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During a recent interview that I conducted with Dr. Harry Triandis, he mentioned that someone once said about him that was never a conference that Harry didn’t like. I think I am the same way.

Freshly returned from a delightful time in Sofia, Bulgaria, where I attended the South-East European Regional Conference of Psychology (SEERCP), I am full of wonderful memories of hearing colleagues impart information about psychology, conversations with old and new friends, and the sights in the wonderful city of Sofia. A number of IAAP members also attended which made it a jolly time for all of us. In this issue of the Bulletin, we present a number of perspectives on the conference. Mike Knowles gives us an overview, and Ray Fowler describes how the conference came to be—a good reminder of how hard people worked. Irina Todorova, President of the European Health Psychology Society, provides a personal note, and some excerpts from an interview that I did with Pameen Dimirov, the President of the SEERCP provide us with his hopes and dreams regarding the conference.

Why do we hold these things, anyway? After all, we can read books and papers, and we can correspond with colleagues. But nothing beats person-to-person relationships for a whole host of reasons, most having to do with the delight in sharing information this way and our human need for closeness and connection. Sharing ideas and concepts, a particular serendipity between you and a colleague who has the same research or clinical interests as you do, can, and often do, result in something that significantly improves the lives of our fellow humans. Isn’t that what it’s all about? I’d like to think that the personal connection improves the whole process. (I’m a clinician. I can’t help it. Maybe somebody can do a study about this.)

And, we have another conference to look forward to! In the Division News section, you can read about what our Divisions have planned for the IAAP Congress in Melbourne next year. Also, the conference organizers, Paul Martin and Mike Kyros, describe some of the things that you can expect in Melbourne. For everything you want to know about the conference, please consult the website: www.IAAP2010.com.

Also in this issue, you have the opportunity to read excerpts from an interview that I was privileged to do with Harry C. Triandis, the “father of cross-cultural psychology.” Harry is just about the nicest human being you could ever want to meet. He also is one of the most highly regarded psychologists in the world. And, he is fascinating. We’ll give you a small taste of the interview here, and you can read it in its entirety on the IAAP website (www.IAAP.org). To pique your interest, here are some of the things that Harry said in the interview: “Talking with God is very nice.” “Reality is not so nice.” “What we really need, I think, in life, is to deal with things that are greater than we are.”

And, last but not least, we end (as usual) with the Commentary by Robert Morgan. Don’t miss this one. It’s really pretty funny.

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The President’s Corner

Just as with my column in the last Issue of the Bulletin when I wanted to take all our readers to Latin America via the XXXII Interamerican Congress of Psychology which was held in Guatemala, now I should like to take everyone to South-Eastern Europe on the wings of the South-East European Regional Conference of Psychology that was held in Sofia, Bulgaria from 30 October – 1 November 2009. Thus I hope that the following overview will provide some glimpse into the nature and the development of psychology in this exciting region of the world.

General Idea

The South-East European Regional Conference of Psychology (SEERCP) was the eighth regional conference organized under the auspices of the International Association of Applied Psychology (IAAP), the International Union of Psychological Science (IUPsyS), and the International Association for Cross-Cultural Psychology (IACCP). Regional conferences are held every two years in between the large international congresses organized by IAAP and IUPsyS. They were introduced as a joint venture among IUPsyS, IAAP, and IACCP to review the current state of psychology in a particular region and to foster its development by increasing communication between scientific researchers and professionals, disseminating psychological knowledge and expertise, and supporting the organization of psychology within the region. Previous regional conferences have been held in Guangzhou, China (1995); Mexico City, Mexico (1997); Durban, South Africa (1999); Mumbai, India (2001); Dubai, United Arab Emirates (2003); Bangkok, Thailand (2005); and Amman, Jordan (2007).

Specific Idea

The present regional conference was held under the Patronage of the President of Bulgaria and received financial support from IAAP, IUPsyS, IACCP, the European Federation of Psychologists’ Associations, and the European Health Psychology Society. It was hosted by the Bulgarian Psychological Association whose President is Dr. Plamen Dimitrov, and it received organizational support from the Department of Psychology of Sofia University and the Institute of Psychology of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. The Chair of the Local Organising Committee was also Dr. Plamen Dimitrov and the Chair of the Scientific Program Committee was Professor Sava Djonev.

One of the distinguishing characteristics of psychology in the SEE region is that by and large psychologists tend to look towards Western Europe. Thus SEERCP offered the Balkan and neighbouring countries two golden opportunities. One was to foster the growth of cooperation, collaboration and cohesion in the research and practice of psychology throughout the region. The other was to stimulate the development of the national societies and associations of psychology in SEE both individually and collectively.

The Conference succeeded in attracting over 350 participants. Approximately half came from regional countries including Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia and Turkey and from countries immediately outside the SEE region including Armenia, Moldova, Russia and the Ukraine. The other half of the participants came from other Western European and neighbouring countries such as Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy and the United Kingdom as well as other countries stretching to the four corners of the world including Australia, Canada, Singapore, South Africa and the United States of America.

The Conference was held on the central campus of St. Kliment Ohridski Sofia University, Bulgaria’s principal University, which is located in downtown Sofia. Sofia University was established in the immediate aftermath of Bulgaria gaining independence in 1879, and the building on what is now its central campus comprises three magnificent sandstone wings, all of neo-classical design. The University is located on one corner of a triangle comprising the inner precinct of Sophia and occupies this position together with other cultural and scientific institutions such as galleries, libraries, and the Academy of Sciences. The other two corners of the triangle represent the shopping and commercial centre of the city and the political and administrative nucleus of the nation.
The Scientific Program

The Scientific Program Group was coordinated by Prof. Sava Djonev. The structure and content of the Scientific Program was developed through consultation and collaboration and was based upon over 150 proposals and suggestions that were received by the Organizing Committee from national associations of psychology, other psychological institutions and individuals, all from throughout the SEE region. On the first day of the Conference the Keynote Addresses were presented in four streams: Psychological factors underlying personal development and social change, Cross-cultural characteristics within and without South-East Europe, Health and well-being, and Disasters, crises and terrorism. Each of three sessions along the thematic orientations covered achievements and challenges of applied psychology in the SEE countries; status reports from national societies or associations of psychology in the region; and international visibility and mobility of SEE psychologists.

On the second and third days of the Conference symposia, individual papers and poster sessions were presented in seven parallel sessions along the following themes:

1. **Clinical and Counseling Psychology** focused on Positive Psychology in Psychotherapy and Mental Health Research and Practice
2. **Adolescents’ Health Psychology** focused on understanding Health Behavior, Lifestyles and Needs of young people in the SEE region
3. **School and Educational Psychology** focused on Prevention of Bullying in Schools, and Youth and Family Problems
4. **Organizational Psychology** focused on Developing Human Capital and Organizational Effectiveness
5. **Applied Social Psychology** focused on Mass Media, Crime and Civil Society Research including Minorities and Social Exclusion
6. **Psychological Assessment** focused on Test Standards and Professional Training of Test Administrators
7. **Disaster Management** focused on Crisis Intervention Models and the need for Professional Network development.
8. **Applied Psychology as a Profession** focused on Teaching Psychology, Professional and Ethical Standards of Psychologists, the EuroPsy and National Certification of Psychologists, Capacity Development of Psychologists’ Associations and Practices, and Psychology and Public Issues.

In addition, in order to further the capacity-building efforts of the Conference, some 20 Round Tables were organized, again on a thematic basis around topics such as:

1. The Future of Regional Networking among Professionals and Institutions
2. Building conditions for successful Joint Research Projects, Academic Links, Professional Training Programs, and Regional Exchange Initiatives
3. Is there a need for an English-language Regional Journal of Psychology?
4. Is there a shared development agenda for SEE Applied Psychology?
5. Organizing regular and coordinated Regional Meetings and Conferences
6. Implementing EuroPsy Certificate in the Region – experience, readiness and concerns
7. Building effective National Societies or Associations of Psychology
8. Youth issues in Psychology.

The Conference also allowed for participants to work together in Open Forums and Future Search Discussions, Training and Demonstration Workshops, Information Exchange and Ad Hoc Meetings, and Book and Test Exhibitions.

A special feature of the Conference was the Young Psychologists’ Group coordinated by Borislav Slavchov. Thus the Scientific Program provided for a specific stream of student symposia and workshops where students were able to present their studies and projects in especially designed 2-hour sessions using interactive methods, posters, powerpoint presentations, short videos, role-plays and simulations. A Youth Roundtable was also held to address the topic “How to do it in Southeast Europe – Studying and Career in Psychology?” and this
provided time and space for an open discussion on the specific issues of students and young psychologists in the SEE region. Young psychologists were also able to attend a special 3-hour workshop on “EU grants – possibility for exchange and collaboration between psychologists in SEE”.

Social Program
The Opening Ceremony was held in the main hall of the University, the Aula, a grand auditorium which was approached via a magnificent staircase that rose out of a spacious and spectacular marble-studded foyer. A letter of welcome from the Bulgarian President who was overseas on official duties was read out, and speakers included the Deputy Minister of Education, Youth and Science; the Chair of the Conference Organizing Committee, Plamen Dimitrov; the Chair of the Scientific Program Committee, Sava Djonev; the President of IAAP, Mike Knowles; and the President of IUPsyS, Rainer Silbereisen.

