People

By Dana Townsend, APA Office of International Affairs

The Fifth Annual Psychology Day at the United Nations took place in mid-April at the UN Church Center in New York City and carried the theme Human Rights for Vulnerable People: Psychological Contributions and the United Nations Perspective.

Co-chaired by Janet Sigal, PhD (APA) and Martin Butler, PhD (IAAP), the event was well-attended by psychology students, scholars, and professionals looking to hear about innovative solutions for making human rights more accessible to vulnerable populations. The event began with a morning briefing, followed by three panel discussions on human rights in the contexts of “Mental Health and Sustainable Development,” “Refugees and Psychosocial Wellbeing,” and “Poverty Eradication in the Lives of Women and Children.” To end the evening, attendees reconvened at a local restaurant for a reception and an opportunity to continue discussions from the afternoon.
Vijay Ganju, Secretary General and CEO of the World Federation of Mental Health, opened the first panel with a presentation on the importance of recognizing mental health as a global priority. According to Ganju, most of the world has less than one psychology professional per 100,000 people, despite the growing prevalence of mental illness worldwide. In order to tackle this statistic, psychologists need to vocalize the long-term cost-effectiveness of improving global mental health care, to gain better consensus on model interventions and evidence-based solutions, and to engage in necessary “task-shifting” where there is a shortage of health workers. Priscilla Dass-Brailsford of Georgetown University followed with a presentation on the role of empowerment in overcoming trauma and HIV/AIDS, and Richard Dougherty of BasicNeeds US discussed mental health development and capacity building through the use of evidence-based processes and Participatory Action Research.

To begin the second panel, Grainne O’Hara of the U.N. High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) outlined the need for improved psychosocial support for refugee populations. As of 2011, the number of refugees of concern to UNHCR stood at 10.5 million, 7.2 million of which are in limbo with no opportunities for settlement. All of these refugees face three possible solutions: repatriation (returning home), local integration, or resettlement. The cultural adjustment and post-traumatic stress inherent to these solutions, in addition to the persistent societal demonization of asylum seekers, demand that psychologists become more involved with the provision of mental health services for refugee populations. Adeyinka Akinsulure-Smith of City University of New York, and Katherine Porterfield, a staff psychologist at Bellevue Hospital, are both affiliated with the New York University Program for Survivors of Torture (PSOT) and outlined specific approaches and competencies that need to be considered when providing care for refugee populations.

The final discussion of the day covered the structural changes and pragmatic actions necessary to alleviate poverty for women and children worldwide. Telma Viale of the U.N. International Labour Organization called for increased regulation and improved conditions for domestic workers. According to Viale, 83% of women in developing countries are domestic workers, and—of those registered with the International Trade Union—nearly 54% have suffered some form of abuse. Psychologists at the U.N. can play a role in working to improve living and working conditions for these women while still responding to the needs of those who employ them. Stuart Carr, a professor of Industrial and Organizational psychology from New Zealand, and Winifred Doherty, a social worker from Ireland and past chair of the NGO Committee on Social Development, each discussed potential strategies, structural changes, and pragmatic actions that psychologists could employ to reduce poverty. Some of the discussed strategies included the use of psychometric testing at banks to assess borrowers, using microcredit systems to develop entrepreneurial skills for young girls, and creating better awareness of ethics among corporate entities.

Psychology Day at the United Nations began in 2007 as a way to make U.N. Ambassadors, staff, and other NGO representatives more aware of what psychology has to offer when it comes to addressing issues of global concern. Past themes have all focused on issues in psychology as they pertain to the U.N. agenda. The event is a collaborative effort across several psychology organizations represented at the U.N. In addition to APA, these organizations include the International Association for 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), the Institute for Multicultural Counseling and Education Services (IMCES), and the Association for Trauma Outreach & Prevention (ATOP). Ψ
New Developments in Division 52: A Global Meeting Place

By Neal S. Rubin, PhD, ABPP, Division 52 President

Division 52, APA’s Division of International Psychology, seeks to advance global perspectives in the field of psychology and provide a meeting place for psychologists interested in these issues. A series of recent activities reflect the division’s commitment to advancing international psychology as a discipline, as well as providing opportunities for collaboration and connection among those interested in this diverse and growing field.

