

several psychological outcomes. Theoretically we examined the psychological effects of the recession from a stress and coping perspective.

We established an international network of collaborators in several different countries who translated our questionnaire and are collecting data using the same instrument. We have collaborators in countries world-wide including, for example, Greece, Poland, Israel, Germany, Austria, Spain, Ireland, Belgium, Portugal, The Czech Republic and Pakistan. We are also developing models linking stressors, psychological resources and outcomes that we are testing cross-nationally. This will extend stress and coping theory to understanding how the financial downturn affects individuals and how individual resources may help alleviate distress. By applying our theories and research design to an understanding of the effects of the recession, we are extending psychological theory to the study of a most important social issue and its implications for psychological health. In our research we also point to interventions that can be implemented to help improve quality of life during these difficult economic times.

–**Esther R. Greenglass**

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The IAAP team as NGO Representatives to the United Nations: Update on activities

– edited by Judy Kuriansky, IAAP UN representative

Introduction to this Section

The IAAP representatives to the United Nations continue to be active at the three headquarters: New York City, Geneva and Vienna. This section concentrates on Psychology Day at the UN and the message from the UN Deputy Secretary General, which expressed extremely important support for psychology. Other activities for later reports include: (1) presentations at UN events, e.g., at the UN Commission on Social Development on “Social Integration, Poverty Eradication and Employment: Impact on Mental Health and Well-Being” and at the International Day of Happiness (see video at <http://vimeo.com/69441235>); (2) the NGO Committee on Children’s Rights’ meeting about care of boys; (3) meetings with member states, e.g., the Lesotho Ministry Office of Gender about the girls empowerment programme, and the UN President of the General Assembly address to the NGOs; (4) presentations, e.g., at the European Congress of Psychology; (5) the Youth Assembly 2013 on “Tomorrow’s Leaders Today”; (6) the launch of the new “Ethical and Spiritual Initiative for Sustainable Development”; (7) the strategy of the Psychology Coalition at the UN, coincident with the IAAP UN team strategy; (8) an update on field projects (e.g., in Haiti, Africa); and (9) events with the First Ladies of Africa.

The 6th Annual Psychology Day at the United Nations

Psychology Day at the UN is a major annual event held at UN headquarters, organized by representatives of psychology NGOs accredited at the UN (see past IAAP bulletins). The 6th Annual Psychology Day at the UN was held on 25 April 2013 at the UN Church Center on the theme “Violence in a Global Context: Antecedents, Consequences and Prevention.” The topic was chosen because of: major recent national and international incidences; violence as an ongoing major issue at the UN including at this year’s UN Commission on the Status of Women and the previous week’s historic UN declaration that violence against females cannot be justified or ignored by any custom, tradition or religious consideration.

Co-Chairs of the event were IAAP UN representative Walter Reichman and John C. Scott, UN representative of the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology (SIOP). Many IAAP members participated, as usual, in the committees on planning, publicity and programming.



Psychology Day at the UN committee members and presenters

To open the event, Dr. Reichman read the important greeting from The Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Jan Eliasson (see below). The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Theresa Betancourt, Associate Professor of Child Health and Human Rights at Harvard School of Public Health. In her presentation about the “Youth Readiness Intervention Program,” an ongoing longitudinal study of former child soldiers in Sierra Leone, she pointed out the need for developmental and longitudinal perspectives on child mental health in adversity and the importance of integrating mental health programs into education and youth employment initiatives. She also described a collaboration with Partners in Health Rwanda to launch a mixed-methods study of mental health needs among HIV/AIDS-affected youth.

In a panel on violence against children and youth, Julia M. da Silva, Director of the Violence Prevention Office of the American Psychological Association, presented a violence prevention parent training program implemented in the U.S. and five other countries. Dr. Ava Thompson, Associate Professor of Psychology at the College of The Bahamas, representing IUPyS, discussed the impact of violence on the development of children. Joost Kooijmans, Special Assistant to the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, pointed out that less than five percent of children in the world have legal protection against violence.

In the second panel on violence against adults and the elderly, Dr. Mary Crawford, Psychology Professor at the University of Connecticut, discussed sex trafficking in South Asia and related tragic stories of young victims in Nepal, given that low caste, illiterate, poor and ethnic minorities are at the greatest risk. Dr. Shamita Das Dasgupta, cofounder of Manavi and adjunct professor at NYU Law School, described that violence against women stems in part from dependency and powerlessness in their communities. Rosemary Lane, Senior Social Affairs Officer in the Focal Point on Ageing at the UN Division for Social Policy and Development, reviewed the work of the

UN in the prevention of violence against the ageing and asked for NGO input at an upcoming meeting of the UN group on ageing that is being convened to protect the human rights of older persons.