The Welcoming Ceremony was held in the Archaeological Museum which befitted the long history and rich culture of Bulgaria. It began with folk dancing by young children dressed in traditional national costumes and after a short official welcome by the IAAP President, delegates mixed and mingled delightedly over servings of selected Bulgarian finger-foods and wines.

Other social events included a Folklore Dinner at which people danced their feet off; sight-seeing tours of the city of Sofia highlighting its beautiful tree-lined boulevards, parks, churches and impressive public buildings; pre- and post-conference day tours to Bulgaria’s second largest city of Plovdiv with its 19th Century-styled old town featuring winding cobbled streets and a Greek amphitheatre dating back to the 2nd Century AD; a restful holiday in sea-side towns on the Black Sea; or, for the more adventurous, hiking in the fir and pine forests at the foothills of the Bulgarian mountains.

The Closing Ceremony was again held in the Aula with concluding addresses by Plamen Dimitrov, Sava Djonev and Irene Zinovieva, and final congratulations for the wonderful and comprehensive success of the Conference were expressed in a vote of appreciation by Mike Knowles and a gift on behalf of IAAP presented by Ray Fowler.

Postscript
In one sense the Closing Ceremony marked the end of a huge undertaking but in another way it was the beginning of a new era in which planning has already begun for a subsequent conference to be held in three years time, again in South-east Europe, in order to build upon the momentum created in Sofia.

Kind regards,
Mike Knowles

Email: mike.knowles@buseco.monash.edu.au

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To join a Division: Please contact Blackwell on membershipservices@blackwellpublishing.com or telephone +44 (0)1865 778171.
27th ICAP, Melbourne 11th – 16th July, 2010

Eight years after bidding to host the 27th ICAP on behalf of IAAP, the Congress is now imminent! The venue will be the Melbourne Convention Centre, a magnificent new state-of-the-art facility built in the heart of cosmopolitan Melbourne. Within easy reach of the Centre are a range of hotels catering for budgets big and small. Melbourne is a great city to visit – excellent restaurants, theatres, museums, gardens, sport stadiums and a safe environment to explore. Melbourne is also a good place to start or finish a vacation in Australia, with opportunities to visit the Great Barrier Reef, Daintree Rain Forest, Kakadu National Park, the Great Ocean Road, Uluru (Ayers Rock), fine wineries and much more.

A novel feature of this ICAP is that a handbook will be launched at the Congress entitled the IAAP Handbook of Applied Psychology, and the authors of the chapters will deliver the State-of-the-Art Addresses at the Congress. This will mean that the presenters of these Addresses will be particularly well prepared as they will have just completed chapters on the topics of their Addresses, and attendance at the Congress will therefore provide a unique opportunity to overview applied psychology in all its manifest sub-disciplines. It will also mean that the Handbook will provide an overview of applied psychology and will be a fitting tribute to what we believe will be a very special ICAP.

In addition, we are delighted with the group of people who have accepted invitations to deliver Addresses and Workshops at ICAP 2010 and would encourage a visit to the Congress website to view the list of outstanding presenters – www.icap2010.com. Visiting the website will also enable you to access details about the seven satellite conferences scheduled for just before or just after ICAP. The website also includes all the necessary details for making submissions for symposia, individual oral papers, brief oral presentations, and electronic posters. The Scientific Program will also include a range of special activities and presentations highlighting the importance of psychological factors and the application of psychological knowledge to individuals, groups, communities, societies and the world community. The Congress will provide delegates a scientific program of global significance and regional relevance.

Finally, we are putting together an exciting social program that includes the Congress Dinner to be held in the historic Melbourne Town Hall. Through the social activities we will showcase our local produce and wines, Melbourne’s cultural diversity and our friendly Australian nature.

We look forward to seeing you in Melbourne in July, 2010.

Paul R Martin, President, ICAP 2010
Mike Kyrios, Chair, Scientific Program, ICAP 2010

Plamen Dimitrov on the South-East European Conference of Psychology and Beyond

VCH: So this conference has been about two years in the making, right, or more than that?

PD: Well, the first time we started talking regional conference in Sofia I remember it was a nice meeting with Professor Fowler in April 2007. We still had no idea what is the procedure to apply. And he came to Sofia with his wife, and he decided to contact the Bulgarian Psychological Society. So it was practically a wonderful first meeting. And at the end of the meeting both we were convinced that we have the power, we have the feel what could be written in the proposal. But later we spent about two months with my colleagues on the board of The Bulgarian Psychological Society to develop a proposal. Ray was with us in this process. We were trying to develop different ideas and selectively we went to a proposal which was presented at the meeting in Prague. In Prague we met with the full board (representatives from IUPsyS, IAAP, and the International Association of Cross-Cultural Psychology), the people who were making decisions and we made the presentation.

(Fast forward. Tomorrow the conference opens.)
PD: Tomorrow I’ll be able at the opening to confirm the exact numbers because I need to see the faces and to shake the hands of people. But we have some people coming from Brazil.

VCH: That’s wonderful.

PD: We have some people – one person coming from Japan. We have, of course, representatives of other places like Dr. Cooper will be coming from South Africa. We signed a special memorandum of understanding between the Bulgarian Psychological Society and the Psychological Society of South Africa to work together for the International Congress of Psychology in 2012. And the ambassador to Bulgaria from the Republic of South Africa will be in the room tomorrow when we sign it in front of the audience.

VCH: Isn’t that wonderful?

PD: This is just to encourage people that they can use these meetings for building longer-term agreements for cooperative efforts. I believe that it’s not the number makes the conference, I mean not the number of countries, the important thing is that we discover that this is a working format. That people can meet and discuss not only scientific – I’m not underestimating the scientific program at all, it’s very rich—but I do believe that such a meeting in a short time can produce results in capacity development, at least setting the stage for capacity development initiatives. We have exchange of experts then regional cooperation. For many years due to many factors like the war in Yugoslavia or then the crisis, the economic crisis of countries, traditional countries—because Bulgaria had a very painful transition period, which is now probably ending, finally—and all these difficulties made a generation of psychologists too isolated in all these countries. I believe many people will share the same observation that in Romania, in Greece, including in Bulgaria and ex-Yugoslavia people were working in their hometowns in home universities but they didn’t meet, they didn’t know what’s going on in the neighbor’s house. So one of the steps we can take in this meeting is to start more regularly exchanging ideas and I believe we can understand each other better if we consider this format an important regular activity for the national associations in southeast Europe. One of the appeals – probably some of us will do it, I mean some of the organizing committee members—is that let’s do this every third year. Today we start in Sofia, let’s plan for the next one in Bucharest or Belgrade or any other place and let’s put this in our annual and strategic plans to have regional conferences and to invite people just to see where we go from now and in the future. So that’s one of the goals, to have a discussion, a productive discussion on regional networking, exchange of experts, increasing mobility of both professors and students, sharing… Well, there are wonderful opportunities provided by the European union both for members as Bulgaria, Romania, Greece, but also for non-members who are applying members like countries – Croatia, others. So we could have lots of experience to share plus there are resources in the new programs if we are united, if we organize we could develop cross-border initiatives and many other projects which are to benefit not only the profession but finally the citizens of the countries. And to be able to produce such proposals we need to know each other, to work in partnership and to start thinking and working in collaboration. That’s the purpose of the capacity-building component. That’s my personal mission for this conference. We need to know more people from a neighboring country and they to know us but we need to work more often together, not in isolation. The region is small but it’s like archipelagos now, a network of islands. Well, that’s the situation with our society, with our universities. So a network is a better situation.

VCH: So how do you – what is the movement that you see between archipelagos and networks?

PD: Well, we need to build first good connections. I mean people to exchange at a personal and institutional level information on their activities. We need to find a language to talk – to use. Unfortunately, you know, the Balkans are diverse, we speak too many languages.

VCH: Yes, you speak a lot of languages. So what language do you think it might be?

PD: I think we will have to improve our English because it is going to be like my English --

VCH: Your English is terrific.

PD: No, no, no. We made a joke in the office talking with people from other countries and they’re talking to us and we say, “Okay, at this conference we have several official languages. It’s going to Bulgish. It could be also Serbish, which means Serbian English.

VCH: [chuckle] Bulgish and Serbish.
PD: So I believe other important issues to take place to become a network. It's also to start publishing each other's work in other countries and translate it. We know better what is just published in the United States of America. The American Psychological Association is doing great work in this but we don't know what there is interesting just next-door, I mean in the next country. Many of the authors are not translated and we don't know each other's history in the recent years, for the distant past we know better. So we need to exchange articles, we need to start developing probably a common platform to publish work and now we try with this volume of conference papers to do exactly the same. And then the work reflected is a conference which was designed together so why not to set in each national journal a section? That's one of the initiatives, it's not decided but we will raise this issue for discussion and why not Balkan countries to share the type of regional components in their official journals of psychology and to invite people from other countries. So regular conferences, thematic meetings, exchange of professors, students where it's possible and we have good candidates. It's the first step then, the common platform for publications. And then joining the bigger organization like European Federation. We still have our Romanian and Macedonian colleagues who are not members of the European Federation and the European Federation itself has lots of program priority areas which are of common interest. So working together for this we could work for ourselves too like EuroPsy, for instance, because if we implement it in Bulgaria and other countries are not implementing it, it would be, I would say, another separation.