The division has a number of initiatives aimed at reaching out to forge new connections. For example, we have been designing conference programming with psychologists and other social scientists who share international and cross cultural interests. Our recent midwinter Board meeting in February 2012 was held in conjunction with the Society for Cross Cultural Research (SCCR), the Society for Anthropological Sciences (SASCI), and the American Anthropological Association’s Children and Childhood Interest Group (AAACIG). Division 52 provided international psychology programs with symposia at SCCR in Las Vegas and at regional meetings this year, including the Eastern Psychological Association (EPA) in Pittsburgh in March and the Western Psychological Association (WPA) in San Francisco in April. Along with other international psychological organizations, Division 52 supported the Fifth Annual Psychology Day at the United Nations in New York City, which brought together a range of psychologists, students, members of non-governmental organizations and of the UN community interested in learning how psychological science contributes to advancing the UN agenda addressing the needs of vulnerable populations worldwide. The Board of Division 52 has also accepted an invitation from the National Institute on the Teaching of Psychology (NITOP) to provide an annual symposium on internationalizing the teaching of psychology.

We are very excited about the new division journal, International Perspectives in Psychology: Research, Practice, Consultation (www.apa.org/pubs/journals/ipp/index.aspx). Our aim is to have a truly international journal highlighting the scholarly contributions of psychologists throughout the globe. To that end, we have initiated a pilot program of mentorship in editing to facilitate the efforts of researchers from low-resource, underrepresented countries to publish in an APA journal. We are also continuously updating information in our traditional newsletter, the International Psychology Bulletin (www.itopwebsite.com/InternationalPsychology/Newsletter.html). The IPB represents a combination of peer reviewed articles, book reviews, informational pieces on important events in the international psychology community, biographies of international liaisons, dedicated student and early-career member columns and announcements about resources and opportunities in the international psychology community. In addition to these quarterly publications, we keep our members abreast of emerging issues with our monthly division listserv (web.mac.com/rvelayo/Div52Announcements/Announcements.html) and our Information Clearinghouse, which is regularly updated with career opportunities on the division website (www.itopwebsite.com/moreIP/information_Clearinghouse.html).

We also have new developments that promote engagement and new collaborations within our division. These changes in the structure of our Executive Board and our committees are intended to promote the impact of new voices and faces within the division by providing meaningful roles and productive mentoring experiences between junior and senior members. Each chair of a division standing committee is appointing student and early career members. Along with members and fellows, students present their research and perspectives in Division 52 programs at regional and national conferences. To further welcome their voices and to augment their impact on the ongoing work of the division, we have approved voting Board positions for a student representative and Early-Career member. We are also connecting senior division members with students and early careerists via the Heritage Mentoring Project (HMP). Together they are authoring biographies of luminaries in the field of international psychology, which will be published in the International Psychology Bulletin. Our goal is to connect members and enhance career trajectories while contributing meaningfully to an appreciation of the history of our field.

We anticipate an active Division 52 presence this summer at the 30th International Congress of Psychology (ICP) in Cape Town, South Africa. A number of Division members and fellows will present papers and symposia on a range of topics related to their research, teaching, advocacy, and humanitarian projects. Following ICP, we will celebrate the 15th anniversary of Division 52 at APA in Orlando. We have scheduled some events that should be both interesting and enjoyable. For example, we will hold a breakfast for past-presidents to renew relationships and to engage in strategic planning. We will also hold a contest among our students to select the international psychologist(s) they would most like to know, to be followed by a meet and greet with them. Lastly, we are collecting memories from Division 52’s founding members to keep in our archive and to share in our hospitality suite program.

These developments reflect the vibrancy, creativity, and productivity of our division members. We are committed to building the field of international psychology, while maintaining Division 52 as a warm and welcoming global meeting place.
Reproductive Justice: A Global Concern

Edited by Joan C. Chrisler, PhD

“Reproductive justice” is a relatively new term that underscores the fact that the existence of reproductive rights does not mean that women are able to exercise those rights. For women unable to exercise their rights for any number of reasons—a lack of available services where they live, lack of money or health insurance to pay for services, being forbidden by family members to seek services—the reality is they have no choices to make and possess little if any control over their own bodies, regardless of what the government states as their rights.