IAAP's UN representative Dr. Florence Denmark shared her memories of establishing the first Psychology Day at the UN in 2007 and traced its development to this 6th year. A video about this evolution, produced by IAAP's UN Representative Judy Kuriansky, is at the new website:

unpsychday.wordpress.com. A review of responses of an evaluation revealed highly favorable reactions to the event and speakers.

—submitted by IAAP UN representative Walter Reichman and SIOP UN representative John Scott

Official message to Psychology Day at the United Nations from Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson (abstracted)



UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

It is a great pleasure to greet all participants in this sixth Psychology Day at the United Nations. The growing involvement of your profession in the work of the international community is matched by the UN's rising appreciation for the role that psychology can play in responding to global challenges.

Mental illness and strains, for example, impose tremendous social and economic burdens on societies and on millions of people – from children traumatized by war to youth in despair at the lack of job opportunities to the increasing number of older persons coping with dementia or Alzheimer's disease. Yet many countries lack policies or programmes to address such issues and there are rampant misconceptions and stigma about mental illness ... Each aspect of your programme – antecedents, consequences and, prevention – bears directly on the UN's efforts to promote peace, development and human rights. ... I thank you for your efforts to help us address the roots of these complex and crucial challenges. ... I welcome your emphasis on introducing psychology students to the global implications of their newly chosen field of study. We at the United Nations look forward to learning more about your work and finding scope for your expertise to be utilized.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and I thank you for your support and wish you a stimulating and productive day.

Report about the IAAP side event on Migration at the 2013 United Nations Commission on Population and Development

IAAP UN Representative Martin Butler organized a side event entitled "Vulnerabilities of Children in International Migration: Human Rights and Psychosocial Perspectives" on behalf of the Psychology Coalition at the United Nations (PCUN), for the 46th Meeting of the Commission on Population and Development on the topic of "New Trends in Migration: Demographic Aspects." The event was held at United Nations headquarters in New York City on 23 April 2013.

Susan Bissell, Chief of Child Protection at the Programme Division of UNICEF noted that children are left behind when their parents seek employment opportunities. There are 220 million children in Southeast Asia who do not have birth certificates. She recommended that areas of origin, transit, and destination should be in sync in order to protect children, and that children's needs should be considered both individually and in the family context. Steeve Coupeau, president of NYIHA Media, described a new trend of migration from Haiti to Brazil, rather than to the Dominican Republic as was common in the past, partly because Haitians experience less hostility and racism in Brazil where they can obtain humanitarian visas and thus receive residency, education, employment, and healthcare. In addition, Afro-Brazilians are beginning to assert their status in Brazil. Psychology professor and SPSSI UN representative Yvonne Rafferty likened child trafficking, a global shame, to modern-day slavery, with sex slavery as the biggest subset. She pointed out problems with defining "trafficking" and "child," and the importance of differentiating trafficking, which involves physical, sexual, and psychological abuse, from migration. Trafficked children suffer direct physical injury, drug and alcohol abuse, sexually transmitted infections, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (found in 26% of trafficked children), and depression (found in 100%), with 47% having attempted suicide. Children should be educated on "safe migration." Maria Pia Belloni of the World Association of Early Childhood Education said there is a criminology of migration. Migrants may not know the language in locales where they have been detained and thus are unaware of their rights or the reasons for their detainment. In Europe, 600,000 men, women, and children are detained for no crime – just migration – for a minimum of six months, in overcrowded cells, frequently with criminals present. When parents are detained, children suffer lifelong effects, often ferried from place to place or just released onto the streets. Solutions include schools and group homes for children. No child should be detained for more than 3–6 days, she said, and should be released to refugee centers with their families.

– submitted by **Martin Butler**, IAAP UN NGO representative with gratitude to intern **Alishia Kliza**, PCUN rapporteur

Commentary

REFRAMING TIME AND THE BIRTHDAY NINE

"We stand in life at midnight; we are always on the threshold of a new dawn."
(Martin Luther King Jr.)

In San Francisco, a young woman ran for the cable car, arms loaded down with groceries. She succeeded in boarding and, arms loaded with groceries, made for the last free seat. Suddenly, a teenage boy shot past her and, with a triumphant smile, sat in her space. She stood in front of him as the cable car started up, maintaining her balance as best she could. He clearly had no intention of surrendering his seat. But she had learned the hypnotic art of time distortion, slowing the experience of time to give herself more room to think in a crisis (Morgan, 2004). After several minutes of reflection, using up only seconds in real time, she said "Would you please give up your seat to an exhausted pregnant woman?" This was said in a loud voice and the other passengers turned toward the teenager who, reluctantly, stood up and let the young woman have his seat. Looking at her intently as she settled into his former spot, he said "You sure don't look pregnant. How long have you been pregnant?" She smiled benignly: "Two hours."