VCH: Yes. Yes.

PD: Then universities are interested to have open doors for students from other countries, especially when countries like Bulgaria and Romania joined EU, the in-flow and out-flow of people became natural. So building bridges between ourselves, we are building the larger network and that's something we need to do together with better functioning and more developed organizations in the western part of Europe. And that's why we invited actually some of the colleagues from Scandinavian countries because we were watching for years how good they are in regional cooperation between Denmark, Finland, Sweden and Norway. That's why they are throwing this seminar to say how we are doing it in our places. So we need to learn something. And that's one opportunity to invite at the regional conference people with experience and with organizational achievements. If we invite you as a national society probably it would be another type of criteria to meet and now we are organizing a regional conference and everyone we invited came.

VCH: That's wonderful.

PD: Because I believe it's a shared event, it's not only Bulgarians, it's Serbs, it's Russians too, it's Greek and Turkish delegation will be there. So I believe that's the beginning to the network.

VCH: Fantastic. That's wonderful.

PD: So this is the vision. We shall see how it works. And I again say – I would like to say that the scientific component, which is important. I am very keen to say we need to have products, we need to have good ideas. Of course, it's important and many people come to share their achievements and their results of research and practice. So there is a scientific meeting. It's not just networking, making friends for the future. But I do believe in that long-term activities, if we have second, third, fourth South-East European Conference, it would be for me the measure, the real effectiveness measure for the conference we start tomorrow. And then generations change. Twenty years ago when I was a bit younger [chuckle] I felt that things will happen immediately but it took us twenty years in transition period and it's never ending with this crisis now too.

VCH: Yes.

PD: I see a younger generation of psychologists, you'll see them tomorrow too, they speak languages, they are open to the world. The first thing they do is Twitter or Facebook [chuckle] so they have more friends on the Web from other countries. And when I say I don't have a Serbian professor to invite for a speech on a specific topic they say, "I'll write him." So we need to do things accordingly. I mean the time is different and this new generation coming to the field, already graduated, already searching to reach their full potential, they are using other tools. They are making the communication much better and in a more dynamic way.
In the Spring of 2007, I accompanied my wife, Sandy, to Sofia, Bulgaria where she was to participate in a meeting of the International Society for Education, Training and Research (SIETAR). Before I left, I contacted Irina Todorova, a Bulgarian psychologist now working in the United States and, through her, was able to contact Plamen Dimitrov, President of the Bulgarian Psychological Society. Professor Dimitrov sent a warm welcome and accepted my invitation to meet for lunch while I was in Sofia.

Over lunch, I told Professor Dimitrov about the regional conferences of psychology that are held every other year in developing countries around the world under the sponsorship of IAAP, IUPsyS and IACCP. Professor Dimitrov told me about the rapid developments in Bulgarian psychology in recent years: their graduate training programs, their research and their journals. I was impressed with Professor Dimitrov, and pleased to hear that the Bulgarian Psychological Society had held a number of annual conferences, thus demonstrating their readiness to host a regional conference. Together we agreed that Bulgaria would be a good site for a regional conference of psychology for the South-East Europe area. The purpose of the conference would be to improve communications among the South-East European countries, to consider joint projects and to give psychologists in the region an opportunity to experience an international meeting.

Professor Dimitrov agreed to recommend to the Bulgarian Psychological Society (BPS) that they be the principal organizing group for the conference. I agreed to recommend to the group of international associations that sponsor the regional conferences that Bulgaria be selected to host a regional conference in 2009 to be called the South-East European Regional Conference of Psychology (SEERCP).

The sponsoring organizations, the International Association of Applied Psychology, the International Union of Psychological Science, and the International Association of Cross Cultural Psychology accepted my recommendation and agreed to designate BPS as the host organization. Subsequently, two European organizations, the European Federation of Psychologists’ Associations and the European Health Psychology Association, also agreed to be sponsors.

From 2007 to 2009, the Bulgarian Psychological Society and the SEERCP Organizing Committee were able to obtain the cooperation and participation of most of the countries in the South-Eastern Europe region, and they also had expressions of interest from other countries in the general area including Russia, Greece and Turkey.

Preparing for a two and a half day conference took a lot of hard work by a lot of people for two and a half years. Plamen Dimitrov, the conference chairman, and Sava Djonev, chair of the Scientific Program Committee, have worked with a representative and very effective Organizing Committee to plan and execute an outstanding regional conference.

Raymond D. Fowler
IAAP President-Elect

Melbourne
Division News

Division 1—Organizational Psychology

BONDING AND BRIDGING SOCIAL CAPITAL IN IAAP (DIVISION 1): SOME INITIATIVES AND EXPERIENCES

José M. Peiró, President, Division 1

We live in a global context. Globalization is a growing phenomenon that tackles economies and markets but also societies and human life. It is present in many social and human endeavours, and it influences most human activities, among them scientific and professional ones. In this context, it is worth noting that collective action is needed more than ever to contribute as scientists and professionals to our societies.

This action builds upon social relations and cooperation and on the capacity of groups to develop social capital. Social capital refers to a type of resource that individuals, organizations and social groups may develop and use, based on the relationships and ties created within and among networks and on trust and positive interpersonal relations. It produces benefits, and it is an essential resource for associations to achieve their missions and goals.

In this context, IAAP is extremely relevant. Its membership is composed of scientists and professionals from all over the world and constitutes in itself important social capital for dealing with human and social issues to which psychology can make important contributions from a global and a local approach. IAAP members come from more than 80 countries all around the world, and their expertise in psychology and its applications for the sake of human beings, as well as their interest for international relations in our science and profession, constitute an enormous asset with excellent benefits.

These are the inspiring ideas that guide activities in Division 1. In the field of Work and Organizational Psychology—as in many others of psychology—an international and cross-cultural approach to the relevant phenomena is clearly needed. Globalization is not only tackling multinational companies but many work and organizational phenomena, even those apparently occurring in a “local” setting. In this context, new competences are required for professional practice, new education goals for professionals have to be developed, and new research and interventions should contribute to the understanding and improvement of work and organizations in the global context.

The membership of Division 1 has social capital that is very relevant for the contribution to the progress in these areas. In order to stimulate its use and development, we have been working during the last years on a number of activities. First, we aimed to enhance the information and communication among the members. This bonding function of social capital is essential for the development of our association. The newsletter of Division 1 aims to contribute to it. Sections such those devoted to the presentation of Psychology around the world, news from members, professional experiences, surveys for the membership, etc., have contributed to it. However, bonding social capital is not the only relevant aim for our Association. Bridging social capital is also important. We need to attract and integrate more scientists and professionals interested in applied psychology on an international level and to create bridges with other groups aiming for goals aligned with our mission. That is the reason why, when we circulate the newsletter to our membership, we invite them to send it to other psychologists in their networks together with an invitation to become a member of our Association and Division.

The web page of the Division (www.iaapsy.org/division1), where you can find relevant information about W&O Psychology, also aims to promote both bonding and bridging social capital. Congresses have been another important activity. In cooperation with the Scientific Committee of the 27th ICAP (Melbourne, 11-16...
July, 2010) we have been preparing a very attractive program both for scientists and professionals with important contributions that will offer a broad international perspective of the new developments in our discipline. Also W&O Psychology has been present in the Regional Congresses of IAAP. Recently, a Polish-Ukrainian Workshop about “Problems and Challenges in W&O Psychology” was organized by our Division in Katowice, Poland (24-27 September 2009). Division 1 of IAAP has also been present in many other international and national conferences in order to enhance its bridging social capital. Members of the Executive Committee were present at the Congresses of the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology (New York, 2007; San Francisco, 2008; New Orleans, 2009); The European Congress of Work and Organizational Psychology organized by EAWOP (Stockholm 2007; Santiago de Compostela, 2009) the Iberoamerican Congress of Psychology (Lima, 2008) organized by the Iberoamerican Federation of Psychology Association, The ICP (Berlin, 2008) organized by the International Union of Psychology, the European Congress of Psychology (Oslo, 2009) of the European Federation of Psychology Associations and many others in different countries and regions of the world.

Another important initiative taken by our Division, in cooperation with the Society of Industrial and Organizational Psychology and The European Association of Work and Organizational Psychology, has been the agreement of cooperation in providing more services and joint membership, with reduced fees, to our members. These three associations have agreed to launch the Alliance for Work and Organizational Psychology. It aims “to support and advance the science and practice of organizational psychology and to expand its scope of application and contribution to society to improve the quality of working life, with the goals of enhancing the contributions of organizational psychology to global society, developing more effective communication and collaboration among the federated societies, and advancing the science and practice of organizational psychology internationally”. This initiative is a clear example of the opportunities obtained from bridging social capital that can be beneficial for the development of our science and our profession and for its contribution to make organizations more human and productive around the world.