Reproductive Justice: A Global Concern examines the status of reproductive rights for the world's women, covering a wide range of reproductive rights issues. Topics include women's rights to determine their own sexuality and choose their own partners, rape, sex trafficking, fertility treatments and other assisted reproductive technologies, contraception and abortion, maternal and infant mortality, postpartum support, and breastfeeding. ~ Joan C. Chrisler, PhD, is a Professor of Psychology at Connecticut College, New London, CT, where she teaches courses on health psychology and the psychology of women.

Crossroads: The Psychology of Immigration in the New Century

Crossroads: The Psychology of Immigration in the New Century, a report of the 2011 Presidential Task Force on Immigration, was recently published by APA. The Task Force was initiated by 2011 APA President Melba Vasquez and was charged with developing an evidence-based report that addresses the psychological factors related to the experience of immigration, with particular attention to the mental and behavioral health needs of immigrants across the lifespan, and the effects of acculturation, prejudice/discrimination, and immigration policy on individuals, families and society.

The goals of the report are to: Raise awareness about the increasing immigrant population in the United States; Derive evidence-informed recommendations for the provision of mental health services to immigrants; and, Make recommendations to improved education, research, practice, and policy affecting immigrants of all ages and backgrounds. To access the executive summary of the report, visit www.apa.org/topics/immigration/executive-summary.pdf. To access the full report, visit the APA website at www.apa.org/topics/immigration/report.aspx.

Handbook of Ethnic Conflict: International Perspectives

Edited by Dan Landis, PhD & Rosita D. Albert, PhD

“Ethnic conflicts are world-wide phenomena producing discrimination, violence, and at times, unspeakable atrocities. Two thirds of international conflicts today are ethnopolitical conflicts. Some are long-entrenched disputes dating back centuries. Others are the by-products of recent trends in immigration or politics. The Handbook of Ethnic Conflict examines the social, psychological, historical and political underpinnings of these conflicts—particularly the ethnic, cultural, religious, and national identities that feed ingroup/outgroup antagonistic perceptions and fuel cycles of aggression. It covers leading theories and models of interethnic conflict and provides in-depth analyses of twenty conflicts as diverse as those in Croatia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, France, Israel, and New Zealand. It examines phenomena that have not received the attention they deserve, such as the obstacles presented by differing accounts of the origins and dynamics of given conflict. In each case, and in the book’s concluding chapter, contributors suggest creative responses to ethnic friction utilizing innovative intercultural approaches, conflict management approaches, and peace-building strategies.” ~ From the back cover. Dan Landis is the 2012 co-recipient of the APA Award for Distinguished Contributions to the International Advancement of Psychology. Ψ
International Book Review: Selected Review from PsycCRITIQUES

The book review reprinted here is courtesy of PsycCRITIQUES editor Danny Wedding. PsycCRITIQUES is an online journal that provides reviews of books, monographs, films, and other productions in psychology stretching back to 1956. Readers can also access selected reviews and discuss books important to the science and profession of psychology by visiting the PsycCRITIQUES blog at psyccritiquesblog.apa.org. For more information see www.apa.org/psycritiques. If you are interested in reviewing, please contact editor Danny Wedding at dwedding@alliant.edu.

Sex Offenders the World Around

A review of

International Perspectives on the Assessment and Treatment of Sexual Offenders: Theory, Practice, and Research

By Douglas P. Boer, Reinhard Eher, Leam A. Craig, Michael H. Miner, and Friedemann Pfafflin (Eds.)


Reviewed by Philip H. Witt

With relatively few exceptions, the major texts on sex offender treatment have originated from researchers, theorists, and clinicians in Canada or the United States. This North American-centric publication history in this area is evident in both early works (e.g., United States: Groth, 1979; Salter, 1988) and more recent texts (e.g., Canada: Marshall, Fernandez, Marshall, & Serran, 2006; United States: Stinson, Sales, & Becker, 2008). This is in part the result of the fact that much of the leading research has been conducted in North America—for example, Hanson and colleagues’ work on risk assessment (Canada), Pithers’s and Marques’s work on relapse prevention (United States), and Seto’s work on child pornography offenders (Canada). Likewise, a widely used model of criminal rehabilitation—the risk–need–responsivity approach of Andrews and Bonta (2006)—originated in Canada.