I do not want to bother you with descriptions of all the activities carried on in our Division during these last years. I just wanted to emphasize the important value of the social capital of IAAP and to reflect on some strategies to increase it and make it more productive both in its bonding and bridging components.

We will present a comprehensive report about the activities of Division 1 during the period 2006-2010 at the General Assembly of the Division during the ICAP Congress in Melbourne (see the schedule in the Congress program). It will be followed by a social hour and a reception. Let me invite all of you to attend these activities and to join our Division if you not still a member. See you in Melbourne.

José M. Peiró, President, Division 1

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Division 2—Psychological Assessment and Evaluation

Psychological Test Development and Use in South Africa

J.G. Maree & C.N. von der Westhuizen

University of Pretoria

This brief article summarizes some historic and current characteristics of the development and use of psychological tests in South Africa (SA). Consult references embedded in the text for additional information.

Early Efforts. The development and use of psychological tests in SA have been impacted significantly by prevailing international trends, national watershed political events, and local government policies. The history of test development somewhat paralleled international trends (Painter & Terre Blanche, 2004). Psychological testing was introduced in the beginning of the 20th century when SA was a British colony and shaped by the British, European and US practices (Foxcroft & Roodt, 2004). For example, intelligence tests were imported and adapted, albeit largely for use with whites (Painter & Terre Blanche, 2004, p. 2).
Between 1960 and 1984, the National Institute for Personnel Research and the Institute for Psychological and Edumetric Research developed many tests. Both agencies later were incorporated into the Human Sciences Research Council. In the 1990s, this Council had almost exclusive responsibility for test development and adaptation, including the listing of suitable tests (Foxcroft 2004; Stead 2002). Most tests were and are based on tests developed in the United States and Europe. Among the firms distributing tests in SA are MindMuzik Media, Jopie van Rooyen and Partners SA, SHL Group SA and PsyTech SA.

Although the development of the psychological test framework followed US and European examples, the apartheid system, characterised by the unequal distribution of resources in reference to different population groups, has highly influenced testing practices (Foxcroft, 1997). For example, in reference to education, some see achievement tests used to maintain the status quo (Stead 2002). Many tests normed only on whites are outdated and need to be indigenized. Others are suitable only for highly educated groups and need to be revised in light of cultural conditions (Stead 2002). Thus, one can understand the belief that the development and use of psychological tests may seem unjust and unfair to and by certain groups.

Language issues impacting test development and use. Much resistance toward testing is due to the fact that, before the 1990s, tests were developed in the erstwhile two official languages, English and Afrikaans, used mainly by the white population (Paterson & Uys, 2005). Language-related issues are exacerbated by the use of eleven official languages. English allegedly is spoken as a first language by only 10% of South Africans (Stead 2002).

The need to implement a more inclusive approach to psychological tests and test development. Given the dearth of recently developed tests for use in SA and even fewer tests appropriate for use with all subpopulations, professionals have urged the Professional Board of Psychology to allow professionals to use tests not registered by the Human Sciences Research Council (Paterson and Uys, 2005). Practitioners may use tests not registered by the Board if they can justify their use as meeting professional standards. Some also advocate for the development of a Code of Fair Testing Practices to assist this effort (Foxcroft, 1997). A recently accepted Scope of Practice adopted by the Professional Board for Psychology addresses many practices within psychology and has the potential to facilitate collaboration and cooperation across registration and training level boundaries.

Regulation and control of test development and use.
The Health Professions Act led to the establishment of the Health Professions Council of SA and the Professional Board for Psychology, which includes a Psychometrics Committee. The duties of this Committee include the classification and revision of South African—developed as well as imported assessment methods used to evaluate emotional, behavioural, and cognitive processes. This committee reports to the Professional Board for Psychology, which advises the Minister of Health on matters within the scope of the Health Professions Act. This Act emphasizes professional practice, democracy, transparency, equity, and accessibility (Mauer, 2000). Tests used in the context of work are controlled by various laws, including the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (Act 108 of 1996), the Labour Relations Act (66 of 1995), and the Employment Equity Act (55 of 1998). These impact the Health Professions Act (56 of 1974) (Mauer 2000).

Rethinking the current paradigm underpinning test development. South Africa has been unable to develop alternatives to Eurocentric theories and positivist methodologies within the 15 years following the demise of apartheid (Sehlapele & Terre Blanche 1996). The profession of psychology adheres to a quantitative (positivist) approach as seen in its practitioners and their training. Furthermore, despite radical post-apartheid policy changes, professional counselling is more concerned with addressing the needs of individuals rather than groups (e.g. as is promoted by the ubuntu philosophy that is characterised by a culture of sharing).

The introduction of a theoretical framework that combines facets of a quantitative approach with career construction post-modern approaches has become essential in South Africa (Amundson, 2003, 2006; Niles & Harris-Bowlsbey, 2002). Such a framework could promote counselling in traditional South African societies where the focus is on the group, story telling, and ubuntu, thus intended to encourage counsellors to assist individuals within groups to achieve self-completion and to contribute socially through work (Savickas, 2007a,b). The realities of the 21st century should dictate assessment strategies and guide client-feedback. The time for applying a test-and-tell approach in isolation has passed.
The way forward

Some (Paterson and Uys, 2005) believe testing practices are changing as more practitioners realise the value of sound assessment practices, improvements occur in test development, and culture fair tests are adopted and implemented. The renewed focus on testing, the adaptation and norming of international tests by the distributing companies referred to above, as well as test development expertise at universities hold promise for change (Foxcroft, 2004).

Nevertheless, test development and use are constrained by national and regional financial, professional, and institutional (e.g., high counsellor-student ratios) limitations as well as policy makers reservations. The development of different measuring instruments and assessment techniques for each cultural group is unachievable (Owen, 1998, p. 84). Some suggest changes within the country’s education system to an outcomes-based approach could lead to more relevant curriculum-based tests (Owen, 1991). The use of dynamic assessment methods also is being considered.

Highly regarded international tests need to be adapted consistent with the International Test Commission (ITC) guidelines along with new tests developed that cater to SA’s unique societal composition and ensure quality and international comparability. An open, empathetic, “best practice” approach that is in the best interests of all concerned seems to be the best option. The Psychological Society of South Africa, a full member of the ITC, has the added benefit of “being able to shape international guidelines related to testing and test use and stay in touch with the cutting-edge issues in testing and assessment” (Annual Report of the Psychological Society of South Africa 2007, p. 9).

References


**Division 3—Psychology and Social Development**

The 3rd International Conference on Community Psychology: Community agendas for contemporary social problems will be held in Puebla, Mexico, 70 miles south of Mexico City, from 3 to 5 June 2010.

For more information and to answer the Call for Proposals, visit www.3iccp2010.org

*Eduardo Almeida, Chair, ICCP 2010*

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**Division 5—Educational and School Psychology**

**LETTER TO THE MEMBERS OF DIVISION 5**

Dear colleagues,

ICAP 2010 is approaching soon, and we think that our division has many reasons to address an important number of issues within the theme of the conference.

At the Athens 2006 ICAP we had six invited symposia and finally around 25-30 paper sessions (including about 60 papers) and also about the same number of posters. We should maintain this impressive effort.

In order to support all Division 5 members in proposing their contributions we would like to ask you for information about your submission. Please just send an email to the address: nenniger@zepf.uni-landau.de. Your information will help us assure a reliable and speedy review process.

As far as we have been informed three invited symposia are allocated for our division, and so far two have been proposed. Thus, we would like to encourage you to submit some more proposals, and we will discuss the possibility of extending the actual number of slots available.

With respect to the papers and posters submitted we actually have no exact information. But it seems that there is still some space left. For this reason we would also like to encourage submissions of both papers and posters so that we will reach the same number of contributions as in Athens.

Furthermore the ICAP 2010 organisers have asked us for possible reviewers. We would therefore be grateful to propose an important number of experienced reviewers ready to assist. This is also in our interest, because in such a way we assure a fair and competent review of our submissions. If you are willing to help, please send a short note to nenniger@zepf.uni-landau.de.

Finally we asked for travel, etc. grants. Unfortunately we have been informed that there are no funds available for this purpose. However, we have some limited information about national grants especially for doctoral students. So please do not hesitate to ask.

Looking forward to meeting a huge number of contributors next year in Australia I am very sincerely,

*Peter Nenniger, President, Division 5*
**Division 7--Applied Gerontology**

In the American psychological Association there are a number of groups who focus on gerontological issues. The office on Aging aims to deal with the health and well-being of older adults and their families. There is also a Committee on Aging which deals with the delivery of relevant psychological services to older adults and strives to provide scientific understanding to adult development and aging. Division 20 aims to study psychological development and change through the adult years. APA’s Division 12-(clinical psychology) Section II (Society for Clinical Geropsychology) deals with research and training as well as service provision for older adults.

At the federal level aging policy is the focus of the Public Interest Government Relations Office. All of these are described in the electronic newsletter published by APA’s Office on Aging headed by Deborah DiGilio.

At the recent meeting of the American Psychological Association in Toronto, Canada a Continuing Education Workshop was held on “What Psychologists should know about Working with Older Adults”.

APA’s president Elect, Carol Goodheart, PhD has selected Aging as one of her two Presidential initiatives. Specifically the focus will be on caregivers and her initiative is designed to develop an APA Tool Kit For Caregivers which will be presented at the 2010 APA convention in San Diego, California.

At the August meeting of APA, the Council of Representatives (the governing body of APA) received a report on “Multicultural Competency in Geropsychology”. This report makes recommendations for future actions for practice, research, education and training as well as public policy. This report also provides information concerning existing resources regarding multicultural competence in working with older adults.

Still in progress is the revision on the Guidelines for the Evaluation of Dementia and Age-Related Cognitive decline. These were first passed in 1997 when I served as President of the American Psychological Association.

There continues to be a shortage of professionals involved in the geriatric care workforce in the United States. Because of that concern, APA is a member of the Eldercare Workforce Alliance. The aim of this group is to improve the workforce shortage by means of recruitment, training, retention, improving compensation and career development. APA wants to be sure that psychology is included in the work of the Alliance. We hope that Health Reform efforts currently underway in the US congress will include the further development of a competent eldercare workforce. We will brief you on further developments in our next column.

*Norman Abeles, President, Division 7*

**Division 8—Health Psychology**

The diversity of our members’ interests is seen in the variety of topics within health psychology in which they publish as seen below in a sample of recent publications and those in press.


The 27th International Congress of Applied Psychology will be held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, Melbourne, Australia from 11–16 July, 2010.

The Committee now invites submissions for:

- Symposia
- Panel Discussions
- Individual Oral Paper Presentations
- Brief Oral Presentations
- Electronic Posters

The submission deadline is 1 December 2009.

Here are some of the highlights of the health psychology program:

Presidential Address by Esther Greenglass (Canada) Proactive coping, positive affect and well-being

Invited Keynotes by:

Aleks Luszczynska (Poland) Explaining health and health behaviours: Self-efficacy combined with social and cognitive predictors)

Ralf Schwarzer (Germany) Health behaviour change: Moderators and mediators

State of the Art Speakers:

- Charles Abraham (UK) Health Promotion
- John Weinman (UK) Clinical Health Psychology

For invited symposia we have

- Jochen Ziegelmann (Germany) Developmental Health Psychology: Emerging themes and contemporary research
- Urt Scholz (Switzerland) Health behaviour change
- John Toumbourou (Australia) Adolescent health promotion
- Stan Maes (The Netherlands) Self-regulation interventions in chronic disease
- Keith Petrie (New Zealand) Illness perceptions

Esther Greenglass, President, Division 8
Division 12 – Sport Psychology

Below is a report of activities and other information related to Sport Psychology:

The Third International Scientific Symposium on learning and teaching of motor skills was organized last October by the Department of Sport Sciences of the University of Jyväskylä, Finland. Invited speakers were Professor Robert M. Malina whose paper focused on the development of motor competence and the practical implications of developing motor proficiency; Beatriz Vereijken’s presentation emphasized the role of variability in motor learning, arguing in favour of approaches that view variability in performance as informative, meaningful and functional; Mark A. Williams’s paper focused on deliberate practice as a determinant factor on the path to performance excellence, and presented differences in anticipation and decision-making processes between expert and novice performers. Other invited speakers were Duarte Aratij “Coaching decision-making in sport”, Rolf Carlson “Talent development in competitive sport” and Montse Ruiz “Augmented feedback training in precision shooting”. The lectures were well attended, and complemented with poster sessions and demonstrations.

Anne-Marie Elbe reports from Copenhagen:

From August 31–September 3, 2009, 25 PhD students from 8 European countries participated in the PhD course “Psychological Aspects of Talent Development”. Invited speakers were K. Anders Ericsson, Jean Côté, Natalia Stambulova, Jürgen Beckmann, Mette Krogh Christensen and Anne-Marie Elbe. The course was organized by the Department of Exercise and Sport Sciences at the University of Copenhagen and funded by the Research Education Program in Sport Science as well the Danish elite sports organization Team Danmark. More information about the course can be found on the website: http://isis.ku.dk/kurser/index.aspx?xsl=default&kursusid=28128

The Department of Exercise and Sport Sciences at the University of Copenhagen and Team Danmark conducted a consensus conference on “Performance in Sports Involving Intense Exercise” from September 16-18, 2009. Thirty internationally acknowledged researchers together with representatives from the world of sport took part in this consensus conference which was not open to the public. Half of the presentations focused on psychological aspects of sports involving intense exercise. The consensus statements as well as further information can be found at: www.ifi.ku.dk/english/communication/previous_arrangements/consensus/

As Amanda J. Viscek reports, during September 15th-18th, 2009, the Association for Applied Sport Psychology (AASP) held its 24th annual conference in Salt Lake City, Utah. Newly elected Executive Board members included: Bonnie Berger (President-Elect), Amanda J. Viscek (Division Head, Public Relations & Outreach), Heather Peters (Secretary/Treasurer), and student representatives Moe Machida and Kristina Moore. Keynote and invited speakers included Jerry May, J. J. Clark, Dan Kirschenbaum, Robert Sallis, and Ruth L. Hall. Award recipients included Melissa Murray (Dissertation Award), Angela Fifer (Distinguished Student Practice Award), and Jonathan Duff (Diversity Award). Immediately following this year’s largest attended conference, AASP hosted a Sport Psychology Expo for coaches, parents, and athletes of all ages as a member driven community outreach initiative.

Upcoming Meetings, Conferences, Congresses, Workshops, Courses


December 21-24, 2009, India International Congress in Sport Psychology entitled “Excellence in Sport and Life: New Challenges in Sport Performance, Exercise and Well-being”, organized by the Lakshmibai National University of Physical Education, Gwalior under the auspices of the Sport Psychology Association of India (SPAi), Asia South Pacific Association of Sport Psychology (ASPASP) and the International Society of Sport Psychology (ISSP). Visit: www.lnupeiscsp.in

March 31- April 1, 2010, Aberystwyth University, UK. Annual Student Conference of the British Association of Sport and Exercise Sciences (BASES). Visit: www.bases.org.uk/studentconf.asp

June 7-10, 2010, Copenhagen, Denmark. PhD course “Telling Tales about and through the Body: Narrative and experience-based research methods between phenomenology and social constructionism” hosted by the University of Copenhagen. Contact: Reinhard Stelter (rstelter@ifi.ku.dk)

New Publications


Montse Ruiz, Bulletin Editor, Division 12

Division 13—Traffic Psychology

Fourth International Conference on Driver Behaviour and Training
This was held on 24-25 November 2009 at the Renaissance Hotel in the stunning Koepelkerk church in the centre of old Amsterdam. The conference theme was ‘Road User Research, Policy and Practice’ and sub-themes included: vulnerable road users, driver/riders behaviour, at work road safety, technological solutions to assist drivers, driver/riders education and training. Selected papers will be published in the conference proceedings by Ashgate in 2010 as Driver behaviour and training. Further information from www.dbt2009.com

New Publications:
Ashgate: Human Factors in Road and Rail Transport series
The fourth book in this series has recently been published. It is by Anders af Wålhberg and the title is Driver behaviour and accident research methodology: Unresolved problems (2009). Previous books in the series are:

Sarah Redshaw (2008). In the company of cars: Driving as a social and cultural practice.


The Ashgate series provides an excellent opportunity for traffic psychologists to publish in their key areas of interest. If you have an interesting potential book that could become part of this series, then contact one of the series editors – either: Lisa Dorn (l.dorn@cranfield.ac.uk), Ian Glendon (i.glendon@griffith.edu.au), or Gerry Matthews (g.mathews@ucmail.uc.edu).

News from German speaking countries

A Newsletter Verkehrspsychologie (Traffic psychology) appears several times a year. For further details contact redaktion@nlvp.de

A Standing Committee on Traffic Psychology of the European Association of Psychologists Professional Associations (EFPA) has been confirmed for another 2-year term. The Convenor is Prof. Lars Åberg. See EFPA Working Groups - Standing committees - Task Forces - Working groups 2007-2009

The Sixth St Galler Tage, Verkehrspsychologischer Kongress der Länder A/CH/D (Days of St Gallen (Switzerland) Congress on Traffic Psychology of Austria, Switzerland and Germany) will be held in Spring 2011. Further details from: SanktGallerTage

The Fourth Fit to Drive Congress will be held in Tallinn, Estonia. For further details visit http://www.fit-to-drive.com/
Further information and details from:
Dr Wolf-Dietrich Zusan
A 5020 Salzburg, Dr. Sylvesterstraße 15
Tel. 0043 662 82 57 41 wdzuzaan@aon.at

NIOSH Global Review of Occupational Road Safety
The draft white paper for review and feedback Promoting Global Initiatives for Occupational Road Safety: Review of Occupational Safety Worldwide can be obtained from will.murray@virtualriskmanager.net. It contains a number of potential strategies, brief reviews of relevant initiatives in 17 countries as well as several large company case studies and summaries of initiatives in all major regions of the world. The draft White Paper reviews over 150 publications and has 16 pages of internet links.