The present edited volume, International Perspectives on the Assessment and Treatment of Sexual Offenders: Theory, Practice, and Research, aims to remedy the parochial nature of sex offender work by systematically including authors from a broad range of countries, illustrating the breadth of thinking across the globe in this area. The editors themselves are from New Zealand, Germany, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The chapter authors span all the continents except Antarctica and highlight theories and practices that were developed in other locations, such as the Good Lives model of treatment most often associated with Tony Ward (e.g., Ward & Maruna, 2007) of New Zealand.

International Perspectives succeeds well. Although I have followed the sex offender assessment and treatment literature for over 30 years, I was unaware of how this population is treated in countries outside North America. In fact, the book was written with the support of the International Association for the Treatment of Sexual Offenders, a multinational organization formed after a series of international conferences designed to share information among practitioners and researchers from a range of countries.

The reader of this book will come away with a broader understanding of the range and variety of approaches used throughout the world. There are chapters on a treatment program for rapists in South Africa, a Danish sex offender treatment and evaluation program, the role of culture in sex offender treatment in New Zealand, and treatment of Internet sex offenders in Switzerland.

Moreover, there is a chapter by Helmus, Hanson, and Morton-Bourgon—widely cited risk assessment researchers in the United States and Canada—on international comparisons of actuarial risk assessment tools, as well as an additional chapter on international perspectives on the use of an alternative risk assessment approach (i.e., structured professional judgment tools). I know of no other source that concisely summarizes cross-national research on risk assessment.

There are some features in International Perspectives that one will not find in other texts. There is an entire section on human rights and ethical issues as they apply to sex offender assessment and treatment. This section includes an excellent chapter by Levenson on
the unintended consequences of American policies regarding sex offenders, a second on human rights issues involved in risk assessment, and another on ethical and legal issues involved in antiandrogen treatment of sex offenders.

Some of the chapters are quite topical, such as the chapter on sexual abuse by clergy and the synopsis of the survey research conducted in the United States by John Jay College of Criminal Justice researchers. There is an informative chapter regarding research concerning the relationship between risk and dose—that is, the presumption that higher risk individuals should receive a higher “dose” of treatment. Two chapters address Internet offenders, a growing area of assessment and treatment.

The book closes with a chapter by William and Liam Marshall reflecting on the course of sex offender treatment around the world over the past 40 years. William Marshall is uniquely positioned to write such a chapter. He has been a leading researcher and theorist in this field almost since its inception, and his views have evolved over the decades, paralleling the field’s own movement from confrontational and mechanistic approaches (e.g., aversive conditioning) to strength-based approaches (e.g., the Good Lives model).

This is not a short book—it is over 700 pages—so the reader must commit considerable time to reading it. There is some redundancy among the chapters; there are only so many ways that actuarial risk assessment or the risk–need–responsivity framework can be described. And in an edited volume of such length and diversity, it is unavoidable that some contributions will be stronger than others.

However, the reader will be rewarded for his or her effort. I know of no other text that provides the breadth of coverage and diversity of viewpoints found in International Perspectives on the Assessment and Treatment of Sexual Offenders: Theory, Practice, and Research.

REFERENCES


Call for Applications:
APA Division International Activities Grant (DIAG) Program

The APA Committee on International Relations in Psychology (CIRP) seeks strong, innovative proposals for its Division International Activities Grant (DIAG) Program. Consistent with its strategic priorities, CIRP will provide support for Division initiated programs aimed at fostering internationalization and international members outreach. The expectation is that these grants would serve as seed funding for the development of sustained international initiatives. Proposals must be submitted by at least one division of the APA, though proposals jointly submitted by two or more division will also be accepted. Projects that are innovative and unique with respect to other programs of APA Divisions or offices will be given high priority. The project must be completed within 12 months of receipt of funding, and the budget should not exceed $500 for a one-year period. Deadline for submissions is September 3, 2012. To apply, please visit www.apa.org/about/awards/international-diag.aspx.