Canadian Association of Road Safety Professionals / L'Association Canadienne des Professionnels de la Sécurité Routière http://www.carsp.ca

Canadian Multidisciplinary Road Safety Conference / Conférence Canadienne Multidisciplinaire sur la Sécurité Routière
June 6-9, 2010, Niagara Falls, Ontario

Call for Papers / Demande de communications

Abstract submission / Soumettre votre résumé
Send your abstract (maximum 500 words) in the body of an E-mail message or as an attached file (Microsoft Word), using the following headings (Purpose; Method; Results; Conclusions), to: cmrscabs@uwo.ca / Envoyer s.v.p. votre résumé (maximum 500 mots) par courriel électronique ou par courriel, en fichier attaché (Microsoft Word), en utilisant les titres suivant: (But; Méthode; Résultats et Conclusion) à: cmrscabs@uwo.ca

Research Topics / Thèmes de Recherche
Scientific and technical papers are invited to be considered for presentation at the conference, on any aspect of traffic safety, including: Biomechanics of injury; Highway design; Transportation engineering; Automotive medicine; Collision avoidance; Occupant protection; Crash investigation & reconstruction; Legal aspects of collisions; Commercial vehicle safety; Road safety programs; Intelligent transportation systems; Human factors and driver behaviour; Pedestrians and cyclists; Off-road vehicle safety; Costs of traffic injury

Les personnes qui désirent présenter des communications scientifiques lors de la conférence sont invitées à les soumettre pour considération. Ces communications peuvent porter sur tout aspect de la sécurité routière, notamment: Biomécanique des blessures; Conception des routes; Ingénierie des transports; Médecine automobile; Prévention des collisions; Protection des occupants; Enquête et reconstitution de collisions; Aspects légaux relatifs aux collisions; Sécurité des véhicules lourds; Programmes de sécurité routière; Systèmes de transport intelligent; Facteurs humains et comportement des conducteurs; Piétons et cyclistes; Sécurité des véhicules tout terrain; Coûts relatifs aux traumatismes routiers

Conference Proceedings / Le Compte Rendu de la Conférence
Papers accepted* for presentation at the conference will be published in the Conference Proceedings. In order that the proceedings may be available at the conference, abstracts and the manuscripts of accepted papers must be received by these deadlines:

Abstracts by December 1, 2009
Notification of acceptance by January 30, 2010
Manuscripts must be submitted by March 13, 2010
Reviewers' comments to authors by April 10, 2010
Final papers must be submitted by April 24, 2010

*Please note that for the full paper to be accepted and published in the conference proceedings, the presenting author must be pre-registered for the conference.

Les communications qui seront acceptées* pour être présentées à la conférence seront publiées dans le compte rendu de la conférence. Afin que ce compte rendu puisse être disponible pour la conférence, les résumés et les manuscrits des communications acceptées devront être reçus dans les délais prescrits ci-dessous:

- Résumés avant le 1 décembre 2009
- Avis d'acceptation d'ici le 30 janvier 2010
- Manuscrits d'ici le 13 mars 2010
- Commentaires aux auteurs d'ici le 10 avril 2010
- Manuscrits finals d'ici le 24 avril 2010

* Veuillez s.v.p. prendre note que, pour qu’un article soit admis et publié dans le compte rendu de la conférence, l’auteur qui livrera la communication orale doit être inscrit par anticipation à la conférence.

**General Information / Renseignements généraux**

Instructions for the preparation of manuscripts will be provided to authors whose abstracts are accepted. Prospective authors should note that the Scientific Programme Committee reserves the right to reject any final manuscript that does not conform to the abstract, has not been prepared in the specified format, or does not meet the deadlines required for the printing of the proceedings.

Les directives pour la rédaction des manuscrits seront fournies aux auteurs dont les résumés seront acceptés. Les auteurs éventuels doivent prendre note du fait que le comité d’examen scientifique se réserve le droit de rejeter tout manuscrit final qui n’est pas conforme au résumé, qui n’a pas été préparé selon le format précisé ou qui ne respecte pas les échéances requises pour l’impression des comptes rendus.

WWW.CMRSC.CA

**For further information, contact: / Pour plus d'information, s.v.p. contacter:**

Evelyn Vingilis, PhD, C.Psych.

- Chair, Scientific Programme Committee
- Population and Community Health Unit
- Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry
- Clinical Skills Bldg Room 2177
- The University of Western Ontario
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- Fax: (519) 661-3878
- E-mail: cmrscabs@uwo.ca

**The Fifth International Conference of Traffic and Transport Psychology**

This will be held in Groningen in 2012. Further announcements will be made in due course.

**Division 13 website**

Visit the Division 13 website for details of past and forthcoming conferences, other events and other useful information [http://www.iaapsy.org/division13/](http://www.iaapsy.org/division13/)

Melbourne
**Division 15—Psychology Students**

**Student division at the 27th International Congress of Applied Psychology**

The student division is working closely together with the local organizing committee in the organization of an attractive student program at the next International Congress of Applied Psychology. It is a great honour for us to announce that at this ICAP the local organizing committee, together with the Student Division, will introduce the Emerging Scholars Program aimed particularly at psychology students.

The aim of this program is to encourage and acknowledge emerging scholars who make independent submissions for open papers to the conference, showing their most meaningful and important contributions in different fields of applied psychology from all over the world. We invite students of PhD, Doctorate and Masters programs in psychology to submit open papers to be considered within the Emerging Scholars Program by indicating their student status under the themes section in the submission process (i.e., indicate “Student Division”). Abstracts will be evaluated in terms of their contribution to applied psychology, innovation, scientific quality of methodology and theoretical implications. The selected abstracts will be organized within a double symposium that will be held on the same day with back-to-back sessions with a tea-break. All students who are invited to present their open paper as a part of the Emerging Scholars Program will receive a certificate of acknowledgement. Moreover, two students who demonstrate particular excellence in the quality of their presentations will be further awarded with a prize at the conclusion of the conference.

Second, Division 15 will also coordinate a symposium on views on “International Standards of Training” within both Undergraduate and Postgraduate Clinical Training streams.

Third, the presidential address will be held, highlighting the challenges psychology students face in the globalized world and the role Division 15 plays in overcoming these challenges.

Fourth, a general meeting will be organized aiming to discuss the progress Division 15 has made since the last ICAP in Athens and our future plans. The new Board will be approved at this meeting, too. We invite all potential student participants at the congress to join us at this event to get to know each other better and to share with us ideas and suggestions about how to improve and become more visible among psychology students all over the world.

We are looking forward very much to meeting as many students as possible in Melbourne!

Kristina Potocnik, President, Division 15  
Kerrie Clarke, Student Division representative in the Local Organizing Committee

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**Division 16 – Counselling Psychology**

Division 16 is pleased to send copies of its twice-yearly newsletter to IAAP members. If you would like to receive a copy and be included on our mailing list, please let the editor, Prof. Maria Malikiosi-Loizos <momalik@ecd.uoa.gr> or me <Richard.young@ubc.ca> know.

The international field of counselling psychology has been enhanced by the recent publication of the International Handbook of Cross-cultural Counseling: Cultural Assumptions and Practices Worldwide (Sage, 2009), edited by L. H. Gerstein, P. P. Heppner, S. Egisdottir, S.-M. A. Leung, and K. L. Norsworthy. Twenty-nine of the 38 chapters of this book address the development and state of counselling in specific countries. All continents are represented. This handbook is a significant addition to the counselling psychology literature and provides further consideration for Division 16 and IAAP as we direct efforts to the internationalization of counselling psychology.
IAAP members may be interested in two forthcoming conferences that will address international themes of applied psychology. First, the National Institute for the Study of Work and Vocational Guidance (INETOP, Paris, France) is sponsoring an international conference on the theme, “Counselling for Life Design” in Paris, 17-19 March 2010. This conference will address life-long career development and counselling through a multidisciplinary approach. More information at http://conference2010-inetop.cnam.fr/isp/fiche_pageLibre.jsp?STNAV=&RUBNAV=&CODE=718338999&LANGUE=1&R=

Secondly, the International Association of Educational and Vocational Guidance, the National Career Development Association (U.S.), and the Society for Vocational Psychology (U.S.) will hold a collaborative international symposium in San Francisco, 28-29 June 2010. This symposium will explore career counselling as a worldwide phenomenon, indigenous national approaches, and other topics. More information at http://div17.org/vocpsych/.

These conferences and publication are wonderful opening acts for the International Congress of Applied Psychology to be held in Melbourne in July. I hope to see you there.

Richard A. Young, President, Division 16

Division 17—Professional Practice

The field of Professional Psychology is broad. It encompasses issues of Quality and Standards, including Readiness to Practice, Workplace Conditions, Mentoring and Supervision, Codes of Conduct, and Service Delivery Modes. In addition, there are questions such as Registration of Practitioners and their scopes of Practice. Psychologists belonging to many other Divisions would be likely to be interested in and affected by matters of Professional Practice and may choose to join the Division to support their practice in their chosen field of psychology.

Division 17 was only constituted in Berlin in 2008 and has yet to become really active. However, there is to be an exciting programme of symposia and papers at ICAP that fit neatly into the space that is Division 17. I urge members of other IAAP Divisions to join Division 17 and contribute to the ICAP 2010 programme in areas of significance to Professional Practice. At the Congress we will hold elections and form a committee to ensure that Division 17 grows in scope and relevance to members of IAAP.