Small Grants for Research, Education, and Application of Peace Psychology

The Society for the Study of Peace, Conflict, and Violence: Peace Psychology, Division 48 of the APA, invites applications for small grants for research in peace psychology, development of peace psychology education programs, or community projects involving the application of peace psychology. Grant applications may request between $300 and $3,000. The purpose of this grants program is to foster the development of the field of peace psychology through research, education, and the application of peace psychology in community projects. The Society welcomes applications from anyone with the qualifications to conduct the proposed project, including graduate students and persons from all nations. To apply for a grant, email a letter of application with your name, address, phone number, email address, and title of your proposal to Dan Mayton (dmayton@lcsd.edu) and include your resume and the following attachments: 1) Brief description of proposed project; 2) Purpose of proposed project and expected benefits for the target population; 3) Potential contribution of the project to development of the field of peace psychology; 4) Timeline for initiation, implementation, and completion of the project; 5) Plan for the evaluation of the project; 6) Budget, including requested amount (Grants less than $1500 are encouraged); and 7) Qualifications and experience of applicants relevant to the project.
International Volunteer Opportunities for Psychologists

NGOabroad helps professionals enter or advance in international humanitarian work and provides customized international volunteer opportunities in Africa, Asia, and South America. Currently, NGOabroad is in need of psychologists for volunteer positions in the following areas: 1) Gender-Based Violence—Working with Congolese refugee communities in Uganda; 2) Post-Conflict—Working in Uganda or Sierra Leone with orphaned youth affected by PTSD; 3) Returned Child Soldiers—Rehabilitating children through play therapy, sports, music, drama, and dance; 4) Domestic Violence—Teaching anger management and conflict resolution to husbands, parents, and teachers in Cameroon; 5) Alcohol Abuse—Helping launch substance abuse programs in Kenya or Bolivia, including education campaigns, prevention, and treatment; and 6) Abused Children—Helping children who have been forced into child labor catch up in school. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis with no end date. For more information, see the NGOabroad website at www.ngoabroad.com.

2013 Psychology Beyond Borders Mission Awards

Psychology Beyond Borders (PBB) is seeking proposals for projects that support its mission. PBB is an international non-profit organization focusing on the psychosocial impacts of disasters, armed conflicts, and terrorism. It is currently seeking to fund research and service-oriented projects that support work in these areas, with a particular focus on work that addresses issues of how the psychosocial impact of disasters and mass traumas are affected by repetitive and chronic exposure to traumatic events, economic loss and empowerment, preparedness and resilience programs, and prevention. Projects of $500-$10,000 (USD) will be funded with an expected project duration of one year, beginning in May 2013. Applicants must be affiliated with a university or non-profit organization. Applicants from international organizations are encouraged. For more information on the award, visit the PBB website. Applications are due by October 12, 2012.

Call for Nominations: APA International Awards

The Office of International Affairs is seeking nominations for both its International Awards. The 2012 Award for Distinguished Contributions to the International Advancement of Psychology recognizes enduring lifetime contributions to the international cooperation and advancement of knowledge in psychology. For more information, visit www.apa.org/about/awards/international-advancement.aspx. The 2012 International Humanitarian Award recognizes extraordinary humanitarian service and activism by a psychologist or team of psychologists working primarily in the field with under-served populations. For more information, visit www.apa.org/about/awards/international-humanitarian.aspx. The deadline for both awards has been extended to September 1, 2012.

Call for Contributions:

Handbook of Intercultural Relations Neuroscience

The Handbook of Intercultural Relations Neuroscience (tentative title) aims to explore possible connections between two research traditions: cultural neuroscience and intercultural relations. Any contributions bearing on the confluence of these two traditions are welcomed. In particular, the editors seek contributions on the following topics: Brain structure differences between cultures; Lower level processing differences like perception and attention; Higher level processing differences like number concepts, language, emotional inferences, and the concept of the self as these relate to culture; Relationship between brain function and cultural intelligence; Relationship between brain function and the effectiveness of intercultural training, and so on. Potential Contributors should send a title, brief abstract, contact information, and institutional affiliation to the Handbook editors: Jason E. Warnick (jwarnick@atu.edu) and Dan Landis (DanL@hawaii.edu). The anticipated publication date is late 2013 or early 2014.