Amanda Gordon, President, Division 17

Harry Triandis: Biographical Information and Interview Excerpts

Biography

Harry C. Triandis was born and raised in Greece. He ended up in the United States by way of Canada where he studied engineering. Harry is Professor Emeritus of Psychology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He received his Ph.D. from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York in 1958 and an honorary doctorate from the University of Athens, Greece, in 1987. He was Chairman and Secretary General of the Society of Experimental Social Psychology and President of the International Association of Cross-cultural Psychology (1974-76), the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues, the InterAmerican Society of Psychology, and the International Association of Applied Psychology (1990-1994), as well as of Divisions 8 and 9 of the American Psychological Association.

His research interests have concerned (a) the links between behavior and elements of subjective culture and (b) differences between individualistic and collectivist cultures. His work focused on the implications of these links for social behavior, personality, work behavior, intergroup relations, prejudice, attitude change, and
cultural training; and applications to intercultural training for successful interaction in other cultures. His 200+
publications include Attitudes and Attitude Change and Analysis of Subjective Culture, Interpersonal
Behavior, Variations in Black and White Perceptions of the Social Environment, Culture and Social
Behavior and Individualism and Collectivism. He was the general editor of the six-volume Handbook of
Cross-cultural Psychology, and editor of the 4th (international) volume of the Handbook of Industrial and
Organizational Psychology. His latest book is Fooling Ourselves: Self-Deception in Politics, Religion, and
Terrorism.

Dr. Triandis received an Award for significant contributions to the development of psychology, from the
Interamerican Society of Psychology, 1981. He is an Honorary Fellow of the International Association
of Cross-Cultural Psychology (1982) and was a Distinguished Fulbright Professor to India 1983. He is a Fellow
of the American Association for Advancement of Science (1984), a University of Illinois Scholar (1987),
received the Centennial Citation from the American Psychological Association "for significant contributions
to the establishment of cross-cultural psychology as a distinct discipline" (1992), and was an American
Psychological Association Distinguished Scientist Lecturer (1994). He received the Klineberg Award of the
Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (1994), the American Psychological Association's
Distinguished Contributions to International Psychology Award (1995), and the American Psychological
Society's, James M. Cattell Award (1996). The American Psychological Association's Division 52
(International) named him Distinguished International Psychologist of the Year in 2002, and he received the
Lifetime Contributions Award from the Academy of Intercultural Research in 2004.

Excerpts from the Interview

VCH: How did you become interested in psychology?

Triandis: Well, when I was a kid in Greece I was interested in the fact that there were differences in culture
because I could see people who were dressed differently and behaved differently and so on. And I learned
many languages. So that was one of the things that one does in a small country because nobody speaks Greek
except Greeks [chuckle], you see. I saw that they were different and I wanted to know why and so on. But at
that time it didn’t make sense to study this because you don’t make a living by studying that kind of thing. It
seemed like something that one does in his spare time. [chuckle] So I started engineering in order to have
something that I could make a living at. My father was an engineer so it was easier for me to do engineering,
and so I did that. But then when I went to Canada and I studied engineering in Canada and I worked as an
engineer. During that time I took a master’s, which was sort of the equivalent of an MBA at the University of
Toronto. There I took a course called Human Relations in Industry, which was sort of related to being an
engineer but also human relations. It was part of the course for the MBA. In that course there was a
psychologist by the name of Robert Joiner who had studied with Carl Rogers. He took his PhD in Chicago.
And so he said, "You people are going to decide what you’re going to study. This is the way you will be
motivated to study." And so sure, we said, "Fine, we’ll do that. Can you give us a list of books and we’ll read
them and talk to each other about it and so we’ll learn whatever is in the books?" So he produced a list of two
hundred books.

VCH: Oh, my gosh.

HT: They were from all sorts of fields like political science and sociology and anthropology and psychology
and human relations and etc., etc., a very broad list. So we picked a few here and there, each of us picked a
few and then we presented the ones we read to the class and the class asked questions and in this way we sort
of learned about these books. But by doing this I discovered that psychology is a very exciting field, and so I
decided that I should study psychology because engineering was good but it didn’t really fit me that well. Of
course, I had no psychology at that time, nothing in the books, etc., I hadn’t studied any psychology. So I went
back to McGill and took a year of psychology in which I did all the basic things like experimental psychology
and statistics and all the history, etc., etc., you know, the things that everybody must have. My professor there
was Wally Lambert who had just graduated with this PhD from North Carolina in social psychology and he
said, 'I’m not ready to direct a PhD dissertation but you go and study with my brother at Cornell because he’s
ready. And that was an excellent choice because his brother had studied at Harvard in social relations. Social
relations at that time, if you remember, was sociology, anthropology, psychology and clinical psychology. So
he had a very broad perspective and that fits me because I am a broad person. I mean I like to explore the whole
world. So it just worked very well.
How did Harry become the “father of cross-cultural psychology”? Read on…

When I wrote The Analysis of Subjective Culture in ‘72 I had all kinds of collaborators in – I mean the Vassilous especially who were Greek but also Shamagam who was Indian and Tanaka was Japanese. So these collaborators were very helpful in formulating some of the thinking and interpreting the results and so on and then that became a way of doing psychology which was different from the old way of doing psychology where you really looked at what is general or what is universal. Now we wanted to see both what is universal and what is specific. So it started things moving and then eventually I wrote a piece for the first volume of Advances in Experimental Psychology that Berkowitz used to edit, that was published in ‘64. In order to do that I had to do a lot of reading and then I really began to see that culture has an impact. It is not the case that whatever we find in psychology is valid everywhere. It depends on culture a great deal. So then I started doing more and more of that and eventually people started appreciating the fact that there is something there that’s a little different, that our own way of thinking about culture and psychology is no longer the right one. Then when I was asked to do a handbook of cross-cultural psychology—it took me seven years to do it because it was in six volumes and it was a lot of work – but, anyway, when I did that – and this was published in ‘81 – Lee Cronbach said, “That puts cross-cultural psychology on the map,” because you need a handbook to put a new field on the map and that’s what this handbook did.

VCH: So let’s go on to your latest book, which is Fooling Ourselves: Self-Deception in Politics, Religion and Terrorism.

HT: Yeah.

VCH: How did you get the idea to write this book?

HT: Well, 9/11 was the thing. You see, I read in The New York Times that Mohammed Atta, the leader of the gang of 9/11 terrorists, thought that what they did was “God’s work.” So I said, “How could this be God’s work? What kind of god would require that you kill three thousand innocent people?” It didn’t make any sense. But, you see, what happens is people sort of can always restructure the way they see the world so that it suits them, and unfortunately these people who are the terrorists restructure the world usually in a religious way and they see what they’re doing as something very, very desirable. The Taliban now think that they are just wonderful although they have really terrorized the population of Afghanistan and three million people moved out as refugees that didn’t want to put up with the Taliban. But, you see, they still have a good opinion of themselves. This is a problem. We have a good opinion of ourselves even though we are really making a mess. So I started thinking, “Now how could we have such a good opinion of ourselves?” and I argued the way we do that is with self-deception. We tell ourselves that we are just wonderful and then we construct the way we see the world according to our hopes, needs and desires but also our ideology and our theory and our prejudice, all those things come into the construction of the way we see the world. So we shape the way we see the world according to our desires and our hopes and needs, which is very often a distortion. Very often it involves essentially getting power. The Aztecs used to kill their victims in a very cruel way, they used to tear their hearts out with a knife on top of a pyramid and it was a religious kind of activity. They said, “If we don’t do this the world will come to an end.” Now if you believe that the world will come to an end if you don’t do this, of course, it sounds like a very important thing to do, but that doesn’t make it really a nice thing to do considering that it was very painful on these poor people that they killed. They just had the self-deception that they were doing something very desirable, they kept the world going, you see. You find self-deceptions all over the place. When I started reading the literature on self-deception – and it goes back to 1930-something – there is a first paper by Else Frankel-Brunswick, the one who was involved in the authoritarian personality studies back in Berkeley. That woman also did one of the first studies of self-deception. When I started reading self-deception in the literature I discovered that there is a lot of material and so I started putting it together and I felt that it was necessary to put it in a book so that people can sort of see what happens to us. We sort of have so many self-deceptions. In politics, for example, the self-deception that we will be greeted as liberators in Iraq, the self-deception that we were going to have cheap oil forever because we take Iraq, things of that sort. These are tremendous self-deceptions. The self-deception that Mohammed had that he was talking to God, it was coming out of his head but nevertheless he thought that he was talking to God. So it’s very enjoyable to have a self-deception. After all, talking with God is very nice.
You find this in mental hospitals. There’s a wonderful little book called The Three Christs of Ypsilanti. The author found in this mental hospital in Ypsilanti three people who thought they were Christ and he put them together and he said, “Now you talk to each other.” So here’s one person saying, “How could he be Christ when I am Christ? He’s crazy.” So, you see, this is what happens when somebody is doing something which is completely off the map as far as we are concerned, we call them crazy, which is a very interesting [chuckle] phenomenon. Of course, the self-deceptions that we have like thinking that we’re Christ or God — one of the self-deceptions was also that they owned the mental hospital. I mean they had all kinds of self-deceptions. Now this is really pretty serious when they have these kinds of self-deceptions but, on the other hand, it turns out that if we have no self-deceptions we become depressed because reality is not so nice. So it’s nice for us to have minor self-deceptions, sort of not extreme, just enough. So it turns out that, for example, if we believe that our spouse has only positive attributes — this is not likely to be realistic because nobody has only positive attributes but it’s a nice self-deception — it sort of helps the marriage and it makes the person happy. So that’s fine. You see, this kind of minor self-deception is very, very desirable. Cancer patients who think that they are going to live a normal life live a little longer and for a while they are happy. They think, “Oh, well, it’s fine. I have cancer but it doesn’t matter, I’ll be fine.” So these kinds of self-deceptions are very good for us and this is what makes it such an interesting topic because if you have no self-deceptions you’ll become depressed, if you have extreme self-deceptions you end up in a mental hospital, but if you have minor self-deceptions it’s good. So we have to sort of calibrate our self-deceptions and that’s a little more difficult. I’d also make the argument that a lot of the self-deceptions that we have are cognitively simple; that is, they use only one dimension, for example, us versus them, or they put highly heterogeneous entities in the same category such as, for example, the Axis of Evil is where you put things that have nothing to do with each other in the same category and say, “This is the Axis of Evil.” It simplifies life, but this is something we want to do; that is, we humans have a tendency to want to simplify the world but the world is very complex. And so we deceive ourselves constantly by simplifying it much more than it should be simplified. So what we have to do essentially and what I try to do in the book is to sort of warn people to be much more careful. When they have a belief, they should ask themselves “Could it be a self-deception?” And if it meets their hopes, needs and desires the chances are that it is a self-deception. When Ho Chi Minh, for example, the president of Vietnam, said that the United States will be Communist in the year 2000; well, he had a self-deception, but he didn’t realize he was having a self-deception, it sounded pretty good in 1950 to say that. But if he had asked “Is this consistent with my hopes, needs and desires?” he wouldn’t have made a fool of himself by saying that the United States will be Communist in the year 2000. So it’s that sort of thing that I suggest that people should be much more careful in evaluating their beliefs. Their beliefs may be self-deceptions and if they are self-deceptions it is much better to get much more information before acting and, unfortunately, we jump and we act without really finding out what the total picture is, the more complex picture about the particular belief we have.

VCH: I especially liked your talking about complex thinking and it seems to me that if people really made an effort to take into consideration as many sides of an issue as possible...

HT: Yeah.

HT: So you want to know why I like Parsifal.

VCH: Yes, please.

HT: Well, it’s a religious opera. I mean it does involve some monks who believe — they have a tremendous self-deception — that they have the chalice from which Christ had drunk when he was on the cross and this was a sacred object so they could pray to it, etc., etc. It was a magical kind of object. Well, when you see their action, even though I don’t believe in the religion part, the art is so elevating, you see. What we really need, I think, in life is to deal with things that are greater than we are. If we don’t deal with things that are greater than we are, if we don’t have lofty goals that are greater than we are then we are going to become much less human. I think it’s very important to connect with important ideals. And my ideal of making as many people as possible healthy and happy, etc. is not attainable obviously. It’s a self-deception; we can’t do that but let’s try. And that’s, I think, a goal that is greater than we are. We can all strive in that direction.

Valerie Hearn, Co-Editor, IAAP Bulletin
A Personal Note on the SEERCP from Irina Todorova

When the IAAP started planning the next Regional Conference of Psychology, I was contacted to discuss the option to hold it in the region of Eastern Europe and of collaborating with the Bulgarian Psychological Society (BPS) to do so. I found this a wonderful opportunity for networking among psychologists in the region and internationally. I introduced Ray Fowler to Plamen Dimitrov, and thus the steps needed to organize this event were set in motion. I also recommended to the Executive Committee of the European Heath Psychology Society (EHPS) that we support the SEERCP and this was accepted enthusiastically. Our support took the form of widely publicizing the conference among our members, both from the Eastern European region and beyond, liaising with other professional organizations to ensure a substantial and high quality representation of the health psychology field at the conference through symposia, papers and posters, ensuring EHPS members’ participation in the conference and working on developing the program. The EHPS and the IAAP, particularly the Health Psychology Division of IAAP, have a long and productive history of collaboration, through supporting each other’s activities and organizing invited symposia at each other’s conferences. I saw the SEERCP as another opportunity to realize a collaboration between IAAP, EHPS and the BPS. And most importantly for me, this was all to take place in my home town of Sofia.

What happened at the SEERCP I believe was very catalytic for all of psychology and health psychology in the region. I’m grateful to all participants for coming to our beautiful city and making the success of SEERCP possible.

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Commentary

Mentoring Georges

This is the story of two Georges.

Few if any of our international psychology brethren are without some university affiliation and all the student mentoring responsibilities that go with it. Definitely an ongoing learning experience.

It was my first year as a university professor and on an Autumn Thursday George was the first student to occupy my office with a problem. As he sank down into a deep leather chair, he shared that, although he was not (yet) a Psychology major, his faculty advisor from Engineering thought he should talk to me. A bright student, used to getting high grades before coming to this university, he was failing all his first year semester classes. He said he felt lost, unmotivated. When I asked why he had chosen Engineering, he insisted he had not. His father was paying his bills and his father thought he should be in Engineering. I asked then if George’s poor grades were meant to fail his father. On reflection, somewhat surprised, he agreed. What would he choose if he took responsibility for his choice? The notion that he had a choice needed to be digested for a second session. In the meantime, I asked if any of the courses he was taking held any interest for him. Yes, his creative writing class did, but then again his procrastination at turning in a required paper had earned a poor grade here as well. I suggested a paradoxical intention: Why not, taking all he had learned in this class, write the worst paper his instructor had ever read? He was delighted and agreed. The following Thursday he came into my office gleefully waving his Creative Writing paper. At the top his instructor had written in red: “This is the worst paper I have ever graded: you have violated every standard I gave this class: F!” Then George flipped it over to the last page where it said, in a more neutral color: “Now that you have told me that this is a psychological exercise from Professor Morgan, I realize that you must know the standards quite well to have reversed each of them so skillfully: A+.”
Now George decided he wanted to switch to a joint major between English and Psychology. By our 4th Thursday meeting he had broached this with his father and, to his great surprise, his father had agreed. I thought that would conclude George’s visits but every Thursday thereafter, for the entire semester and into the Spring, he arrived in my office at the same time, sank into my leather chair, and despondently broached a new problem to solve: which with some assistance he always did. Finally one Thursday, on the way to my office, I saw George jump out of his car, kiss his girlfriend goodbye, and head to my office, all smiles. Yet ten minutes later, there he sat, deep in the leather cushion, complaining despondently. “George!” I said, “I just saw you, only a few minutes ago, completely happy. What’s going on?” He looked at me with surprise that a psychologist with my training would not understand, and said “Well, sure, I’m happy all the time now. And that’s because I know I can save up all the disappointments and unhappiness of the week and pass them onto you every Thursday.” And so it was that George taught me the need for planned termination.

The other George was an advanced psychology doctoral student ready to begin a clinical internship. I had been his dissertation Chair and instructor in several classes. He was a very sociable person, laughing companionably in his conversations with others and therefore was seen as endearing by most. On the other hand, he had chosen a very challenging internship with imprisoned and dangerous patients: serial killers and rapists. Although he would be working there at a great distance from my campus, he asked if he could check in with me by telephone while he got settled. By then I was in my third decade of mentoring and knew that a transition bridge often made sense. I agreed. He called the evening of his first day on the job. George had met in group session with his patients and asked them, as warm up, how they would spend their Saturday night if they were free and what feelings came with that. His first respondent had said he would feel lonely, “walking around watching happy couples and all I had to come home to would be the human heads in my basket”. George was not having an easy time, although he would ultimately adjust and make a successful career of it. After hearing him out and being supportive, I asked if he had a supervisor on-site. Yes, he said, but she is a little overwhelming. Compared to the prisoners? Yes. George described her as about 250 pounds, a foot taller than him, and a great believer in coffee enemas as a cure for all human ailments. She not only used this methodology often herself but recommended the interns do so as well. George thought her psychological technique to be scarier than his patients were. I suggested he approach her with an open mind during supervision: we can learn as much from what our supervisors do poorly as from what they do well. The following evening, rather late, George called again. He had taken my advice and been friendly. Now she had just called him at home, well into the evening, and asked him to join her at her apartment. George was petrified. He had said he would get back to her in a minute and called me so I might tell him what to do. I pointed out that he already knew what to do. And of course he then did: if he was uncomfortable with these loose boundaries, as most would be, he should just call with his apologies and re-confirm his regular supervision daytime meeting at the prison. “All right”, he said, “Thanks for confirming that I knew the right answer and that it was the best thing to do. But what would you have advised me to do if I had decided that the best thing for me was to go to her apartment?” That one I knew: I would have said, ‘Don’t drink the coffee.’”

Robert Morgan